

The Beauty 1321

Chapter 1321 Investing in Silver Star (2)

"Have you really made up your mind?" Ling Chen asked.

Yang Chengfeng nodded, "Yes. Rest assured, Mr. Ling, I won't go back on my word. How about this, to not delay things further, why don't we sign the contract now? What do you think?"

Yang Chengfeng had thought it through. As long as he sold 51% of the company's shares to Ling Chen, it would be like boarding Ling Chen's ship. With Ling Chen as the backing, there was no business that couldn't be profitable. Compared to the 51% of shares, this deal was truly worthwhile.

Not to mention selling them, he was willing to give them to Ling Chen for free.

"Alright then." Ling Chen smiled and said, "Assistant Dong, could you please draft a few contracts for me?"

"Yes."

"Young lady, it looks like you still have to go back. But this time, you won't be working for someone else. How about it, are you interested?"

Tang Shiyun excitedly nodded, "Sure! Ling, from now on, you're my boss."

Not long after, Dong Ying prepared several contracts. Once both parties confirmed the price, Ling Chen briskly signed his name. From this moment on, he had acquired a new identity: Chairman of Silver Star Entertainment Company.

"Congratulations, Mr. Ling, I hope the company thrives under your leadership." Yang Chengfeng's face blossomed with joy; he initially thought he was finished, not expecting such a turn of events. He didn't know whether to curse his son or praise him. If it weren't for Yang Haiyi's antics, he wouldn't have had the chance to board Ling Chen's ship.

Ling Chen waved his hand with a smile, "President Yang, although I'm the major shareholder of the company, you'll be responsible for its management. I'll only oversee the dividends, and also..." Speaking here, Ling Chen turned to look at Tang Shiyun, "Young lady, from now on, you can do whatever you want, follow your own interests. I'm not expecting you to make money for me, as long as you're happy."

Tang Shiyun nodded, beaming, "Thank you, Ling."

After handling these matters, Ling Chen escorted Yang Chengfeng and his son, along with Tang Shiyun and Xu Hong, to the company entrance and waved goodbye. Since Tang Shiyun was rejoining the company, the new song release initially scheduled for today would proceed as planned.

After sending off Tang Shiyun, Ling Chen returned to his office, looked at Dong Ying who entered with him, and asked, "Assistant Dong, have you calculated our annual total profit?"

Dong Ying didn't expect Ling Chen to ask this question, but still answered truthfully, "Chairman, I haven't compiled it yet, but if you need, I can ask the finance department to estimate a rough figure."

"Alright, have them handle it."

Ling Chen had a rough plan in mind. He now possessed so much money, more than he could spend. For him, money was just a string of numbers. However, leaving this money idle in the bank seemed wasteful; with so much spare cash, he might as well invest it. After all, money is never too little, the more, the better.

Soon, Dong Ying handed the annual total profit figure to Ling Chen.

Twenty-four billion!

This figure included the annual income of Falcon Private Security Company and the total revenue of all entertainment venues in Beijing. After deducting labor and other expenses, 24 billion was the final total profit. Plus the assets and shares transferred from the Secret Society, the net profit each year was around 100 billion.

"Hundred billion a year, roughly one billion could establish a branch of Dragon Tiger Hall..." Ling Chen murmured, contemplating how to spend the money.

"Chairman." Dong Ying spoke up beside him, "If you're considering investments, I have a suggestion."

"Oh, really?" Ling Chen asked with interest, "What suggestion, tell me."

"Given that we have substantial liquid funds, I think we could emulate Hongyu Group and establish an investment company. As far as I know, Hongyu United Investment Company has fifteen shareholders; without the entire Hongyu Group, they couldn't come up with so much money for investments. We're different; we have sufficient funds and can go solo. In this way, all the profits would be ours."

"Are you talking about venture capital?"

"Although venture capital yields high profits, it also carries significant risk; a slight mistake could result in complete loss. I think we should develop steadily, allocate some funds to projects with minimal risks, where profit margin matters less as long as there's no loss. Meanwhile, we should set aside some funds for venture capital, where profit is certainly beneficial, but even if there's a loss, other projects' profits can cover it."

Ling Chen nodded, "Makes sense. Alright, prepare a draft proposal for me to review, and if it's satisfactory, we'll proceed to establish this investment company promptly."

"Understood." Dong Ying responded and then walked out of the office.

After wrapping up all his tasks, Ling Chen stood up and, moving to the window, stretched leisurely. Although being a chairman mostly involved sitting around, it was actually exhausting, especially handling various company affairs, leaving him almost dizzy.

Right then, Ling Chen's sharp intuition suddenly sensed a piercing gaze.

"Who's there?" Ling Chen turned to look around, but saw no one. He chuckled at himself; he was too high-strung, as there was no one else in the entire office. Perhaps the recent period's stress had him too on edge, he needed to find a moment to relax.

With this thought, Ling Chen packed his belongings and left the office directly.

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"Did he notice you?"

In the building opposite Falcon Private Security Company, an old man strolled over, looked at the person by the window, and asked.

"He likely sensed it, his reaction is quite sharp. If he were an assassin, he'd be a terrifying one."

The old man sat beside him, holding a teapot, sipping slowly, "Qin Chuan, what do you think our next move should be?"

"Wait and see."

At this moment, the two in the room were none other than the long-missing Qin Chuan and Su He.

"I've called in all the assassins who were on missions elsewhere. Although not many, it's sufficient."

Su He nodded, "Personnel isn't my concern, I'm worried about the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Now we're operating in the shadows, and Ling Chen isn't aware of our whereabouts, why not just kill him outright?" Qin Chuan asked perplexedly, "Once Ling Chen is dead, other tasks will become much easier."

"You've observed, Chen Junfeng and Ji Gang are constantly with Ling Chen. With two Heavenly List experts protecting him, what are the odds of our success? Ling Chen is a clever man; he knows I won't let him off, so he's definitely prepared. Therefore, the timing isn't ripe for action yet."

Chapter 1322 Guidance from the Ancestor

"When do you plan to make a move?" Zhu Chuan withdrew his gaze from the building across, walked to Su He's side, and spoke: "Although the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion remains, you've seen it, its influence has greatly diminished because of you. Not only that, many have grown hostile towards the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Your precious granddaughter is too overwhelmed to curb the expansion of the Dragon Tiger Hall. At this rate, just give Ling Chen another year, and the Dragon Tiger Hall will be the top in the Martial Arts world, pushing the centuries-old Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to second place. Can you really stand to see this happen?"

Su He took a sip of tea and said calmly, "I am aware of all this. However, it's precisely for the good of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion that I dare not show my face. Although the Pavilion has abandoned me, I'm still the Old Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the grandfather of the current Pavilion Master, and that's something that can never change. Therefore, the Martial Arts circles will, more or less, have grievances against the Pavilion. If I make an appearance now, it won't change anything but will bring great trouble to the Pavilion."

After a pause, Su He continued, "Since we've lost, we must bear the consequences. I won't return to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. From now on, Su Mei will handle all the affairs of the Pavilion; I will not interfere. Of course, this doesn't mean ignoring it; it's just shifting from light to dark, just like the Skyhawk Pavilion used to be. As for the Dragon Tiger Hall... there's no need to rush for now; let Ling Chen enjoy his moment. We can act when the time is right."

