

The Beauty 1301

Chapter 1301 United Boycott (1)

Regarding the safety of Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and switched to a flight heading to Beijing. Accompanying him were Chen Junfeng, Zhu Qing, and Qiu Yong, making a total of seven. Bringing so many experts wasn't entirely for Nanrong Wanqing. Since they were going to Beijing, it was a good opportunity to handle everything at once.

After several hours of flying, the plane finally landed at Beijing International Airport. As soon as they got off the plane, employees from Falcon Private Security Company were already waiting outside the airport with several Land Rovers. After getting in the car, the driver handed a pre-prepared dossier to Ling Chen.

Ling Chen examined the contents of the dossier and finally gained some understanding of the troubles facing Nanrong Wanqing.

The problems of Nanrong Wanqing primarily stemmed from Hongyu United Investment Company, which had been acquiring small and medium-sized enterprises left and right, with investments reaching hundreds of billions. Recently, a series of moves by Hongyu United Investment Company caused a significant panic in the business world. It's clear that Nanrong Wanqing was aiming for over fifty percent market monopoly.

If successful, the entire business landscape of Huaxia would undergo dramatic changes. It wouldn't be long before Hongyu Group would grow from a regional leading enterprise to the commercial leader of the entire Huaxia nation. The strong rise of Hongyu Group naturally upset many people's interests.

Over time, many businesspeople spontaneously organized to resist Hongyu Group's development trends and slow their progress. Where there are disputes, there are definitely means used, including some underhanded tactics.

Just a few days ago, more than ten businesspeople jointly filed a lawsuit against Hongyu United Investment Company, accusing them of using illegal methods, abduction threats, and forcing others to sell their companies to Hongyu Investment Company.

Once this got out, it caused a huge uproar, with everyone's eyes turning to Hongyu United Investment Company. Some sensationalist media outlets widely reported on Hongyu United Investment Company's

despicable actions, plunging Hongyu Investment Company into the vortex of public opinion, putting them in a very bad position.

Soon after, the convoy arrived at the headquarters of Falcon Private Security Company in Beijing, housed in a ten-story high-end office building. Back then, Ling Chen had generously purchased the building as Falcon Security Company's office location.

Apart from working, the members of Falcon also ate and lived in the building. Ling Chen was very generous to his company members, with a dedicated cafeteria, individual rooms for everyone, a gym, a recreation room, and various other facilities complete.

In the chairman's office, Ling Chen looked at the arrangements, and couldn't help but smile. Although he was the nominal chairman, it was his first time here. Sitting in the chairman's seat, Ling Chen couldn't help feeling sentimental. Not long ago, he was a soldier fighting in the line of fire, but in just a few years, he had transformed tremendously. Before, he never imagined he would come this far.

While contemplating, there was a sudden 'knock knock knock' at the door.

"Come in!"

At the sound of his voice, a young woman with a good appearance walked in. She seemed to be in her twenties, dressed in business attire, wearing glasses, and exuding an air of capability and intelligence.

Looking at this unfamiliar woman, Ling Chen was a bit puzzled. Who was she? While he was pondering, the woman spoke up: "Chairman, hello, let me introduce myself. My name is Dong Ying, and I am the assistant to the chairman. When you're not around, I handle most of the matters."

An assistant to the chairman? Ling Chen was slightly taken aback. There was no doubt that Jiang Yunkai had arranged this for him. That guy... he actually found a woman!

"Assistant Dong," Ling Chen said with a smile, standing up to shake hands, "This is my first time at Falcon, and there are many things I'm not familiar with. I'll need your guidance in the future."

"You're too kind, Chairman." As she spoke, Dong Ying placed a dossier on the desk, saying, "Chairman, this is the latest intelligence gathered on Hongyu United Investment Company. Hongyu Investment Company is in a tough spot, facing joint resistance from many businesspeople. In addition, more than ten businesspeople have jointly filed a lawsuit against Hongyu Investment Company, accusing them of using threats involving kidnapping to acquire companies. Currently, the commercial investigation division and the criminal investigation team have launched investigations. Chairman Nanrong and others have been restricted in their movements and cannot leave Beijing until the case is clarified."

"Who are these people suing Hongyu Investment Company?"

"That's where the problem lies," Dong Ying explained, "Recently, Hongyu Investment Company acquired over twenty companies. I checked the acquisition prices, and they were all normal market rates. However, just a few days ago, those who had already sold their companies suddenly banded together, claiming they were threatened by Hongyu Investment Company to sell."

Hearing this, Ling Chen puzzledly asked, "What are they doing? They received the money, and the contracts were signed. Why are they doing this now?"

"I think they're being instigated, trying to unite to bring down Hongyu Investment Company. Since its establishment, Hongyu Investment Company has been making constant moves and injected hundreds of billions into the market, disrupting the entire business landscape. Now, due to Hongyu Investment Company's actions, many people's interests have been affected, and certainly, someone won't sit idly by."

"Do we know who's behind it?"

"We don't. There are a lot of businesspeople involved this time, so even if we knew who, Hongyu Investment Company would have a tough time handling it. Besides, Chairman Nanrong's biggest challenge now is evidence."

"Evidence? What evidence?"

"The people suing Hongyu Investment Company have provided lots of evidence, evidence that proves Hongyu Investment Company used threats involving kidnapping to force them to sell their companies."

Ling Chen frowned and asked, "If it's a setup, why do they have evidence? If the evidence is fabricated, it should be easy to see through."

"I'm not sure about that, but I heard that the evidence is very crucial. There's an eighty percent chance of convicting Hongyu Company, provided nothing unexpected happens."

"Has Hongyu Investment Company taken any measures?"

"They haven't shown any response. I don't know how they're planning to deal with this crisis. Chairman, perhaps you could go personally and ask about their situation. We have some connections in Beijing and can help them if needed."

"Alright, I understand. I'll make time to meet with Wanqing."

"If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave first." With that, Dong Ying turned and left the office.

Chapter 1302 - 1610: United Boycott (2)

"Big brother." Ling Chen looked at Qiu Yong and the others sitting on the sofa and said, "I'll handle Wanqing's situation first; you keep an eye on the Guo Family. Remember, the Guo Family has hired over a hundred elite assassins from the Zhu Family. Be very cautious and don't let them discover you."

Qiu Yong nodded and said, "Don't worry about it."

After making simple arrangements, Ling Chen immediately took Zhu Qing and Chen Junfeng and drove to the Hongyu United Investment Company.

After discussing with Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun, it was decided that Chen Junfeng would stay by Ling Chen's side to protect his safety at all times. After all, now that Su He was missing, provoking his revenge would be akin to waiting for death given Ling Chen's current strength. As the backbone of the group, Ling Chen's safety had to be ensured.

Upon arriving at the Hongyu United Investment Company, they found the company gates closed and not a single person around. Ling Chen walked to the glass door and peered inside, seeing the receptionist and a few staff members sitting together, drinking tea and chatting idly.

At this, Ling Chen knocked on the door to attract their attention.

Seeing the arrival of Ling Chen and the others, the receptionist and the staff's expressions immediately changed, looking at Ling Chen vigilantly and asking, "Who are you? What do you want?"

"I'm here to see your Chairman."

"The Chairman is not here. You've come to the wrong place; please leave quickly."

Seeing the cautious look on their faces, Ling Chen immediately understood and explained, "Don't get me wrong; I'm a friend of your Chairman. I heard your Chairman has encountered some trouble, so I came to check on things. If you don't believe me, you can contact your Chairman."

