

The Beauty 1341

Chapter 1341 Ancient Tomb Rescue (2)

Half an hour later, all preparations were complete.

Ling Chen stood at the entrance of the ancient tomb with Tang Yuan and Nanrong Wanqing, looking at the tomb door that weighed over a thousand pounds, secretly clicking his tongue. No wonder Hao Dongnan and his team couldn't move it; without professional machinery, how could manpower alone accomplish this?

"Sanlang, who's buried in this ancient tomb?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "How would I know? I haven't studied it. According to Professor Hao, the person buried here is either rich or noble, possibly a ruler of a dynasty, maybe even a national sovereign."

"A national sovereign?" Tang Yuan exclaimed in surprise, "Really? If that's true, it would be big news."

"I've never been inside, how would I know if it's true or not. Enough! Stop asking useless questions and have someone move that tomb door. Miss Su has been trapped inside for two days and nights already. If we don't rescue her soon, I'm afraid she can't hold on much longer."

Tang Yuan nodded and instructed that the large crane be prepared. Several soldiers took slings and tied them around the tomb door. With Tang Yuan's command, the crane's arm slowly lifted, raising the door that weighed over a thousand pounds.

Once the entire door was lifted, a two-meter wide, three-meter high passage appeared behind it. It was pitch black inside, giving off an eerie and terrifying feeling.

At this point, Hao Dongnan, who had been prepared for a while, entered the passage with several professors, carrying professional equipment. They were going to inspect the tomb to ensure there were no mechanisms inside the passage.

Many ancient tombs, especially large ones, are equipped with traps and mechanisms to prevent intruders from entering and disturbing the tomb owner's remains.

At 8:30 in the morning, Ling Chen and others patiently waited outside the tomb. However, as time ticked away, almost an hour had passed, and there was still no sign of Hao Dongnan and his team coming out of the passage.

"Strange." Nanrong Wanqing frowned slightly and said, "Isn't it taking too long?"

Tang Yuan walked to the communication station, picked up the radio, and called out, "Professor Hao, please respond if you receive this."

Soon, Hao Dongnan's voice came through the radio, "Chief Tang, can you hear me?"

"I can hear you. How's the investigation going?"

"Chief Tang, we... we seem to be lost."

Upon hearing this, Tang Yuan's expression changed slightly, "How did you get lost?"

"I don't know either. We followed the passage straight ahead, but when we tried to turn back, we found the path was different from when we came in, and we don't know where we are now."

Damn! Tang Yuan cursed inwardly, speaking sternly, "If you got lost, why didn't you inform us earlier? Do you know everyone is waiting for your news?"

"Sorry, we discovered some valuable artifacts in the passage and lost track of time. Chief Tang, could you send someone in to get us out?"

"Stay put and don't move. Do you hear me?" After speaking, Tang Yuan put down the radio and went to Ling Chen's side, cursing, "These guys got lost inside and still have the mood to study artifacts, leaving us waiting outside for so long. If it were up to me, I'd let them fend for themselves."

"Lost..." Ling Chen pondered for a moment and said, "Old Tang, this ancient tomb might have some issues. With Professor Hao's experience, how could they possibly get lost inside? Plus, according to what he said, he followed the same path back but ended up on the wrong route."

Tang Yuan's heart stirred, and he responded, "You mean... there are mechanisms inside this ancient tomb?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Maybe. We're not in the tomb, so everything is just speculation. Let's first lock onto Professor Hao's position and then send people in to get them out."

"Alright, I'll send in a scout vehicle to check the situation first." With that, Tang Yuan immediately made arrangements.

Soon, an intelligent scouting vehicle, under the control of technicians, slowly entered the passage. As the scout vehicle's lights turned on, the situation ahead and on both sides of the passage was clearly displayed on the screen. Ling Chen and others gathered around the technicians, watching the screen intently.

Quickly, the scout vehicle reached the end of the passage, where two forks led off to the left and right. "Check the left side," Ling Chen instructed, and the technicians immediately maneuvered the scout vehicle to proceed left.

After a few minutes of maneuvering inside the passage, the screen suddenly showed a wall.

"There's no way through."

"It seems this isn't the way to the main chamber. Try another route," Tang Yuan suggested.

The technicians maneuvered the scout vehicle to retrace its steps. However, after a few minutes, the technician controlling the vehicle suddenly put down the controls and turned to Tang Yuan, saying, "Sir, something's not right. This isn't the path we took to get in."

Upon hearing this, Tang Yuan looked at Ling Chen and asked, "Did you notice it too?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "He's right. This path is indeed problematic. I kept an eye on it just now. The scout vehicle made three turns, left-right-left. But on the way back, it made five turns, left-right-left-right-left. I think this is why Professor Hao and his team got lost."

"The passageways in the tomb are changing," Tang Yuan frowned, looking serious.

"I've seen a lot, but I've never heard of passageways that can change," Nanrong Wanqing chimed in, "What kind of wisdom did ancient people possess to achieve this?"