Zhu Chuan examined Su He and said, "You don't seem anxious at all."

Su He smiled, "Why be anxious? Life has its ups and downs; winning and losing are normal things. At my age, if I still cared about wins and losses, it'd mean I wasted all these years living. Rest assured, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will never lose, because no one knows its true heritage." At this, the corners of Su He's mouth curled into a meaningful smile.

Guo Family.

Ling Chen sat cross-legged, quietly on the ground, his eyes slightly closed, breathing evenly. Hours passed, and Ling Chen remained in this posture, without moving. After a while, Ling Chen slowly opened his eyes, exhaled a breath of foul air, and then stood up from the ground.

Stretching his limbs, Ling Chen turned his head, looking through the glass of the sterile room inside, and said, "Ancestor, the breathing skills you taught me are very effective. As long as I persist for a few hours daily, it greatly helps in enhancing my Inner Strength."

"Of course, wouldn't you consider who taught you." Instantly, a line of text appeared on the big screen.

"This breathing skill is meant to be used in conjunction with the Prajnaparamita Sutra. However, you had previously only learned the cultivation technique of the Sutra without a suitable breathing skill to accompany it, so your progress wasn't obvious. With your current strength, as long as you persist for a while, there will be significant improvement."

Ling Chen asked, "Ancestor, I remember you telling me that the Prajnaparamita Sutra is divided into six stages. I am currently at the third stage. With my current situation, when can I break through to the fourth stage?"

"Are you referring to advancing to the Heavenly List realm? Although it's just a step from the Earthly List to the Heavenly List, it's extremely difficult, harder than any bottleneck, and countless martial artists have fallen at the doorstep of the Heavenly List. Besides aptitude, many external factors come into play for a smooth transition to the Heavenly List. However, the Prajnaparamita Sutra is different from other cultivation techniques. When I created the Sutra, I took this into account and made some modifications and references."

"Previously, there was a style of cultivation called Yin Yang Replenishing in the Martial Arts world, considered unorthodox, and many martial artists sneered at it, some even classified it as a dark art and fiercely condemned it. I studied Yin Yang Replenishing carefully and found that it is a very profound Dual Cultivation Skill. Yet, because it involves matters between men and women, it faced a lot of resistance. Later, I extracted its essence, discarded the dregs, and incorporated it into the Prajnaparamita Sutra. Consequently, every time you have a relationship with a woman, your strength increases significantly."

"Though I haven't personally tried it, based on my understanding of the Prajnaparamita Sutra, as long as you have relationships with a hundred women simultaneously, you can accumulate enough power to break through the bottleneck. Not guaranteeing one hundred percent, but the success rate is about eighty percent. So, are you interested to try it?"

Uh...

Ling Chen was taken aback, not expecting Ling Gengqiu to say such things. Was he being mocked?

Having relationships with a hundred women simultaneously, even a body made of iron couldn't withstand it. Moreover, all these women must be pure maidens for it to work. With Ling Chen's current financial resources, finding a hundred such women wouldn't be a problem. But where would he get the energy? He might lose his life over it.

"So... Ancestor, is there no other way?"

"Isn't this way good enough? You get to enjoy life's greatest pleasures while also advancing to the Heavenly List realm—nothing could be better in this world." After a pause, another line of text appeared on the screen: "Are you afraid you can't handle it? That's not a problem; I'll give you a recipe. Make some supplement tonic, and you'll be vigorous enough to take on all the beauties."

"Stop! Stop!" Ling Chen quickly called out, "Ancestor, there's no need to teach me those bad habits. I can't use this method. I think I'll just stick to traditional cultivation."

"Alright, since you're not interested, I won't force you. By the way! Weren't you helping me find those body parts? Any progress?"

Ling Chen shook his head, "Nothing yet." In recent days, he tried contacting Ling Tao and Ling Kun, but their phones were off and couldn't get through.

Currently, Ling Gengqiu's head and torso are here; only the legs and feet remain. As far as he knows, Zhu Hong stole a limb from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's lab. The other three are with the Northern Ling Family and the Southern Ling Family. The Southern Ling Family is manageable, but reclaiming the limb from Zhu Hong and the Northern Ling Family won't be easy.

After chatting for a while, Ling Chen suddenly asked: "Ancestor, I have a question. Besides you, are there others like you in the world?"

"I don't know, maybe there are, but I haven't encountered any."

Chapter 1323 Date Under the Starry Sky (1)

"I heard someone say that there seems to be someone like you in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, also living for hundreds of years," Ling Chen said.

"The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Ling Chen nodded and told Ling Gengqiu everything his second brother Xu Ming had told him.

After listening, a question mark suddenly appeared on the big screen.

"I've never heard of this, but since I can do this, it shows that there are others in the world who can too, so it's nothing strange." After a pause, Ling Gengqiu continued, "But you should be careful. Your relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is so tense; be wary of that person causing trouble for you."

Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "Probably not. That person only lives in the Pavilion, who knows if he's actually from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Just be careful. Well, if there's nothing else, I'll rest. You can go."

Leaving the sterile room, Ling Chen greeted Guo Ming and then drove back to Falcon Private Security Company.

These days, whenever Ling Chen has time, he visits the Guo Family. One reason is to have a good chat with his ancestor, another is to receive pointers from his ancestor to enhance his abilities.

Back at Falcon Company, after some rest, Ling Chen heard a knock on the door. It was Dong Ying, whom Ling Chen had instructed to gather some data for future investments.

Dong Ying's work was impeccable; anything Ling Chen arranged was carried out meticulously. After reviewing the materials, Ling Chen nodded approvingly and said, "Not bad, these materials are very detailed. Assistant Dong, do you have any recommendations for talent in this area? After establishing

the investment company, we'll definitely need someone to oversee everything. I'm certainly not suitable; we must find a professional."

"Rest assured, Chairman. I know some people from headhunter companies and can get them to help with the search." After a pause, Dong Ying asked, "Chairman, when do you plan to start the investment company?"

"As soon as possible. Once I wrap up matters in Beijing, I need to head back to East Sea City."

"Understood, I'll arrange for all candidates within three days."

"Alright, this will be a tough task for you."

After seeing Dong Ying off, Ling Chen closed the door and sat alone on the sofa, using the remote control to turn on the TV and watch the day's news program. Switching to the entertainment channel, the TV showed news about Tang Shiyun's new song release conference.

However, the most captivating was Tang Shiyun's forthrightness about her love life.

"I know my friends in the media are very interested in my private life. Recently, there have been many rumors about me. Today, I want to clarify in front of everyone: I am only normal friends with Yang Haiyi, not lovers, moreover, I already have someone special in my heart. To avoid further misunderstanding, I hope everyone will stop believing unfounded reports."

As Tang Shiyun finished speaking, the entire venue exploded with questions and all the media rushed to press her about the identity of the mysterious person she loves.

Tang Shiyun smiled and said, "I apologize sincerely, due to certain reasons, I can't disclose his identity. Besides, it's just a one-sided crush; who knows if he likes me back."

Upon hearing this, everyone went crazy. Oh! It's just a one-sided love? Wonder which man is so lucky.