The receptionist, half-convinced, sized Ling Chen up and, after a while, asked for Ling Chen's name, then picked up her phone and dialed a number.

"Please come in." After confirming the identities of Ling Chen and the others, the receptionist hurriedly opened the door and apologized with a smile, "Mr. Ling, we're very sorry. We didn't mean to lock you out; we were just worried someone might come to make trouble."

Hearing this, Ling Chen curiously asked, "Did someone really come here to make trouble?"

"Mr. Ling, you don't know. Several groups of people have come in the past few days. We thought they were here for business, but as soon as they entered, they started smashing things, not only damaging property but also injuring many of us. The Chairman had no choice but to have us close the door."

Ling Chen nodded, realizing the situation was more serious than he had imagined, "Alright, I understand. Let's go; take me to meet your Chairman."

A short while later, led by the receptionist, Ling Chen and his party arrived at the Chairman's office on the top floor. As they opened the door, they saw Nanrong Wanqing sitting on the sofa, a pot of freshly

brewed tea on the coffee table. Seeing Ling Chen and the others enter, Nanrong Wanqing smiled and stood up, gracefully walking towards them.

"Why are you here today?"

"I just came to Beijing for some business. Heard you had some issues here, so I came to check." Ling Chen replied with a smile, "How are things? Are you alright?"

"Pretty alright. Come, everyone, have a seat." Nanrong Wanqing invited them to sit on the sofa and personally poured everyone a cup of tea. Watching Nanrong Wanqing serving tea, Ling Chen noticed a significant change in her compared to before. Previously, Nanrong Wanqing was like an ice mountain, keeping people at a distance, hiding her feelings regardless of happiness or sadness.

But seeing her today, Ling Chen felt she had changed a lot. The biggest change was her demeanor; she used to give off a condescending, imposing aura, but now it was as if the icy exterior had melted into a clear spring, making her approachable and more amiable.

Taking the teacup handed by Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen asked, "Why are you the only one in the company? Where is everyone else?"

"With so many things happening recently, I was worried about their safety, so I let them take a leave. Only a few of us stayed at the company."

"I heard the company was attacked. It's so dangerous; why stay here?" Ling Chen asked with concern, "By the way, where are Captain Zhong and the others? Why aren't they here to protect you?"

"I sent them out on errands; they'll be back soon."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Wanqing, I have some understanding of your company's current situation..."

"

Before Ling Chen could finish, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly smiled radiantly, stunningly beautiful, "Do you think my situation is very dangerous now?"

"Isn't it?" Ling Chen retorted.

"For Hongyu Group to reach new heights, facing these challenges is necessary. Businessmen focus on profit, and if someone's interests are hurt, they won't sit idly by. I anticipated this issue before deciding to expand Hongyu Group's business. So everything happening now was within my expectations. It's just that I didn't expect them to be so despicable and unscrupulous." Nanrong Wanqing spoke lightly as if dismissing the matter.

"Do you need my help?"

"Thank you for your kind offer, but it's unnecessary. Although the other party's methods surprised me, everything is within my control, and there won't be any problems."

"Really?"

"Really." Nanrong Wanqing nodded and smiled, "Don't you have confidence in me? I've already received the court's summons; the hearing is in a week. We'll see then who's right and who's wrong."

"Alright, if that's the case, I won't interfere. Just remember, regardless of what happens, I'll always support you."

Although Nanrong Wanqing had lost that aura of being aloof, every smile, word, and movement now exuded confidence. Perhaps this was her transformation. Once this issue is resolved, Hongyu Group will soar, becoming one of the top enterprises in the country.

After casually chatting with Nanrong Wanqing for a while, Ling Chen left with Zhu Qing and Chen Junfeng when Captain Zhong and Liang Zhao Hui returned.

Since Nanrong Wanqing didn't want him to intervene, Ling Chen decided to just be an observer. He could now focus all his energy on the Guo Family. Ling Chen had a feeling that the Guo Family would be a significant breakthrough.

In the blink of an eye, four days passed.

Hongyu United Investment Company kept a low profile, and everyone was waiting for the day of the hearing. Ling Chen only paid slight attention to this, focusing most of his efforts on investigating the Guo Family. Over the past few days, Qiu Yong and others had been watching the Guo Family's movements in secret. Yet, for some reason, they had no significant findings. According to Qiu Yong, Guo Ming's life was extremely routine with nothing suspicious, nor did they discover the presence of any elite assassins.

Chapter 1303 - 1611: Infiltrating the Guo Family

"How about I go?" Zhu Qing volunteered.

"You?" Ling Chen was a bit surprised.

Zhu Qing nodded slightly and said, "The Guo Family has hired assassins from our Zhu Family. I'm the most familiar with them, so perhaps I can find their traces."

"This..." Ling Chen hesitated for a moment and said, "Lady Zhu, they're from the Zhu Family just like you, wouldn't this..."

"You don't need to worry," Zhu Qing said calmly. "My allegiance is to you. If there's a conflict, I'll stand by your side."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was taken aback and asked, "You'd kill your own family?"

"Each serves their own master, it's quite normal. Even if it were my own brother, I'd still not hesitate."

"Doesn't the Zhu Family care about such things?"

"Survival of the fittest. Whoever is more capable survives the longest."

"Alright, if that's the case, then go and assist the elder brothers to quickly uncover the Guo Family's secrets."

Sending Zhu Qing to investigate the Guo Family was indeed the right choice. Just in one night, Zhu Qing had already made significant progress.

"I checked, and there are thirty-four assassins on the periphery of the Guo Family, all hidden in the dark."

"So many?" Qiu Yong and the others were shocked. "We've been monitoring the Guo Family from outside for days, yet didn't notice a single one?"

"The Zhu Family has its own defense measures. Only those who understand these can find their hidden positions." After a slight pause, Zhu Qing continued, "If I'm not mistaken, Elder Qiu and the others' presence has definitely been exposed."

Ling Chen's face changed slightly, and he asked, "Lady Zhu, are you sure?"

"The elite assassins trained by our Zhu Family aren't amateurs. If Elder Qiu stayed near the Guo Family for days and they couldn't detect it, they'd be unworthy of the title 'assassin.'"

"Since they've discovered our presence, why haven't they acted?" Xia Yue, standing by, asked.

"Without orders from their employer, they won't act rashly. I think they've already set up a trap within the Guo Family's Siheyuan. If we dare step inside, it would be a situation of almost certain death."

"Then what should we do?" Ling Chen asked, "If we can't get into the Guo Family, how can we find out what secrets they're hiding?"

"You want to go in... it's possible!" Zhu Qing said. "There's only one way now, and that's to force our way in, and it must be during the day. Although the Guo Family is protected by hundreds of elite assassins, our overall strength is not weak. Plus, with Sir Chen here, no one is a match against a Heavenly List expert."

"Forcing our way in?" Ling Chen seemed hesitant. Doing so would mean openly becoming enemies with the Guo Family, and if he found nothing, it would not only affect his reputation but also make reconciliation with the Guo Family difficult.

"Lady Zhu, isn't there any other way?"

Zhu Qing shook her head and said, "This is the only way. I'll enter the Guo Family first and handle the traps for you. Otherwise, even if you get in, you'll face a lot of trouble."

"Let me think about it," Ling Chen said. He couldn't make a hasty decision now, after all, he didn't have concrete evidence against the Guo Family. Guo Ming, being a master craftsman, had a certain reputation and influence in the Martial Arts world. He had to be cautious.

Seeing Ling Chen hesitate, Zhu Qing thought for a moment and said, "How about this, I'll sneak into the Guo Family tonight to gather information for you. If I find enough evidence, you won't have to be so conflicted."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's eyes lit up. It was indeed a good idea.

"Lady Zhu, won't there be any danger?"

"There are risks, of course. However, those assassins were trained by our Zhu Family, and I'm most familiar with their methods. As long as I'm careful, there shouldn't be a problem."

"Alright then, I'll rely on you for this matter. I'll be outside to back you up."

After finalizing the action plan, Ling Chen made a few more arrangements. When night fell, the group drove directly to the perimeter of the Guo Family's Siheyuan.

Checking the surroundings of the Guo Family, Ling Chen didn't linger and went straight toward a nearby tall building. It was a six-story residential building, about thirty meters from the Guo Family's Siheyuan. It was the only high point nearby, offering the best view.

Soon, Ling Chen, accompanied by Chen Junfeng, Qiu Yong, and others, reached the rooftop of the residential building. Lying at the edge of the roof, Ling Chen took out a prepared telescope, turned on the night vision function, and closely observed the movements within the Guo Family.

Time passed slowly, and around one o'clock in the morning, the surroundings of the Siheyuan were silent and pitch-dark. At this time, Ling Chen received a text message on his phone from Zhu Qing, indicating that she was ready to act.

Immediately, Ling Chen raised his telescope and looked at the northern wall of the Siheyuan, where Zhu Qing planned to enter. Quickly, a silhouette flitted over the northern wall and swiftly entered the Siheyuan.

Zhu Qing moved very quickly, not stopping after landing, heading directly towards the nearest house.

The Guo Family's Siheyuan was extensive, with more than thirty rooms. To search through all these houses would take a long time.

Ling Chen stayed still at the edge of the rooftop, quietly observing Zhu Qing and keeping an eye on her position and the surrounding environment. Five or six minutes had passed since she entered the Siheyuan, yet Ling Chen noticed no one other than Zhu Qing.

However, Zhu Qing's movements were peculiar as she relocated. Even though she could have moved in a straight line, she chose to take a long roundabout path. Watching her cautious behavior, it seemed she was avoiding something. Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but admire the Zhu Family. The Zhu Family's stealth skills were truly impressive. According to Zhu Qing, assassins were hidden all over the Guo Family, yet he hadn't spotted a single one after watching for so long.

As Zhu Qing's figure disappeared once more into a house, Ling Chen put down the telescope to rest his eyes for a while. Besides him, Qiu Yong and others were also observing the situation inside the Siheyuan with telescopes, so he wasn't worried about missing anything.

"Sixth Brother, isn't this taking too long?"

Hearing Yuan Yun's voice, Ling Chen asked, "Third Brother, what's taking too long?"

"Lady Zhu has been in that house for five minutes and hasn't come out yet. Do you think... something might have happened?"

"For so long?" Ling Chen was slightly startled. He hadn't been watching and thought Zhu Qing had already finished searching that house. Immediately, he raised his telescope, looking at the house where Zhu Qing was. The doors and windows were closed, and it was dark inside, with no lights. If Zhu Qing had been discovered, there would have been commotion outside. It seemed she was still safe.

Chapter 1304 - 1612: He's Still Alive (1)

"Ling Cheng, do you think... Lady Zhu has discovered something?" Xia Yue asked softly.

Ling Chen nodded ambiguously. Zhu Qing had been in that room for so long that she must have discovered something. Everyone patiently waited. Time passed minute by minute, and soon more than ten minutes had passed, yet Zhu Qing still hadn't emerged from the room.

Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry. After some thought, he took out his phone, hesitating whether to send Zhu Qing a message to inquire.

At that moment, the room Zhu Qing was in suddenly lit up. Seeing this scene, Ling Chen's heart skipped a beat. Not good! Could it be that Zhu Qing's tracks have been discovered?

Just then, the door to the room opened from the inside, and immediately, Guo Ming came out with someone else. After leaving the room, the two didn't linger and directly headed towards their residence. As they walked away, the light in the room dimmed again, returning to its original state.

Bzz bzz bzz! A vibration sounded, and Ling Chen quickly took out his phone, glancing at the message content on the screen.

"She succeeded." Ling Chen's lips curved slightly, smiling as he said, "Let's go, we can head back now."

"Ling Cheng, shouldn't we wait for her to come out together?"

"No need, let's leave her in there. If she comes out now, she might be in danger; it's safer inside. Moreover, she can gather some information for me while in there." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Everyone, let's rest well tonight. We'll visit Mr. Guo again tomorrow."

The next morning, after breakfast, Ling Chen led Chen Junfeng and others directly to the Guo Family.

Upon learning of Ling Chen's arrival, the butler immediately welcomed him into the Siheyuan's main hall. Soon after sitting down, Guo Ming strode in from outside. Seeing everyone present, Guo Ming laughed heartily, "Ling, what brings you here?"

"Mr. Guo." Ling Chen clasped his hands politely in greeting.

"No need for formalities. Is there something you need from me today?"

Ling Chen glanced at Qiu Yong beside him and said, "Mr. Guo, I've heard you have something that belongs to me, so I wanted to come and see."

Upon hearing this, Guo Ming smiled faintly, looked into Ling Chen's eyes, and said, "Are you referring to... Ling Gengqiu's body?"

Uh... Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, not expecting Guo Ming to be more direct than himself. He originally thought Guo Ming would deny it, potentially leading to a conflict. But Guo Ming openly admitted it, with nothing to hide.

Seeing Ling Chen's stunned expression, Guo Ming chuckled and said, "You've been having people monitor our Guo Family these past few days. From that moment, I knew I couldn't keep it hidden. To be honest, I don't want to be your enemy. Previously, the Martial Arts world was dominated by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but times have changed, and Dragon Tiger Hall now holds sway. Opposing you, I know the consequences. So over these days, I've thought it over carefully; since you've discovered the truth, there's no need for me to hide it anymore."

With that said, Guo Ming stood up and said, "Ladies and gentlemen, please follow me."

Ling Chen quickly followed Guo Ming's steps, leaving the hall together. Before long, the group arrived at the room Zhu Qing had investigated the night before. Entering the room, Ling Chen glanced at the dim surroundings before casting his gaze at Guo Ming. At that moment, Guo Ming walked to a table and gently patted it twice. Instantly, the table and the floor beneath it slowly moved aside, revealing a spacious entrance.

"This is a basement built by our ancestor, Guo Qiang. At the time, its main purpose was to preserve your ancestor's body." Guo Ming explained as he led everyone into the basement.

The Guo Family's basement was extraordinarily spacious, as large as a Siheyuan. Following Guo Ming, Ling Chen walked with a look of astonishment on his face.

What kind of basement was this? It was clearly an advanced laboratory. In this hidden underground lab, there were dozens of busy researchers. The arrival of Ling Chen and the others piqued the researchers' curiosity, and they occasionally glanced over.

"I have forty-seven researchers here, divided into six teams, each responsible for different studies. Over the years, we've made significant breakthroughs and achievements in medicine," Guo Ming introduced as he walked.

"Mr. Guo, how many years has your laboratory been operational?" Ling Chen asked.