Amidst the uproarious atmosphere, Tang Shiyun, surrounded by several bodyguards, directly exited the venue.

Even though it was just a rebroadcast, Ling Chen's heart was slightly moved.

This girl... Just as he was thinking, his phone rang suddenly. Glancing at the screen, he saw Tang Shiyun's number.

When the call connected, Tang Shiyun's sweet voice came through, "Ling, what are you doing?"

"Not much, just got home, watching TV. What about you, girl?"

"I'm alone in the hotel, bored to death. Ling, you promised to take me out today. It's still early anyway, how about..."

Ling Chen glanced at the clock on the wall. It was indeed early, just after seven o'clock.

"Spit it out, where do you want to go?"

"Anywhere's fine." Hearing Ling Chen agree, Tang Shiyun was excited and said happily, "I'll get ready first, see you downstairs at the hotel in half an hour."

After hanging up, Ling Chen put on a jacket and drove straight to Tang Shiyun's hotel.

Half an hour later, a girl with long hair, wearing a mask on her face, rushed out from the hotel entrance. Seeing Ling Chen waving from inside the car, she immediately opened the passenger door and got in.

"Ling." Tang Shiyun pulled off her mask, giggling.

"Where's Hong? Isn't she with you?"

"Hong has work, she'll be back late. Ling, where are you taking me?"

"It's late, besides bars, where else can we go? But bars aren't suitable for you, how about we go someplace nice?" Saying this, Ling Chen started the car and slowly drove onto the road.

A short while later, Ling Chen parked the car by the roadside, turned off the engine, "We're here, let's get off."

Looking around, Tang Shiyun asked curiously, "Ling, this is Falcon Company, why did you bring me here?"

Ling Chen's lips curved into a mischievous smile, "Just the two of us, what do you think I'm bringing you here for?"

Hearing this, a blush rose on Tang Shiyun's cheeks, blooming beautifully.

"What, scared?"

Tang Shiyun puffed out her well-developed chest and lifted her head proudly, "I'm not scared. Even if Ling is the big bad wolf, I'm already in the wolf's den, escape is impossible."

Ling Chen chuckled, "You girl... come with me."

Entering the company, Ling Chen led Tang Shiyun into the elevator, pressing the button for the top floor. As the elevator ascended slowly, Tang Shiyun, standing next to Ling Chen, blushed, tightly pinching the hem of her outfit, her gaze fixated on her toes.

Ling brought me here, could it really be...? With such shy thoughts, Tang Shiyun's face blushed like a ripe apple, incredibly enticing.

Seeing Tang Shiyun daydreaming, Ling Chen gently touched her head, "What are you thinking, girl?"

"Nothing, really," Tang Shiyun snapped back, responding quickly.

"Really?" Ling Chen looked at her, half doubting.

To hide her thoughts, Tang Shiyun hastily changed the subject, asking, "Ling, where exactly are we going?"

"You'll find out soon enough." As he finished speaking, the elevator chimed softly, arriving at the designated floor. As the doors slowly opened, Ling Chen smiled slightly, held Tang Shiyun's hand and walked out.

Chapter 1324 Date Under the Starry Sky (Part 2)

When Tang Shiyun stepped out of the elevator, she was immediately stunned by the scene before her.

The entire rooftop was surrounded by colorful lights, breathtakingly beautiful. In the very center of the rooftop was a table covered with a red tablecloth, with two red candles placed at each end, emitting a warm glow. On the path from the elevator to the dining table, there were handrails made of colored strips on both sides, mixed with twinkling bright lights.

"So beautiful..." Tang Shiyun murmured to herself, her whole body frozen in place, unable to recover for quite a while.

After a moment, Tang Shiyun turned to look at Ling Chen beside her, clutching his arm and asked, "Ling, did you prepare all this for me?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "Besides you, is there anyone else here?"

Upon hearing this, the smile on Tang Shiyun's face grew even brighter, her shining eyes even contained a hint of glistening tears.

"Come, have a seat." Ling Chen took Tang Shiyun's small hand and gentlemanly helped her pull out a chair. After they were seated, Tang Shiyun looked up at the starry night sky, her eyes showing a touch of emotion.

"Ling, this is the happiest night of my life."

Ling Chen said with a stern face: "You're still young, saying such things at this age."

"It's true, I'm not lying to you. Even if I make more money and gain more fame, it can't compare to this evening's date."

"Alright! I've asked people to prepare your favorite late-night snack, try it later and see how the taste is." Just as he finished speaking, several employees from Falcon Private Security Company came out from the elevator carrying trays. After putting down the snacks, they left the rooftop without stopping.

"Here's Mapo Tofu, here's marinated meat skewers, and this, grilled lamb chops, all the things you loved eating at the food stalls back then. This is Beijing, don't know how the taste compares."

Tang Shiyun picked up a marinated meat skewer and asked happily, "Ling, I didn't expect you to remember so clearly."

"Why wouldn't I remember?" Ling Chen said with a smile: "Back when we were neighbors, I often took you out for feasts. You, this girl, always ate more than I did, making me almost hesitant to take you out, afraid you'd eat me into poverty."

"I was growing then, of course, I ate a lot." After finishing a meat skewer, Tang Shiyun wiped her mouth with a napkin and asked, "Ling, did you read today's entertainment news?"

Ling Chen nodded, "I did. You, this girl... having a crush and not telling me, do you want me to spank you?"

Upon hearing this, Tang Shiyun's eyes lit up, and she asked expectantly yet nervously: "Ling, do you want to know who my crush is?"

"Forget it! I'm not interested in knowing. You're already an adult; you should have your own private life and secrets. Besides, the man you fancy must not be too bad." Ling Chen said while biting into the grilled lamb chop, without looking up.

To be honest, Ling Chen was a bit afraid, afraid that the name Tang Shiyun would say was his own. Although he had guessed it, it hadn't been spoken aloud. Some things, as long as the paper hasn't been torn, it can be easily talked about. Once it's torn, it would feel awkward, and most importantly, Ling Chen wouldn't know how to handle it.

Deep down, does he like Tang Shiyun? There's no doubt the answer is yes.

However, everyone is an adult now, and many things can't be done recklessly based solely on preference. If he accepted Tang Shiyun, how would he explain it to Nanrong Wanqing? If it were in ancient times, having multiple wives wouldn't be a problem, but not now; ethics and laws don't allow such situations to occur.

Moreover, people today are selfish; no one wants to share a man with another woman.

Therefore, Ling Chen didn't dare to make promises lightly, nor easily accept someone.

After hesitating for a moment, Ling Chen looked up at Tang Shiyun across the table and said: "Girl, you're still young, not even twenty. In the future, you'll meet many people. When you encounter more people, you may find someone more suitable for you. So, before you turn twenty, it's best not to consider feelings or hurry to make choices and decisions. Your career is just starting; focus on doing a good job first. Regardless of what happens in the future, I'll stay by your side. Okay?"

Originally, Tang Shiyun's mood was a bit low, but after hearing Ling Chen's words, her face showed a trace of smile again.

She is a smart girl; she understood Ling Chen's words.

"Ling, why didn't you prepare wine?"

"Do you want to drink?" Ling Chen nodded, "Alright, wait here, I'll call someone to send a bottle of wine over."

"No need, I have a bottle, it's a gift from a friend, they say it's quite old, I'll ask Hong to get someone to deliver it." After saying this, without waiting for Ling Chen to speak, Tang Shiyun picked up her phone, stepped aside, and called Xu Hong.

A few minutes later, Tang Shiyun returned to her seat, smiling and said: "It's done, Hong said it will be delivered within half an hour."

Ling Chen shook his head helplessly: "I do have wine here; why trouble Hong?"

The two of them sat on the rooftop, chatting for around twenty minutes. It was then that Tang Shiyun's phone rang. After glancing at the incoming caller display, she stood up and said: "The person delivering the wine arrived, Ling, wait here, I'll be right back."

With that, Tang Shiyun grabbed her phone and sprinted off, running quickly into the elevator.

This girl... Ling Chen chuckled, casually taking out his phone to play.

Not long after, Tang Shiyun returned from the elevator holding a bottle of wine. Seeing her flushed face, she probably ran back quickly.

"Ling, try my wine." Tang Shiyun took the cup and filled it for Ling Chen.

"I say... girl, you need to let the wine breathe before drinking, you're wasting it like this."

"Oh come on! We're drinking for the fun of it, not for tasting, whatever." She said, raising her glass and said: "Ling, I'll finish mine first."

Seeing Tang Shiyun finish her glass in a few gulps, Ling Chen was taken aback. Could it be that this girl was provoked?

"Ling, it's your turn, don't tell me you're chickening out." Tang Shiyun blinked her bright eyes.

"Alright, since you want to drink, I'll join you wholeheartedly." With that, Ling Chen downed his glass of wine in one go.

"More."

Before long, the two of them had three glasses down. Seeing Tang Shiyun's flushed face, Ling Chen hurriedly stopped her from pouring more, saying: "Girl, you can't drink any more."

Chapter 1325 Like a Dream, Yet Not a Dream

"I... I can still drink..." Tang Shiyun, her face flush red, said as she reached out to grab Ling Chen's bottle. However, she staggered, both hands supporting herself on the table, nearly falling to the ground.

"Look at you." Ling sighed, quickly setting down the red wine and helping Tang Shiyun up with both hands. He said, "Come on, I'll take you to your room to rest."

Without paying heed to Tang Shiyun's protest, Ling took her into the elevator. Soon, they arrived at Ling's room. Closing the door, Ling gently placed Tang Shiyun on the bed, then poured a cup of hot tea and had her take a few sips.

"Feeling better?" Ling asked with concern.

Tang Shiyun nodded, "Much better. Thank you, Ling."

"Silly girl, no need to thank me. You rest first, I'm going to take a shower." With that, Ling stood up from the bedside, turning head to the bathroom.

Seeing Ling's movement, Tang Shiyun quickly sat up on the bed, pulled Ling's hand with a slight tug. With Ling's strength, Tang Shiyun was definitely no match, but Ling feared hurting her, so he didn't dare apply any force, and simply returned to sit by the bed.

Looking into the bewildered eyes of Tang Shiyun, Ling touched her smooth cheek, smiling slightly, he asked, "What's wrong? Do you want me to stay with you while you sleep? You're all grown up, still acting like a little child."

Tang Shiyun held Ling's hand tightly, her enticing lips pouting slightly, refusing to let go.

Ling had no choice but to sit by the bedside, "Alright, I'll sit here with you. I'll leave once you fall asleep."

Only then did a faint smile appear on Tang Shiyun's lips.

Instantly, Tang Shiyun curled up into Ling's arms, her head resting on his thigh, arms hugging his waist, her eyes gently closing as her breathing began to steady.

Watching Tang Shiyun in his arm like a gentle little kitten, Ling smiled wryly, feeling a warm sensation in his heart, indescribably soothing. However, for some reason, he felt his mind becoming fuzzy, soon finding himself half-conscious.

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Knock, knock, knock! Knock, knock, knock!

He didn't know how much time had passed before a series of knocks came from outside. Ling drowsily opened his eyes, rubbing his throbbing forehead, slowly sitting up from the bed.

"Coming!" Hearing the knocking persist, Ling replied, casually lifting the blanket, ready to get up and open the door. But then, seeing himself naked beneath the blanket, he was startled. Damn! What... what happened?

He usually slept with his clothes on, so why was it that today... Ah! Suddenly regaining clarity, Ling immediately remembered that aside from himself, Tang Shiyun was also in the room last night.

Last night... Ling strained to recall, and when he saw a crimson stain left on the sheets, he couldn't help but slap his forehead, silently thinking that this was bad.

Although part of the memory from last night was missing, he was certain about what had happened.

Why... why did it turn out like this! He had been fine, how could such an unforgivable thing have happened?

While in thought, Ling noticed out of the corner of his eye a note pinned down on the table.

He quickly got out of bed, hurried to the table and picked up the note. It was left by Tang Shiyun, with only a few succinct words.

"Ling, thank you for giving me an unforgettable memory. You told me not to consider my feelings until I turned twenty. Yesterday was my twentieth birthday, and I think I can now make choices and decisions for myself. No matter what happens in the future, I will always remember last night."

The closing was signed, 'Love, Shiyun.'

Twentieth birthday? Ling was in a daze, realizing he had forgotten her birthday.

Snapping out of it briefly, Ling hurried to find his phone and dialed Tang Shiyun's number.

"Sorry, the number you have dialed is currently unavailable. Please call again later..."

Her phone was turned off... Ling set down the phone, sighing to himself. It's likely that Tang Shiyun deliberately wanted to avoid him, hence turning off her phone.

Forget it! There's no point in overthinking this right now. Honestly, if that call had gone through, he wouldn't even know what to say to Tang Shiyun. If he guessed correctly, there was definitely something wrong with the red wine last night; who knows what Tang Shiyun had put in it, but its effect was so strong that even his willpower couldn't resist.

Putting on his clothes, Ling walked to the door and opened it to find Dong Ying standing outside.

"Assistant Dong, is there something you need?"

"Chairman, a lot of reporters have shown up outside wanting to interview you."

"Interview me?" Ling asked, slightly taken aback, "What do they want to interview me about?"

"They want to know about your relationship with Miss Tang."

"We're good friends, that's all. You can tell the reporters not to bother me, I don't have time to waste with them."

"Chairman, I'm afraid it's not that simple." With that, Dong Ying pulled a newspaper from a folder and handed it to Ling.

Looking at the headline, Ling was stunned. His date with Tang Shiyun last night had been photographed. Moreover, most importantly, this morning at around five, someone snapped Tang Shiyun leaving the Falcon Private Security Company.

Great! No wonder so many reporters showed up to interview him; it was because of this.

"Assistant Dong, what do you think?" Ling asked.

"Chairman, I suggest you don't make any appearances for the time being; wait for all this attention to die down first."

Chapter 1326 - 1634: Photo Exposure (1)

Ling Chen nodded and said, "You make a valid point. But how could anyone know Shiyun was here with me?" Ling Chen found it strange; last night, when he picked up Tang Shiyun from the hotel, Tang Shiyun was wearing a mask, so no one could have recognized her. Moreover, there were no cars following them at the time.