"Hundreds of years. Back in the day, when Guo Qiang discovered the secret of Ling Gengqiu's body, he decided to keep it at the Guo Family for secret research. At that time, technology wasn't nearly as advanced as it is today, so the Guo Family could only hire some renowned doctors for research. As times progressed, this lab gradually expanded to what it is today."

"You knew about Ling Gengqiu all along, so why didn't you tell me at the beginning and instead gave me false leads?"

"Ling, if you were in my shoes, would you casually disclose such a secret to someone else? Therefore, hiding it for as long as possible was the best strategy. Back then, Guo Qiang anticipated someone might come looking for Ling Gengqiu's body, so to avoid implicating the Guo Family, he constructed a fake tomb and enlisted the Zhu Family's help to guard it."

Ling Chen interjected, "You wanted to use the Zhu Family to eliminate those seeking Ling Gengqiu's body."

"Exactly." Guo Ming nodded, "That was also for our Guo Family's own safety. Ling Chen, I hope you won't take offense. People are inherently selfish. This lab has been passed down from our ancestors to my care; I don't want anything to happen to it. If you hadn't come knocking, I'd have continued to keep a low profile, not exposing the lab's secret."

Ling Chen had no interest in dwelling on this issue further and straightforwardly asked, "Where is Ling Gengqiu's body? I wish to see it."

"Please follow me." After a pause, Guo Ming suddenly cautioned, "Gentlemen, you might want to prepare yourselves; I don't wish to frighten you."

Before long, Ling Chen and the others followed Guo Ming through three reinforced bomb-proof doors, ultimately entering a room made entirely of transparent glass.

Guo Ming pointed to a room inside the glass enclosure and said, "Inside is the sterile room, where your ancestor resides."

"Resides?" Hearing Guo Ming's choice of words, Ling Chen was taken aback, asking, "Mr. Guo, what do you mean by that?"

"You'll see momentarily." As he spoke, Guo Ming extended his hand and gently tapped on the glass.

Immediately, text appeared on a large screen outside the sterile room: "You have business with me? Who are these people?"

Guo Ming smiled toward the sterile room and said, "Your family wishes to see you, so I brought them here."

Chapter 1305 - 1613: He's Still Alive (2)

Listening to Guo Ming's conversation with the other party, Ling Chen and the others were stunned, staring incredulously at the sterile room.

Is he really talking to Ling Gengqiu? How is this possible! Even Chen Junfeng and Qiu Yong, who had experienced great trials, were frightened.

"Is he... still alive?" After a long while, Ling Chen finally turned around and asked incredulously.

"How should I put it... his conscious thought still exists, but he can't speak. I used quite a few high-tech products connected to his brain to convert his consciousness into data. Just like the text you saw earlier, you can communicate with him this way."

"Can he see me?"

Guo Ming pointed to the camera outside the glass and said, "This camera will directly transmit images to his brain. However, because he is very weak, he can't receive too many image signals, or it would burden his brain and cause his consciousness to become chaotic. You're fairly lucky today; under normal circumstances, he sleeps more than twenty hours a day and is only awake for one or two hours."

"How's his body?"

Guo Ming walked to a nearby computer and tapped the keyboard a few times. Suddenly, a rectangular transparent cover in the center of the sterile room slowly opened. Then, the bed, resembling a cradle, gradually stood upright.

Soon, an aged face appeared in everyone's view, looking like a man in his forties. Ling Chen carefully examined him, knowing that this ancestor loved romantic adventures and had wooed countless women in his lifetime. However, Ling Gengqiu was not actually handsome; quite plain indeed, easily lost in a crowd.

Ling Gengqiu's head was already connected to his torso, together with more than a dozen IV tubes and metal wires. To be honest, seeing Ling Gengqiu like this unsettled Ling Chen.

"Mr. Guo, how long have you been communicating with him?"

"I chat with him whenever I have time, telling him about the outside world, which interests him greatly."

"Given that you can transmit images directly to his brain, why not just connect him to the internet so he can watch whatever he wants?" Xia Yue chimed in.

Guo Ming smiled slightly, nodding: "We've considered this suggestion long ago, but the data on the internet is too vast for his brain to handle, so we abandoned the idea."

Pausing, Guo Ming turned to Ling Chen and asked, "Interested in seeing our research results?"

"Are you also looking for the reason behind his immortality?"

"Anyone would be curious about a person with self-healing abilities who has lived for hundreds of years. However, it's just curiosity; each person has their destiny. Not everyone can live as long as he has. Frankly, I've tried researching this before, but haven't achieved anything beyond delaying aging. Living a hundred years... is extremely difficult. So I shifted my focus to new drug research, aiming to improve treatment methods for certain terminal illnesses."

"How are the results?"

"Not bad; we've discovered solutions for at least three incurable diseases. However, these treatments are too complex and costly for ordinary people to afford. We're now simplifying the treatment steps, hoping to make them accessible to everyone."

Ling Chen nodded, understanding that although Guo Ming withheld some truths, his intentions were good.

After touring the laboratory, Guo Ming handed Ling Chen a document, saying, "I brought you here today just to let you know I have no ambitions. Maybe my ancestors had such thoughts, but my ideals differ from theirs. Over the years, I've distributed the developed medicine to hospitals using the name of a pharmaceutical research institute, funding this lab through the profits. Although I conducted human experiments, the volunteers were terminal patients who willingly signed agreements."

"Mr. Guo, you don't need to explain, I understand your point. However, Ling Gengqiu's physical condition..."

"For now, he has to stay here," Guo Ming interjected. "His situation is rather complex. Hastily transferring him might negatively impact his health. Rest assured, since I revealed this secret to you, I don't intend to oppose you. If you don't trust me, you can send someone to the lab to ensure Ling Gengqiu's safety."

After some thought, Ling Chen said, "Mr. Guo, I trust your character. How about letting you take care of Ling Gengqiu for now? I'll deploy personnel to enhance the security around the Guo Family to prevent external threats to the lab."

"No problem."

Guo Ming agreed readily. After reaching an agreement, Ling Chen asked, "Mr. Guo, can I chat with him alone?" Referring to Ling Gengqiu, as not everyone has the chance to meet their ancestors and actually converse.

"He's a member of your Ling Family, of course, you can." With that, Guo Ming called some people to escort Qiu Yong and others to the lounge, while accompanying Ling Chen to the outside of the sterile room.

"Take your time; I won't disturb you." As he finished speaking, Guo Ming turned and walked out, closing the door behind him.

Ling Chen gazed at Ling Gengqiu lying in the sterile room, his eyes reflecting complex emotions.

"What are you thinking?" A line of text appeared on the screen.

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Nothing much, just amazed that I can chat with someone from hundreds of years ago. If I told anyone, they'd likely not believe it."

"The world is full of wonders. I asked myself why others die, but I live on. I've attempted suicide three times, but unfortunately, was never successful. No matter how severe my injuries, they recover quickly."

"Why did you want to commit suicide?"

"Watching the closest people to me die one by one, how would you feel? Lonely, solitary, despairing — those feelings are tough to endure. Living so long, having been through so much, there are times I just want to end it all, never to wake again."

"Your immortality, isn't it a blessing from heaven?"

"Blessing? No, it's not a blessing; I view it as a punishment. I've asked myself the same question countless times: why don't I die? I believe it's not heaven's doing but something inherent within me."

"Inherent reason?" Ling Chen was startled and asked puzzledly, "What reason?"

"Before I turned forty, I was like any ordinary person, no different. It wasn't until I became a monk that changes began occurring in my body."