Could it be... Ling Chen furrowed his brow. Could it be someone from Falcon Company?

To prepare for the date with Tang Shiyun, many people at Falcon Company knew Tang Shiyun was here. However, the company's employees were professionals, aware of protecting their employer's privacy, especially the chairman's privacy. If it's found out, he would certainly not let the person off. So, it's unlikely to be someone within the company.

Thinking back and forth, Ling Chen spread open the newspaper in his hands and examined the photos once more.

The photos captured every move of him and Tang Shiyun on the rooftop very clearly, but... Ling Chen noticed a detail: all the photos were taken from the same angle, only the distance varied. This angle... Ling Chen squinted his eyes, quickly walking to the window to look outside.

Before long, he locked his gaze onto the office building across the street.

That's it! Ling Chen nodded to himself; the photographer must have been in that building. "Assistant Dong, please call a few people over for me."

"Yes." Dong Ying responded and immediately left.

Soon, five security personnel dressed in suits entered Ling Chen's room.

"Chairman, what are your instructions?"

Ling Chen placed the newspaper in front of them and said, "These photos were taken from the office building across the street. Go and investigate who did it. Don't alert them yet; just find the person. I'll handle the rest."

"Understood."

Ling Chen wasn't thinking about taking revenge on the photographer, just eager to secure all the photos to prevent them from being leaked to the media. Who knows what other explosive photos the person might have; it's best to deal with it quickly to avoid any problems.

After resting for a while, Ling Chen took out his phone and called Yang Chengfeng. Whether these photos would cause trouble for Tang Shiyun remained uncertain.

As soon as the call connected, Yang Chengfeng's voice came through, "Mr. Ling."

"President Yang, you've seen those photos, right?"

"Yes, I've seen them."

"How is Shiyun doing?"

"Mr. Ling, these photos will definitely cause some trouble for Miss Tang. I've already contacted Xu Hong to quickly return Miss Tang to East Sea City to avoid harassment from reporters." After a pause, Yang Chengfeng continued, "Mr. Ling, don't worry. Situations like this are common in the entertainment industry and won't affect Miss Tang's reputation negatively. On the contrary, this incident will only boost Miss Tang's fame. Plus, I've engaged a public relations company to manage public opinion, and in a week or two, this matter will gradually fade away."

"That's for the best. Alright, I'll leave this matter to you."

"No problem. By the way," Yang Chengfeng added, "we still don't know who the informant is. If he holds other photos, I'm afraid..."

"No need to worry about that; I've already sent people to find him. If nothing goes wrong, we'll have results soon."

After hanging up, Ling Chen sat in his chair, rubbing his brow. Sigh! He never expected anything like this to happen. If he had known, he would have been more cautious. Now, the whole affair has become

public knowledge, and everyone knows his close relationship with Tang Shiyun. If Nanrong Wanqing finds out, he'll have a lot of explaining to do.

Ling Chen stayed in the company the whole morning without going out.

After lunch, just as Ling Chen was about to take a rest, the five security personnel sent to find the photographer returned.

"Chairman."

"So, did you find the person?"

One security personnel nodded, saying, "Chairman, we've obtained the surveillance footage from that office building." As he spoke, he turned on the room's computer and inserted a data disk into the main unit.

Soon, a screen popped up on the computer.

"Chairman, this footage was taken at nine-thirty at the rooftop elevator entrance."

Ling Chen leaned closer to the screen, carefully observing. The elevator doors slowly opened, and a man with a cigarette hanging from his mouth stepped out, seemingly wanting to smoke and get some fresh air.

Due to the limited range of the camera, only this was captured. Over an hour later, the man returned to the elevator. Ling Chen looked at the recording's timestamp in the screen's lower-left corner; if he remembered correctly, it was at that time that he helped the drunken Tang Shiyun leave the rooftop.

Thus, the photographer must be this guy.

"Do you know which company he works for?"

"Chairman, we investigated the man's identity at that office building, but strangely, after seven o'clock last night, all companies in the building had closed. I asked everywhere, and besides the security personnel on duty, no one was working overtime. Also, from the surveillance footage, the man stayed in the building all night without leaving."

"That's odd." Ling Chen touched his nose, his expression puzzled, "Since he didn't leave the building, where could he be? Are you sure you've asked around everywhere?"

"Chairman, I've asked every company in that office building; none have seen this man, not even anyone who knows him."

During their conversation, another security personnel added, "Not everywhere; one company's doors were closed, and we don't know if anyone was inside. Regardless, I knocked, but there was no response."

"What company is that?" Ling Chen asked.

"I don't know. I asked the building's security; they told me that the company's site had just been rented out, but the doors were kept closed daily with no one coming in or out."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen thought about it and said, "Alright, first, investigate the man's identity and find out where he lives. As long as we know who he is, we're not afraid of finding him."

"Understood."

After resting in the room for a while and checking the time, Ling Chen sneaked out of the company's back door alone.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen drove to the outside of Hongyu United Investment Company. After getting out of the car, fearing recognition, he put on a baseball cap, kept his head down, and quickly passed through the crowd straight into the building.

He had no choice; Tang Shiyun was a national goddess. The date news between him and Tang Shiyun, once spread, would turn him into a public enemy for many people. He surely didn't want to be mobbed on the street.

Carefully making his way through, Ling Chen soon arrived at the chairman's office.

Chapter 1327 - 1635: Photo Exposed (Part 2)

Knocking on the door, Ling Chen walked into the office and saw Nanrong Wanqing discussing matters with a few staff members. Seeing Ling Chen enter, Nanrong Wanqing smiled at him and pointed to the sofa nearby, signaling him to sit for a while.

After waiting for more than ten minutes, Nanrong Wanqing finished her work, got up to make a cup of tea, and brought it to Ling Chen, asking, "What is it? Are you being besieged by reporters and hiding here to dodge the limelight?"

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and said with a wry smile, "You already know."

"The newspapers and the internet are all about you and Shiyun. It's hard not to know."

"Yesterday was Shiyun's birthday, so I invited her over..."

"Alright, you don't need to explain it to me," Nanrong Wanqing interrupted Ling Chen, saying, "I wasn't saying anything. But, you should come here less often for the time being. If people see, they'll probably add another 'womanizer' label to your name."

"Sigh! I didn't expect this to happen either."

"Hey..." Ling Chen was about to speak when suddenly, a phone rang in his pocket. Taking out the phone, Ling Chen glanced at the caller ID and immediately answered, asking, "Fatso, you wouldn't be calling just to tease me, would you?"

"Tsk, I'm not in the mood for that. Hey! On serious business, just now Falcon Company sent me that paparazzo's photo and asked for help in checking his identity. Guess what?"

"What?" Ling Chen detected something unusual in Hu Fei's tone and became serious immediately.

"There's no identity information about this person in our Huaxia's archive, so I also checked Interpol's database. This paparazzo has seven fake identities, each with several homicides, and is a long-time wanted by Interpol."

"You mean... that paparazzo is an international fugitive?"

"I think it's more than just an international fugitive. Think carefully, why would that person suddenly appear in Beijing? And staying in an office building too."

Ling Chen asked, "Do you think that person has a purpose?"

"Such a person wouldn't appear in such a place without a reason. I've investigated all the information about that office building. There are over twenty companies in the entire building, but they're all ordinary companies. So, I think that person's target is probably Falcon Company. Think about it, that office building is right across from Falcon Company, able to watch your movements anytime."

"That's indeed a possibility. Okay, I got it. I'll investigate it immediately."

After hanging up, Nanrong Wanqing looked at Ling Chen and asked, "What's up?"

"I have something to handle. I'll invite you out for dinner another day, how about it?"

Nanrong Wanqing joked with a smile, "The rooftop again?"

"Don't worry, I'll be careful after this lesson. Okay, I'm off now."

Leaving Hongyu United Investment Company, Ling Chen drove straight back to Falcon Company. On the way, Ling Chen had already called Dong Ying to arrange the manpower. Once there, the group didn't stay; they immediately rushed to the opposite office building.

"You guys, guard all the entrances and parking lots of the building. If the paparazzo appears, no need to be polite, take him out straight away." Pausing briefly, Ling Chen instructed, "Remember, that person's identity is not simple, so don't underestimate him."

"Rest assured, Chairman, we'll complete the mission."

After briefing everyone, Ling Chen donned a cap and walked into the office building alone. In a short while, Ling Chen took the elevator to the eleventh floor.

In the surveillance footage collected, the paparazzo got out of the elevator on the eleventh floor, so the person is likely staying on this floor. Although Falcon Company's security personnel had already searched, the person's whereabouts were not found.

Walking down the spacious corridor, Ling Chen kept looking to both sides. There were two companies on this floor; one was a micro-loan company, and the other had just closed recently, its premises already rented out, but the door was shut with no one in sight.

After observing for a while, Ling Chen walked to the company's entrance with a large lock. At the upper right corner of the door, Ling Chen noticed a surveillance camera.

Hmm? Ling Chen scrutinized it for a second, feeling somewhat intrigued. He had reviewed the surveillance footage from this floor, but it seemed that this particular camera hadn't captured any. With that in mind, Ling Chen turned back to the elevator area.

There was also a surveillance camera installed here.

Ling Chen found that this camera was different from the one at the door of that company, indicating that the camera at the company's entrance was not part of the unified installation for the building. This was why the security room had no footage from that camera.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen returned to the company's entrance. Looking at the camera at the upper right corner, Ling Chen took out his phone and searched online. Soon, all the information about the camera displayed on the screen.

Tsk tsk! A full-HD night vision camera with electronic recognition, vibration detection, and facial scanning capabilities—it's the latest model. Such cameras are usually installed in banks or highly confidential places. For an ordinary company to install such a camera, it could be either extravagantly spending or guarding against outsiders.

From the traces around the camera, it appeared recently installed. According to the building's security, the company's premises were rented just over a week ago, and despite the time, no one was seen entering or leaving, yet a high-grade camera was installed at the door—surely, this is no trivial matter.

Ling Chen was eighty percent sure that the paparazzo lived behind this door. Besides the paparazzo, there might be more people inside.

After thinking it through, Ling Chen decided against breaking in and instead turned and left.

Because of that camera, the people inside surely knew of his presence. Forcing his way in, who knows what awaited inside? For the sake of safety, caution was necessary.

Leaving the office building, Ling Chen hurried back to Falcon Company. Entering the control room, Ling Chen watched the busy staff and asked, "Have you received the signal?"

"Chairman, yes, we've received it. The signal is normal, and the image is clear."

Ling Chen walked to a computer, nodded at the screen display. Just when he'd left, he installed two satellite probes outside the company, directly facing the door. As long as someone entered or exited, they'd surely notice.

"Keep a close watch for me, notify me immediately if anyone shows up."

"Rest assured, Chairman, I'll have people on duty 24/7, not missing a single frame."

Chapter 1328 - 1636: The Hunt Begins (Part 1)

"He has already left. But, he suddenly came here—could he have discovered us?"

On the eleventh floor of the office building, Qin Chuan pushed open the door of the room where Su He was staying and asked.

Su He stared out the window, his brows slightly furrowed, "We haven't exposed our identities; it's impossible for him to have discovered our position. Maybe it's just a coincidence."

"A coincidence?" Qin Chuan shook his head and said, "Even if it's a coincidence, for safety's sake, we should relocate immediately. We can't stay in this place any longer."

Su He pondered for a moment and said, "First, send someone outside to check if Ling Chen has people watching. If he knows our location, he will surely set up an ambush around."

"Alright, I'll send someone out to take a look immediately." As Zhu Chuan finished speaking, he turned and walked out.

Meanwhile, at the Falcon Private Security Company across the street, Ling Chen quickly headed to the control room upon receiving the notification.

"Chairman, these are the images we just captured," a technician said, pointing to the computer screen. Ling Chen walked quickly over, leaned closer to the computer screen, and saw the picture of a closed door being pushed open from the inside. Immediately afterward, three men in their twenties walked out from inside the door. As the three men left, the door was closed again.

"Wait!" Ling Chen exclaimed, "Rewind the footage by a few seconds." The technician acknowledged and quickly rewound the footage by three seconds. At this moment, the door was about to close, and through the crack, Ling Chen saw a person standing inside. Although slightly blurry, his sharp eyes recognized the person. "Enlarge the image."

The technician captured the image through the door crack, zoomed in slowly, and then filtered it using software. Soon, the person inside became clearer.

Sure enough!

Ling Chen's eyes lit up. Zhu Chuan! He didn't expect this guy to be hiding here. At this moment, Ling Chen finally understood why that paparazzo became an international fugitive; these people were all assassins from Skyhawk Pavilion. His luck was truly good; he thought it was just an ordinary paparazzo, but unexpectedly, he discovered Zhu Chuan's whereabouts. Since Zhu Chuan was here, Su He must be as well.

The saying goes, the most dangerous place is the safest place. Su He and his group were probably trying to hide their tracks, while spying on him on one hand, and looking for an opportunity to strike on the other.

"What are those three planning to do?"

"Chairman, they are heading towards the front and back doors as well as the parking lot of the office building."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen pondered for a while and said, "They are scouting, checking if the outside is surrounded. Immediately notify our people to retreat, and do not let them find out." After a pause, Ling Chen asked, "How many people do we have right now?"

"Besides the ones out on duty, there are sixty people in the company."

"Have them ready and await my orders." After saying this, Ling Chen turned to Zhu Qing beside him, "Go and inform Sir Chen, let him go with Ji Gang, find a position in advance to ambush. Once Su He and Zhu Chuan appear, make sure to stop them. We can't let them escape this time."

"Yes!" Zhu Qing nodded and quickly walked out of the control room.

...

"Our people have already scouted. There are no ambushes outside the office building. I think Ling Chen probably doesn't know we're here. As you said, it might be a coincidence. However, for safety's sake, I still think we should relocate."

After listening to Zhu Chuan's report, Su He nodded slightly, "Alright, send someone to find a place first. We'll move after dark."

In Falcon Company's control room, Ling Chen watched the three men return to the eleventh floor, a look of concern on his face. It was Su He; he absolutely couldn't be careless. After thinking for a while, Ling Chen picked up his phone and dialed a number.