Chapter 1306 - 1614: He's Still Alive (3)

"Could it be... does this have anything to do with you becoming a monk?"

"No. What's truly related is the Prajnaparamita Sutra, the cultivation technique I created. Ever since I practiced the Prajnaparamita Sutra, my body gradually began to change. When I mastered this cultivation technique to the Great Achievement Realm, I was surprised to find that my previously injured body had fully recovered. Not only that, no matter what kind of injury I suffered, I could heal quickly. To be honest, I was frightened by my own transformation at the time."

Prajnaparamita Sutra!

Ling Chen's expression changed; so it was the Prajnaparamita Sutra! No wonder he survived Qin Chuan's assassination last time. It's estimated that thanks to the Prajnaparamita Sutra, his body gained self-healing abilities. However, because he hasn't cultivated this technique to perfection yet, the self-healing ability isn't very apparent.

"Why does the Prajnaparamita Sutra have such an effect?" Ling Chen asked curiously, "Since this is a cultivation technique you created, you should know best."

"Back then, after I became a monk, I discovered many ancient texts in the tower of a temple. I casually picked a few to read since I had nothing else to do, and found they recorded very profound martial arts. However, although those martial arts were intricate, only monks with a clear mind and few desires could practice them. Although I had become a monk, my heart wasn't detached from worldly desires, and I couldn't do without wine and meat, making it impossible to learn those skills. So, I spent several years integrating these profound martial arts, added my own insights, and created the Prajnaparamita Sutra."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but say, "Ancestor, to be honest, your cultivation technique is too burdensome. Why does it require a woman to practice? Do you think everyone is like you, flirting everywhere?"

"Have you practiced the Prajnaparamita Sutra?" A string of question marks followed this sentence.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "I once found an ancient text left by the ancients, which included a vast array of knowledge, including the practice formula of the Prajnaparamita Sutra."

"Hahahaha!" A string of laughter quickly appeared on the screen, "You truly are my descendant; we indeed have a bond. You actually picked up something I threw away hundreds of years later. What stage is your Prajnaparamita Sutra at now?"

"I'm not sure. I just know that every time I am with a woman, my power increases a bit. I'm now at the Earthly List level."

"Earthly List? Too weak. That implies you've reached the third stage of the Prajnaparamita Sutra. The Prajnaparamita Sutra comprises six stages; you are now at a watershed. Once you cross this step, you can enter the Heavenly List realm, which is the fourth stage of the Prajnaparamita Sutra."

Ling Chen was startled. The fourth stage reached the Heavenly List; then wouldn't the fifth and sixth stages be defying the heavens?

"I spent decades mastering the Prajnaparamita Sutra to the Great Achievement Realm. Back then, I was already quite old. However, at the moment of my achievement, my whole body underwent massive changes, and I instantly regained vitality, as if I had aged back to a younger self. Therefore, I think all of this was caused by the Prajnaparamita Sutra. As for the reason, it should be related to those profound martial arts in the temple. Unfortunately, so many years have passed, and there's no chance to uncover the truth."

Ling Chen pondered and asked, "Ancestor, you were dismembered in the past, and it was Guo Family's ancestor Guo Qiang who recovered your head and torso and settled you here. As far as I know, you seemed to have sought help from the Guo Family knowing you would be hunted down."

"You're right; that's indeed the case. Those who hunted me down back then were none other than the bastards from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. It's also my own fault for being too careless, thinking the old guys from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had all died after decades, thinking no one would recognize me. So I went to join the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony for fun to see if there were any young pretty girls. As a result, I didn't get the girl, but instead, exposed my identity, leading to the pursuit by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Flirting with girls brings trouble! Ling Chen shook his head helplessly, having no words for his ancestor's flirtatious nature.

"Ancestor, if we find all your limbs back, can you return to your former self?"

"That's right. But who knows where my limbs are now; they might have long been destroyed."

"I know. Although you've been dead for hundreds of years, Ancestor, the internal disputes within the Ling Family have never ceased because of you, as they've all been trying to find out the secret of your immortality."

"What's so good about being immortal? I'd rather be an ordinary person. If possible, I'd rather die than keep living. Can you help me piece my body back together? Since the disputes in the Ling Family began because of me, let me resolve them myself."

"No problem, I'll think of ways to help you settle this matter."

"Alright, that's it. I'm tired from chatting for so long."

"Then rest well, and I'll come chat with you another day." With that, Ling Chen turned and walked out of the room.

In the lounge, Chen Junfeng, Qiu Yong, and others immediately gathered around. It was obvious they were very interested in Ling Gengqiu and wanted to know what Ling Chen had talked about with him.

"Sixth brother, what do you plan to do now?"

Ling Chen shrugged, "What else? Of course, go find those severed limbs. If Ling Gengqiu can indeed solve the Ling Family's centuries-old conflict, that would be a good thing." Saying this, Ling Chen checked the time and said, "Why don't we head back now?"

"Okay."

With that, the group greeted Guo Ming and drove straight back to the Falcon Private Security Company.

Back in the chairman's office, Ling Chen sat alone on the sofa, still recalling the conversation he had with Ling Gengqiu just now. At this moment, he still felt a bit skeptical, finding it somewhat unreal. Could it be... that there really are people who can live forever?

Moreover, according to Ling Gengqiu, his immortality was closely related to the Prajnaparamita Sutra. Since he was also cultivating the Prajnaparamita Sutra, could this mean that he would eventually become like Ling Gengqiu?

Thinking about this gave Ling Chen a headache.

Just then, a 'knock knock knock' sounded from outside the door.

"Come in!"

As the words fell, the office door was pushed open from the outside. Ling Chen opened his mouth, "Miss Dong, you..." Before he finished speaking, he quickly shut his mouth, got up from the sofa, and quickly went to greet the visitor, "Second brother, weren't you going to rest? I thought it was Dong Ying coming."

Xu Ming casually found a seat and sat down, looked at Ling Chen, and enunciated each word, "I want to tell you something. Ling Gengqiu is not the only one."

Chapter 1307 - 1615: Shocking Secret (1)

"Not the only one?" Ling Chen was stunned hearing this, staring blankly at Xu Ming as his mind failed to register it.

"Second Brother, do you know someone else like this?"

Xu Ming nodded and said, "Yes. And that person lives in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. You... should know who I'm referring to."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, then his expression changed drastically as he exclaimed, "You don't mean that young man, do you?" Back then, when he first visited the Yangxin Pavilion, Huang Zheng and Liang Tian fought over who would take him as a disciple, resulting in a brawl. Midway, a young man appeared and stopped Liang Tian and Huang Zheng. Faced with the young man's reprimand, Liang Tian and Huang Zheng listened quietly, not daring to utter a word in retort. Clearly, they were very afraid of that young man.

At that time, Zhou Qi was still working at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and Ling Chen specifically asked him about the young man's identity, but Zhou Qi couldn't provide an answer. Besides, when the Nine Elements Pill was contested at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the young man also appeared. However, he didn't say a word and left promptly after he put down the Nine Elements Pill.

Ling Chen had always been curious about the young man's identity, and hearing Xu Ming mention this now, he was greatly shocked.

"Second Brother, are you saying that young man..."

"No, not him." Xu Ming shook his head and said, "The young man you mentioned is my Junior Brother."