As time ticked away, Ling Chen sat in the control room, his gaze fixed on the screen. Skyhawk Pavilion trains assassins, who excel at operating in darkness. So, if Su He and his team were to act, it would be after nightfall.

Soon, night gradually descended, and the street lights were already lit. Ling Chen walked to the window, looking at the office building across the street. It was past seven, and the employees working in that building were leaving one after another. Shortly, the security on duty locked the building's main gate with chains.

"Chairman, have something to eat." Dong Ying approached with a boxed meal.

"Just leave it there. I'll eat it later." After a pause, Ling Chen changed the subject, "Assistant Dong, you can leave early today. No need to stay here." A confrontation with Su He tonight was inevitable, so to avoid involving others, it was better for Dong Ying and the rest to leave early.

After finishing the meal and a brief rest, the technician watching the screen called out, "Chairman, they're out."

Without hesitation, Ling Chen hurried to the computer screen, watching the images sent back by the miniature camera. At this moment, the door was fully open, and more than twenty Skyhawk Pavilion assassins filed out, rapidly heading towards the escape route.

"Connect to the surveillance system of the building across the street. I want to know their every move."

The technician nodded, fingers flying over the keyboard. In no time, the firewall of the office building across the street was breached, and the screen displayed dozens of surveillance images.

Through the surveillance cameras opposite, Ling Chen could clearly see the positions of the Skyhawk Pavilion assassins.

"Chairman, they've all gone to the underground parking lot." The technician switched the display to the parking lot, showing two commercial vehicles and a minibus parked in a corner, capable of seating twenty people.

The Skyhawk Pavilion assassins, once in the parking lot, didn't immediately drive away; instead, they spread out around the lot, keeping watch on the surroundings.

"Chairman, everyone from the eleventh floor has moved out."

"The ones in front are just scouts, don't mind them, focus all attention on these two," Ling Chen pointed to Su He and Zhu Chuan in the image. These two are the key; once they're dealt with, the remaining Skyhawk Pavilion assassins won't be much of a threat.

A few minutes later, the team led by Su He swiftly arrived at the underground parking lot. Ling Chen roughly counted, including the scouts from earlier, there were about fifty people. At this moment, Su He and Zhu Chuan had already boarded a commercial vehicle, and the others got into the minibus, with the two commercial vehicles slowly heading towards the parking lot exit.

"Attention all units, attention all units, the target has left the parking lot. Action has begun, repeat, action has begun." Ling Chen, holding a walkie-talkie, transmitted his voice into everyone's ears.

Chapter 1329 - 1637: Hunt Operation (Part 2)

Leaving the company building, Ling Chen quickly got into the vehicle that had been prepared in advance. Sitting in the car, Ling Chen held a walkie-talkie, constantly keeping in touch with various units. "Calling Falcon One, please respond if received."

"Falcon One received, tracking target, target has directly entered Chengming Road from Southwest Avenue."

"Understood." Ling Chen replied briefly, then instructed the driver to head towards Chengming Road immediately. At this time, a helicopter was hovering in the night sky, closely monitoring the positions of

those cars. In the helicopter cabin, Tang Yuan was observing the road conditions with binoculars, reporting to Ling Chen in real-time.

For tonight's operation, Ling Chen mobilized a lot of forces, including asking Tang Yuan for help. If it weren't for Tang Yuan stepping in, it wouldn't have been so easy to arrange for a helicopter.

"Chairman, the people in the parking lot are preparing to move."

Hearing the news from the central control room, Ling Chen responded, "Notify them, start the dragnet operation, we must not let those people escape."

"Understood!"

"Hey! Tang Yuan, the motorcade has already entered Zhenghong Road, it's time to take action."

Tang Yuan's voice came through the earpiece, Ling Chen responded with a nod, picked up the walkie-talkie and said, "All units, attention, target is on Zhenghong Road, start the operation!"

As Ling Chen's words fell, the several Range Rovers following him immediately accelerated, quickly rushing towards the destination.

"How much farther?" Su He checked the map and asked Zhu Chuan beside him.

"Eight kilometers left, they found an abandoned warehouse, it's a good hiding spot." Zhu Chuan replied.

Su He frowned and said, "Tell them to hurry, I have a bad feeling about this."

Bang!

Just after he spoke, Su He and Zhu Chuan heard a loud noise from behind. When the two turned around, they only saw the business car behind them being hit from the rear by a Range Rover. The car

immediately lost control, crashing into a nearby pole. With a 'bang', the front of the business car was completely caved in, white smoke billowing out wildly.

At the same time, two Range Rovers suddenly charged out from the intersection beside them, driving alongside the business car and the small bus on the left. Watching the Range Rovers slowly edging closer, Zhu Chuan said grimly, "Speed up and rush through."

"Yes." The driver responded, pressing the gas pedal to the floor. In an instant, the business car shot forward with a roar of the engine, speeding away, leaving the two Range Rovers behind. However, just at that moment, a garbage truck suddenly charged out from the junction ahead, blocking the entire way.

Seeing this, the driver didn't hesitate, quickly turning the steering wheel to redirect the business car onto a left-hand road. But before going too far, two more Range Rovers blocked their path ahead. With no other choice, the driver had to steer the business car into another road.

Seeing this, Su He said with a stern face, "Turn around immediately, they're forcing us into a trap."

"We can't escape now." Zhu Chuan commented, "Our only option is to get out and leave on foot."

Upon hearing this, Su He pondered for a moment and nodded, "Stop the car."

As the business car came to a stop, Zhu Chuan immediately pushed open the door and stepped out. But before his foot hit the ground, a piercing sound suddenly rang out. When Zhu Chuan realized it, a sharp arrow had already landed on the ground, simultaneously a bloody scratch appeared on his shoulder.

"Watch out!" Zhu Chuan's reaction was swift, feeling the pain in his shoulder, he immediately shouted, "It's an ambush!"

No sooner had he finished speaking than the driver of the business car was shot in the head with an arrow, dying instantly.

"It's Zhang Zhongfeng." Hiding at the corner of a wall, Zhu Chuan said in a deep voice. To wield such precise archery, in the whole world, only Zhang Zhongfeng could achieve this.

Su He looked at the tall buildings around him, Zhang Zhongfeng must be hiding at a high vantage point, only his location was concealed so well they couldn't spot him for now.

"Go, break through and rush out."

Decisively, Su He called Zhu Chuan to break through towards the opposite street. But they hadn't gone far when more than ten arrows swiftly shot towards them, blocking their path.

For anyone else, Su He and Zhu Chuan wouldn't even consider these arrows a threat. But the archer was Zhang Zhongfeng, they dared not be careless. Zhu Chuan was already wounded in the shoulder for not being vigilant. If anyone could injure them with a bow and arrow, it would only be Zhang Zhongfeng.

"Help, save me..." At this time, cries for help intermittently came from the small bus parked behind. Su He turned to look, only to see dazzling flashes of light bursting from the bus, even the glass windows shattering.

"Should we rescue them?" Zhu Chuan asked.

"How would we?" Su He replied coldly, "We're barely holding on ourselves, where do we find the energy to save them? Let's go, escape first and then talk."