"Junior Brother?" Ling Chen was taken aback once again. Xu Ming's information was so heavy that he nearly fainted. After collecting his thoughts, Ling Chen picked up his teacup, took a sip, and waited until the news was digested before speaking, "Second Brother, do you mean... your Master and our Ling Family ancestor are both several hundred-year-old monsters?"

"You could say so. As far as I know, my Master lived in the same era as Ling Gengqiu. As for his identity, I'm not sure; he has never mentioned his past to us. While by his side, both my Junior Brother and I called him Master, not even knowing his last name."

"Then why does he live in the valley of the Yangxin Pavilion? Isn't he someone from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"I've considered this question too. There should be some connection between him and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. But no matter what happens at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he never intervenes or asks questions. I stayed with him for years and never saw him step out of his room. I suspect that he might have stayed in that room for decades, never leaving even his own room."

Ling Chen asked curiously, "Then how did your Master take you in as disciples?"

"I was still very young at that time, only about two or three years old. Once, when I went out, traffickers knocked me out. When I woke up, I found myself lying in that room. Since then, I've been with my Master. I remember, aside from Master, there was also another person, my Senior Brother, who was over twenty years older than me. My Master seldom cared for me; it was my Senior Brother who took care of me. Until I turned twenty, he finally allowed me to leave that room. However, my activity was restricted to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. It wasn't until my martial arts skill reached a modest level that I was permitted to leave the Pavilion, to assist them with certain tasks, and hone myself through real combat. In this way, I wasted a good thirty years of my life."

"Second Brother, since you're his disciple, why did you leave? Did your Master let you go?"

Xu Ming sighed softly, recalling something with lingering fear, he said, "He didn't let me go, I escaped myself. That person... my Master, he's a very terrifying man."

After a pause, Xu Ming continued, "One time, by accident, I found the floor in the room to be somewhat loose. I thought to repair the floor, so I removed all the wooden planks laid on the ground, ready to fill in the soil beneath. However, I discovered that the soil under the floor was very loose, and there were many bugs in it. These bugs only appear where there's decaying matter, hence I was curious about what lay beneath. Finding a time, I dug up the soil under the floor, intending to clean it all up. However, when I dug half a meter deep, I suddenly found a heavily decomposed corpse. I was truly scared at the time; who would have thought there would be a corpse buried beneath my daily resting place?"

"Although the corpse had decomposed significantly, after I dug it out, I could still recognize his identity—he was my Senior Brother. By then, my Senior Brother had left us for a long time. I asked my Master about it, and he told me that my Senior Brother went out to hone himself and didn't know when or if he would ever return. I grieved for a long time over this. My Senior Brother treated me like his own little brother, and we shared a deep bond. But I found his corpse inside my own room, which proved that my Master was deceiving me; my Senior Brother never left. He died, murdered!"

Saying this, a trace of pain flitted across Xu Ming's eyes. Silent for a while, he then continued, "The room was inhabited by only three of us—me, my Senior Brother, and my Master. I couldn't have killed my Senior Brother; I didn't have that ability. Although my Senior Brother was just over fifty, he was already a master on the Heavenly List. After finding his corpse, I examined it closely and discovered a hole in the top of his head, as big as a fist. It had to have been made by someone with great force punching it through. The only one capable of this, and who could make my Senior Brother unable to resist, was my Master."

Ling Chen frowned slightly, asking puzzled, "Second Brother, why did your Master do this? Was it because your Senior Brother committed an error?"

"No! Let me explain slowly. Where I found my Senior Brother's corpse, I later dug out three more corpses over time. Due to the long years passed, they had all turned to skeletal remains. However, without exception, these people suffered fatal injuries to their heads. Out of fear toward my Master, I didn't dare reveal this, burying it in my heart, and I reburied those skeletonized corpses intact. Not long afterward, when I awoke one night, I found a little boy of two or three years old in the room. My Master told me he was my Junior Brother and instructed me to take care of him well."

"That moment marked my realization that all of this was arranged by my Master. As we grew up, Master would quietly kill us like he did to Senior Brother, then fabricate an excuse for Junior Brother. Subsequently, he'd continue searching for another child to be a disciple, letting Junior Brother take care of him, repeating the cycle unending. For this reason, I seized a chance, secretly escaping, never returning."

Chapter 1308 - 1616: Shocking Secret (2)

"Second Brother, do you mean that your Master trained you, and then killed you?"

Xu Ming nodded, and said, "That's right. Back in the day, when I was chatting with my Senior Brother, I learned that the Senior Brother who took care of him was also a Heavenly List expert. Later, that person mysteriously disappeared without a trace. I don't understand why Master did this, but I'm sure those people didn't die unjustly; they were maliciously murdered by Master."

After hearing Xu Ming's story, Ling Chen was shocked. Who exactly is that old demon living in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? He trained so many Heavenly List experts, then killed them one by one.

"Second Brother, have you had any contact with your Junior Brother?"

"No. I escaped when my Junior Brother was only a few years old, so we are relatively unfamiliar with each other. Sixth Brother, if there's only one person in this world with an immortal body, like Ling Gengqiu, then that's understandable. After all, in the Great Thousand World, there are all kinds of surprises. But for two people to appear at the same time who have lived for hundreds of years, it's definitely not due to personal genetics; they must have something in common that resulted in this situation. I sometimes wonder, are there other people in this world similar to Ling Gengqiu and my Master?"

Ling Chen shook his head, discarded all distracting thoughts, and said, "Second Brother, stop overthinking it. We don't have the energy to explore this problem right now. Our Ling Family ancestor and your Master, these two are enough headaches already. I think we just need to do our own thing; the rest is not our concern."

"I'm just reminding you. As for what to do in the future, you decide for yourself." With that, Xu Ming stood up, turned, and walked out of the office.

After watching Xu Ming leave, Ling Chen sat alone on the sofa, holding the teacup on the coffee table, staring blankly at the tea water gently rippling inside. Sometimes knowing too much is not a good thing. This world has too many secrets quietly tempting you. If you can't hold yourself back, you might end up in danger.

Forget it! No need to overthink. I am just an ordinary person; why bother thinking so much, since I have no intention of living for hundreds of years.

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

Since learning of Ling Gengqiu's whereabouts, Ling Chen has dispatched five teams from Falcon Security Company, specifically securing the perimeter of Guo Family. In addition, Ling Chen also investigated Guo Family's lab. Just like Guo Ming said, they developed many new drugs, which were disseminated to hospitals through various channels. Ling Chen is quite satisfied with Guo Ming's actions, at least he isn't like the Southern Ling Family and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, who use any means necessary to pursue profit. Therefore, he appreciates Guo Ming as a partner.

"Chairman." Dong Ying walked into the office holding a file, and seeing Ling Chen busy at the desk, curiously said, "Today is the court day for Hongyu United Investment Company, why aren't you attending the hearing?"

"Today?" Ling Chen was slightly stunned, suddenly slapping his forehead, oh no! He had a lot to do these days, and completely forgot about it.

"How much longer till it starts?"

Dong Ying checked the time and said, "It's already started an hour ago; it's probably ending now."

"Help me handle these matters here first; I'll go out for a while." With that, Ling Chen dashed out of the office and drove straight to the court.

Traffic in Beijing is often congested; even a short ten-plus kilometer trip took Ling Chen almost forty minutes to reach the court entrance. Before he got out of the car, he saw Nanrong Wanqing surrounded by reporters coming out of the court. Zhong Wei, Liang Chaohui, and other security personnel were blocking around Nanrong Wanqing to prevent any harm to the Chairman.