With this, Su He tapped the ground with his toes, instantly performing the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, his body like a shadow rushing towards the nearest building. Upon approach, without pause, Su He crashed through the glass, with a crisp 'clang', shattering the whole pane as his figure disappeared inside the building.

Seeing Su He's position, Zhu Chuan hurried to follow.

At this moment, Ling Chen had arrived at the ambush point in a sedan at a nearby intersection. As soon as he got out of the car, he received news from his own people through the earpiece.

"Target One and Target Two have escaped to Building B, everyone proceed to surround from both sides."

"Building B?" Ling Chen glanced around, his eyes immediately locking onto a twenty-story building not far away.

Before the operation, Ling Chen had designated this area as an ambush point. The reason for choosing this place was because it was full of tall buildings, ideal for an ambush. Furthermore, after seven o'clock in the evening, it was almost deserted, allowing for maximum operational freedom without fearing harm to innocent bystanders.

In addition, a very important reason was that surrounding these high-rises was a field, with no buildings within dozens of meters. If Su He and Zhu Chuan escaped, their position could be clearly locked.

At this moment, Su He stood by the window, looking at the field outside, frowning heavily. As the old Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Su He was well aware of his current situation. Once he left this building, he would definitely be discovered by Ling Chen's men, leading to an inevitable battle.

Now, aside from him and Zhu Chuan, the assassins of the Skyhawk Pavilion were entirely wiped out, so they had to be extra cautious.

While pondering, a beam of strong light suddenly projected from a distance, prompting Su He to withdraw immediately to avoid being detected. Soon after, dozens of beams of strong light illuminated the surrounding field, turning it as bright as day.

Chapter 1330 - 1638: Hunting Operation (Part 3)

"Hello, hello!" On the edge of the grass, Ling Chen picked up a megaphone and shouted loudly, "Elder Su, surrender. You're already surrounded. I'll give you three minutes. If you don't come out, don't blame me for being rude."

Putting down the megaphone, Ling Chen turned to Qiu Yong beside him and asked, "Brother, have our men been arranged properly?"

Qiu Yong nodded and said, "Don't worry, we've surrounded that building. Fourth Brother is watching from above. No matter how skilled Su He is, he won't fly away today."

"Don't be so sure. You're well aware of Su He's abilities. To catch him, we'll definitely have to pay a price."

After confirming Su He and Qin Chuan's whereabouts today, Ling Chen immediately called Tong Zhentian of East Sea City for support. He had no choice; with only Chen Junfeng, Ji Gang, and Zhu Qing by his side, their strength was far from enough.

A short while later, two minutes passed. Qiu Yong looked toward the building opposite, "Sixth Brother, it seems they're not planning to surrender."

"No rush." With that, Ling Chen picked up the radio and said, "Fourth Brother, do me a favor, send something inside."

Bang!

With a crisp sound, the window glass on the first floor of the building was shot through, and shards scattered everywhere.

Qin Chuan quickly walked over and saw an arrow stuck in the ground. Tied to the middle of the arrow was a mobile phone. At this moment, the phone's ringtone rang.

"It should be a call from Ling Chen. Should we answer it?"

Su He reached out his hand, signaling Qin Chuan to hand over the phone. The call connected, and Ling Chen's voice came through immediately, "Elder Su, we meet again."

"What do you want?" Su He asked calmly.

"I hope you stop resisting and come out to surrender. I can assure you, I won't harm a hair on your head."

"You've gone to great lengths just to kill us, do you think I'd believe you?"

"Once a master, always a master. Although we don't have the title of master and disciple, in reality, we are. In my mind, I've always regarded you as my master. Actually, this is the last thing I want to see happen. If possible, I wish things were like before. Promise me you won't be my enemy from now on, and I guarantee with my life I won't harm you."

"I'm from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, fighting for it all my life. If the pavilion's position is replaced by Dragon Tiger Hall, then living would be meaningless for me. Unless Dragon Tiger Hall disappears, I won't give up easily."

Hearing this, Ling Chen said helplessly, "Elder Su, you're an educated person. Why say such naive things? The rise and fall of dynasties is inevitable, no one can reign forever. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has been established for centuries; its decline is a matter of time. Why insist on this? Since the pavilion must exit the historical stage, why not let it step down gracefully rather than tarnishing its name."

"You're not from the Su Family, you can't understand our feelings. Ling Chen, I can't figure out how you discovered my whereabouts despite my excellent hiding."

"Credit goes to your subordinate. Last night someone secretly took photos of me with Miss Tang. I was initially trying to find the photographer to retrieve the pictures, then I found out he's one of yours." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Elder Su, three minutes have passed, evidently you're not planning to surrender."

"I've never admitted defeat in my life. If you want to kill me, let's see if you're capable."

"Alright, since that's the case, don't blame me for being rude." As he finished speaking, Ling Chen hung up the phone and turned to a technician working on a laptop, "How's it going, have you located them?"

The technician nodded and said, "Found them, in the northeast corner of that building. Director, the phone's bug and camera are working fine."

Hearing this, Ling Chen quickly walked over and looked at the images displayed on the screen.

The phone was probably thrown to the ground by Su He, but through the phone's top-moving camera, it could capture Su He and Qin Chuan's current position.

Due to the light, the image wasn't clear. However, Ling Chen didn't mind as long as he knew where they were.

"Amplify the bug's sound, I want to hear their voices."

"Yes."

At the moment, in the building, Su He was pacing around, checking the outside situation.

"What do we do now?" Qin Chuan asked.

"There's certainly a trap over the grass area; it's best we stay inside and wait till dawn. Once there are more people, we can blend in with the crowd to escape."

"What if they break in?"

"Given our strength, do you think they'd dare come in?" Su He was very confident. With two Heavenly List experts here, they weren't afraid even if Ling Chen sent more people.

Bang!

At that moment, a crisp sound came again. Qin Chuan turned towards the direction it came from and saw something on the ground.

Before Qin Chuan could see clearly, crisp sounds echoed from all directions, with things periodically hitting the ground.

Simultaneously, almost invisible smoke began to spread from the ground, filling the floor where Qin Chuan was.

Smelling the pungent odor, Qin Chuan furrowed his brows and said seriously, "It's gas."

Upon Qin Chuan's warning, Su He dared not breathe and quickly held his breath, "Looks like they're trying to force us out." After pondering for a moment, Su He said, "Let's sneak around the back."

With those words, they swiftly headed towards the back door.

Surveying the outside, Su He nodded to Qin Chuan, who understood and gently pushed the door open a crack, then gradually moved out.

After advancing more than ten meters, Qin Chuan used the shadow of a corner to observe the surroundings. Seeing no one appear, he gestured to Su He behind him.

Once Su He caught up, Qin Chuan continued moving forward, searching for cover to hide their presence.

However, at that moment, intense lights suddenly shone down from above, directly illuminating them.

This sudden change caused Su He and Qin Chuan's expressions to alter.

"Elder Su, Elder Qin." As footsteps approached, Ling Chen emerged from a distant corner.

Watching Ling Chen approach slowly, Su He frowned and asked, "How did you know we were here?"

"Elder Su, I told you, I've made thorough preparations. Tonight, you won't escape my grasp. Before I change my mind, my previous offer stands. If you surrender now, I guarantee I won't harm you."