"Wanqing." Ling Chen rolled down the window, waving to Nanrong Wanqing on the steps.

Seeing Ling Chen in the car, Nanrong Wanqing smiled a little, said a couple of things to Zhong Wei beside her, and then quickly got into Ling Chen's passenger seat.

The car started, immediately leaving the chasing reporters far behind. After passing a few intersections, Ling Chen turned to look at Nanrong Wanqing's side profile. The gentle sunlight filtered through the car window onto Nanrong Wanqing's face; the slightly upturned corner of her mouth revealed her inner delight.

Knowing her well, Ling Chen understands she isn't someone who expresses her inner emotions easily. Yet, she's smiling now, indicating she's in a great mood.

"Did you settle those people?" Ling Chen asked. Actually, he knew it was a pointless question; seeing Nanrong Wanqing's demeanor, she definitely emerged victorious. He was just curious about what means she used.

Nanrong Wanqing glanced at Ling Chen from the corner of her eye, chuckled, and nodded, "Actually, dealing with those people is simple; just give them enough interest. As business people, what's important is their own interest. There are no eternal enemies, only eternal interests; this saying fits the business world perfectly. Maybe you fight with someone intensely today, but if you gain greater benefits tomorrow, you can become the best partners. Those trying to frame me were merely victims of threatened interests, or rather, the losses affected the top person's interests. As long as he's satisfied, do you think he would care about others' interests? People are selfish."

Ling Chen nodded in half understanding, "What's the current situation of Hongyu Investment Company?"

"The prospects are excellent; our Hongyu Group has taken the most crucial step. In the future, in Huaxia, no one...and no one can stop Hongyu Group's advancement. Just wait, within five years, Hongyu Group will become the largest enterprise in Huaxia."

"Then congratulations beforehand." Ling Chen paused, then pointed to a restaurant by the roadside, "How about I treat you to lunch today to celebrate your big win?"

"Sure." Nanrong Wanqing agreed readily.

With that, Ling Chen found a spot to park the car, and then took Nanrong Wanqing to the restaurant. The restaurant wasn't high-end but had a decent environment. Since it was lunchtime, the place was crowded. Ling Chen asked the waiter and finding no private rooms available, the two decided to sit in a window-side booth in the hall.

After ordering, Ling Chen casually asked, "When do you plan to return to East Sea City?"

"Not decided yet. Things just wrapped up here, might take some time. Why?"

"Nothing, just asking. I happen to be focusing on work in Beijing recently; we can meet up more often."

Chapter 1309 - 1617: Liu Haicheng

Nanrong Wanqing's beautiful eyes flashed with a hint of brightness, and she looked at Ling Chen with a faint smile, asking, "Are you asking me out?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen's old face flushed slightly, and he coughed lightly, smiling sheepishly, "Think of it as me asking you out."

"So hesitant? In that case, I'd better not come out."

"No, no, no, that's not what I meant." Ling Chen hurriedly corrected, "I want to ask you out, so please show me mercy and give me some face. Okay?"

"Okay." Nanrong Wanqing pursed her lips and smiled, "Actually, there are a lot of people pursuing me right now, so I need a boyfriend to help me deter them. I heard you're now the chairman of Falcon Private Security Company, that title should scare quite a few people."

"Alright." Ling Chen nodded, "If anyone dares to pursue you again, just mention my name."

As soon as he finished speaking, footsteps could be heard coming from the side. Turning to look, they saw a handsome and dashing young man in a designer suit approaching, followed by two burly bodyguards wearing dark sunglasses, looking imposing.

The young man wore a smile, with his eyes seeming to only hold Nanrong Wanqing, ignoring everything else around, including Ling Chen.

"Wanqing, why are you in such a hurry? Didn't I say I'd wait for you at the courthouse entrance?" the young man said in a gentle tone.

"Mr. Liu, I'm sorry, but I've already arranged to have dinner here with my boyfriend. Besides, I didn't agree to your date yesterday." Nanrong Wanqing replied indifferently, glancing at the young man before turning her attention back to Ling Chen, "Ling Chen, let me introduce you, this is Liu Haicheng, who just returned from studying abroad. He's the vice president of Pacific Shipping Company, with a wealth far surpassing mine. Hongyu Group is just a well-known enterprise in Huaxia, but Pacific Shipping Company is a Fortune 500 company, much more famous than our Hongyu Group."

"Oh! So Mr. Liu is an overseas returnee." Ling Chen glanced at Liu Haicheng, smilingly reaching out his hand.

However, Liu Haicheng had no intention of shaking hands, not even looking him in the eye, with his gaze constantly fixed on Nanrong Wanqing.

"Wanqing, even if you want to refuse my invitation, there's no need to find such a lame excuse. This kind of person isn't even fit to carry my shoes, how could someone of your standards be interested in someone like him?"

Hearing this, the corners of Ling Chen's mouth slightly curled into a smile, as he asked, "Mr. Liu, what kind of person am I?"

"I'm talking to Wanqing, everyone else shut up." Liu Haicheng gave Ling Chen a sidelong glance, his tone contemptuous, showing no regard for him at all.

"Wanqing, I've prepared the car and reserved the restaurant, come with me." As he spoke, Liu Haicheng bowed gentlemanly, making an inviting gesture.

However, Nanrong Wanqing wasn't moved at all, sitting calmly there. Just then, a waiter came over with dishes, placing several dishes on the table.

"Sir, the dishes you ordered are all served, please enjoy."

"Thank you!" After saying this, Ling Chen picked up the chopsticks, pinched a piece of lotus root sandwich, and placed it in Nanrong Wanqing's bowl, "Try this, it should taste good."

Nanrong Wanqing responded softly, tasting the delicacy on her own, completely ignoring Liu Haicheng.

Seeing Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing happily eating, Liu Haicheng's face suddenly turned cold. He turned his head, giving a signal to the two bodyguards behind him. The latter immediately understood, stepping forward to Ling Chen and grabbing him to lift him up. However, they quickly realized that no matter how much force they used, they couldn't move Ling Chen's body.

Seeing this situation, the two bodyguards exchanged a glance, a hint of doubt flashing in their eyes.

Their combined strength should exceed several hundred pounds, how could they be unable to drag a single person? At this moment, they were unwilling to accept defeat, exerting all their strength in trying to drag Ling Chen, but his body seemed rooted to the seat, unmovable.

"Hey guys, haven't you eaten?" Ling Chen said with a friendly smile, "Do you want to sit down together and eat something?"

"Useless." Liu Haicheng snapped coldly, grabbing a water cup from the table, preparing to pour the water over Ling Chen's head. Seeing his action, Ling Chen casually flicked his hand. Instantly, Liu Haicheng's arm trembled slightly, and the cup of water directly bypassed Ling Chen, pouring over himself.

In an instant, droplets of water slid down Liu Haicheng's bangs, trickling down onto his tens of thousands worth of suit.

"Oh dear!" Ling Chen exclaimed, wide-eyed, "Mr. Liu, how can you be so careless? I'm not depriving you of water, there's no need to hurry."

Liu Haicheng gritted his teeth, looking at Ling Chen with resentment, saying coldly, "Kid, you're bold. If I don't make you crawl out of here today, I'll take your surname." Saying this, Liu Haicheng took out his phone and began making a call, ignoring everything around him.

Nanrong Wanqing frowned slightly; Liu Haicheng's actions made her quite displeased. Hearing Liu Haicheng calling for reinforcements, Nanrong Wanqing opened her mouth, preparing to stop him. However, at that moment, it seemed someone gently kicked him under the table.

Almost instinctively, Nanrong Wanqing glanced at Ling Chen across from her, seeing him shake his head, signaling her not to speak.

At this moment, Liu Haicheng put down his phone, looking coldly at Ling Chen, "You might not know who I am, but that's okay, I'll soon let you know that offending me is the biggest mistake you've ever made."

"Really?" Ling Chen replied indifferently with a smile, "Well, I've made many mistakes in my life, one more won't matter."

"You two!" Liu Haicheng pointed at his two bodyguards, instructing them, and they immediately retreated. Shortly after, they found the restaurant manager, and although it's unclear what they said, the manager nodded repeatedly, quickly calling all the waiters over.

Soon, waiters approached dining customers with apologetic smiles. After about ten minutes, all the guests in the restaurant were asked to leave, leaving only Ling Chen, Nanrong Wanqing, Liu Haicheng, and his two bodyguards in the huge restaurant.

Seeing Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing unaffected at all, Liu Haicheng sneered, walking to a dining table by himself. A bodyguard immediately stepped forward, pulling a few napkins from his pocket, wiping the table spotless. The other bodyguard walked over with tea, pouring a cup and placing it in front of Liu Haicheng.

About half an hour later, Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing were satisfied, having devoured all four dishes completely.

Patting his full belly, Ling Chen glanced at Liu Haicheng sitting not far away, smiling, "Mr. Liu, have your people not arrived yet?"

Chapter 1310 - 1618: Strength in Numbers (Part 1)

Facing Ling Chen's provocation, Liu Haicheng's face darkened with anger, about to speak, when the sound of cars stopping came from the restaurant entrance.

Liu Haicheng's eyes lit up, with a smug smile, he slowly stood up from his chair, arrogantly looking at Ling Chen and said, "You want to die, I'll grant your wish." As he finished speaking, a group of people rushed into the restaurant entrance, each wearing suits, with burly builds and fierce auras.

"President Liu." A leading man in a suit quickly walked to Liu Haicheng's side, respectfully called out.

Liu Haicheng pointed at Ling Chen, coldly said, "It's this kid, don't let me see him again. Understand?"

"Yes!" The man in the suit responded, gave a signal to the crowd behind him. In the blink of an eye, more than ten men in suits surrounded Ling Chen.

"Are you going to leave on your own, or do you want me to throw you out?" The leading man in the suit stared directly at Ling Chen, with a disdainful tone, not taking Ling Chen seriously at all.

Ling Chen shrugged, with a forced smile, said, "We're all civilized people, why resort to violence? I'd say, let's sit down, have a cup of tea, and chat about life, don't you think?"

"Who the hell wants to chat about life with you, you're looking for a beating. Guys, give him a good lesson, strip him down, and throw him out in the street."

"Got it."

"Boss!" At this time, a young man walked into the restaurant entrance, with a cigarette in his mouth, wearing a nose ring and earrings, looking alternative, followed by dozens of tattooed men. By their looks, you could tell they were street youths. Moreover, they all had rolled-up newspapers in their hands, who knows what was inside.

Seeing so many street youths come in, the restaurant owner quickly greeted them with a smile, "Yang, what wind brought you here?" Pausing for a moment, the owner glanced at the imposing group of street youths behind, and said nervously, "Yang, I've done everything for this month, you..."

The youth called 'Yang' found a seat and sat down, flicked his cigarette ash, said, "Boss, don't be scared, I'm not here to cause you trouble. It's noon, the brothers are hungry. Go, prepare some tables of food for me, I have big things to do later, don't waste my time."

Seeing the restaurant suddenly occupied by so many street youths, Liu Haicheng frowned. Especially the smell of smoke lingering in the restaurant made him very uncomfortable.

"Boss." Liu Haicheng coldly said, "I've booked the entire restaurant, make this group leave immediately."

Hearing this, the owner looked troubled, about to explain, when Yang laughed out loud, "Yo! Who's this guy, daring to tell me to get out? You should go out and ask around, do you know who I, Yang, am? Listen, pretty boy, this area is all under my control. Come bow to me and call me grandpa, and I'll pretend you didn't say anything. Otherwise... hmph!"

Liu Haicheng scoffed, "What do you want to do? You're just a little thug, daring to act out in front of me." Saying this, Liu Haicheng took out a check from his suit pocket, casually wrote a number on it, and threw it on the ground, "Here's a million, consider it dog food money from me to you. Take the money and get lost, don't interfere with my business."

"A million?" Yang's eyes gleamed slightly, he turned to signal his sidekick. The latter understood, immediately picked up the check from the ground, and handed it to their boss. Looking at the string of zeros on the check, Yang's smile became even brighter.

"Not bad! Not bad!" Yang nodded and said, "This gentleman, you're right, I am indeed a dog, specializing in biting for others. But dogs recognize owners, not easily bought by a little money." Saying this, with a ripping sound, Yang tore the check in half and threw it on the ground.

"I'm still saying the same thing, come here, bow to me, call me grandpa, and I'll forgive your previous insolence."

Liu Haicheng sneered, arrogantly said, "You think you're worthy? You must be tired of living. Teach this bastard a good lesson!"

As soon as he said this, the dozen or so suit-wearing bodyguards initially surrounding Ling Chen immediately targeted Yang. Seeing these bodyguards rushing toward him, Yang smirked, blew out a mouthful of smoke, and softly uttered two words, "Seeking death!"

In an instant, dozens of young men swarmed forward, instantly surrounding the group of suit-wearing bodyguards.

In terms of numbers, these street youths had an absolute advantage. Besides, these youths had things in their hands, with a fierce momentum, but those bodyguards' fists were even scarier. Within just a few exchanges, seven or eight street youths were knocked down, although a few bodyguards were also injured, lying on the ground with blood flowing.

"Damn it." The street youths became more furious as they fought, and the swearing filled the whole restaurant.

A few minutes passed, the dozen bodyguards finally pushed back the street youths, but they were all wounded, looking pale.

Watching his men retreat in defeat, Yang seemed unmoved, lighting another cigarette, clapped his hands, "Not bad! Your bodyguards are quite strong. But, when I fight, I never go solo, I prefer winning by numbers."

The sidekick standing nearby understood, immediately blew a whistle toward the restaurant's outside. Suddenly, another twenty or thirty people rushed in from the door.

Seeing this scene, the expressions of the dozen bodyguards turned grim. In their current condition, they couldn't handle so many people. Continuing to fight, they might not even keep their lives.

At this moment, Liu Haicheng also realized the problem, involuntarily took two steps back, fearing those street youths would come after him. He regretted it a little, knowing this, he should've called more people to help earlier.

"Hey! I say, what are you hiding for?" Sitting on the chair, Yang pointed at Liu Haicheng, "You, come here."

Liu Haicheng maintained a stern face, "Don't be too arrogant, what's the big deal about having more people, this is a gang fight, I can call the police to arrest you."

"You want to arrest me?" Yang was stunned for a moment, then laughed out loud, "Oh my! Brothers, did you hear that? He wants to arrest me, I'm so scared." Laughing, Yang suddenly stood up, grabbed a cup from the table, and hurled it hard at Liu Haicheng.

Immediately, there was a cry of "Ouch," Liu Haicheng clutching his forehead, shouted loudly. Looking closely, blood was seeping through his fingers, rushing out.