"Never underestimate the wisdom of ancient people," Ling Chen said, "To change the entire tomb's passageway, every passage must be mobile. This means the entire tomb is essentially one massive mechanism." At this point, Ling Chen's lips curved up, and he said enthusiastically, "Having seen so much, I'm now very interested in the tomb owner. Old Tang, how about joining me for a look inside?"

"You're planning to enter the tomb personally?"

"That's right! It's the only way to figure out the changes in this tomb."

"Alright, since you want to go in, I'll accompany you."

Before long, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan were ready. To avoid getting lost in the passage, both Ling Chen and Tang Yuan carried locator devices. In addition, they each had a backpack filled with enough food and water for several days, in case of unexpected situations.

"Ling Chen, be careful," Nanrong Wanqing urged, somewhat worried.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Don't worry, nothing will happen. With so many of us, if we really get trapped inside and can't get out, we'll just blow up this tomb."

With that, Ling Chen called on Tang Yuan, and the two walked side by side towards the passage.

Chapter 1342 Ancient Tomb Rescue (3)

Entering the tomb passage, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan held flashlights, illuminating the floor as they walked forward slowly. The floor was made of square stone slabs pieced together, covered in dust.

Not far along, they reached a fork in the road, staring at the two dark paths. Tang Yuan pointed to the right path, "Why don't we go this way? The scouting vehicle already went the other way, I think there's no need for us to go there."

"I think it doesn't matter which way we go," Ling Chen said. "Since this ancient tomb is a huge mechanism, the chamber is surely hidden within it. No matter which road we choose, we'll get lost inside the tomb."

"Then what do we do?"

"If you ask me, we'd better figure out the trigger conditions and patterns of the mechanism. Once we understand that, this tomb won't be a problem." As he spoke, Ling Chen pulled out a fist-sized iron ball from his backpack and rolled it along the floor of the right path.

Under the flashlight beam, the iron ball rolled farther and farther until it reached the end of the passage.

"Tang Yuan, aren't we going over?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Let's wait and see." After about a minute, they suddenly felt a slight vibration from the ground. At the same time, faint sounds of friction came from up ahead.

"Let's go and take a look." With those words, Ling Chen quickly sped up and went forward.

At the corner, they saw that the path had detached from the main structure and was slowly moving. Not long after, another path hidden below slowly rose and connected to the main passage.

Seeing this, Tang Yuan widened his eyes, utterly amazed by what he was seeing.

"Wow... Damn it! Tang Yuan, did you see that? Such technology existed in ancient times? Did we come to the wrong place? This isn't an ancient tomb; it's a modern one."

"Don't get too excited." Ling Chen inspected their surroundings and said, "This tomb was definitely built by ancient people, at least a few hundred years old. But you're right, having mechanical techniques of this level is unprecedented."

After pausing, Ling Chen pointed to the passage ahead and said, "This path has turned from the original passage into another one; perhaps it's the true path to the ancient tomb."

"How did you do that?" Tang Yuan asked curiously.

"It's simple. Since this tomb is a gigantic mechanism, there must be something triggering the mechanism in the passage. Ancient people didn't have infrared detectors, so they most commonly used the floor to activate mechanisms. If the floor senses pressure, it triggers this path's mechanism. Alright! Let's go; we don't have time to waste now."

As they crossed the passage, a flame suddenly burst from both sides. Upon closer look, the sconces along the walls were all lit, creating an eerie vibe.

Ling Chen switched off his flashlight and, with the candlelight, looked ahead. The passage stretched dozens of meters, cold and clear, with occasional gusts of chilling wind blowing through.

"There's wind inside; seems like there's a vent ahead," Tang Yuan said.

"Be cautious; in such a long passage, there might still be mechanisms." Ling Chen rolled the iron ball along the floor of the passage.

A minute went by without any issue. Seeing this, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Seems safe now."

They walked along the passage to its end and both Ling Chen and Tang Yuan breathed a sigh of relief. Fortunately, luck was on their side with no dangers appearing. At the end was a tomb door, which they passed through, entering a huge chamber.

In the center of the chamber was a two-meter long, one-meter wide stone coffin. It appeared ordinary, with candle lamps hanging from each of the four corners. Ling Chen glanced around and saw piles of items in the corners, mostly porcelain.

"Tang Yuan." At this point, Tang Yuan tugged Ling Chen's arm and pointed to the southeast corner, "Look there."

Ling Chen turned his head and saw several large boxes filled with gold, silver, and jewels. To Ling Chen, such wealth was unsurprising. Whoever built this tomb surely wasn't lacking in money.

A chilling wind blew past, and Ling Chen looked up to see the ceiling of the chamber, where there were seven or eight holes, each the size of a fist, likely the vents for the chamber.

Ling Chen couldn't help but find it strange. Regardless of who the tomb owner was, they exerted such effort to build a mechanism-based tomb, and yet, their main chamber seemed excessively simple.

As he pondered, Tang Yuan had already walked over to the stone coffin.

"Tang Yuan, who do you think lies here?"

"I'm no seer, how would I know?" Ling Chen said as he looked around, puzzled, "Usually, tombs have items symbolizing the person's status, yet this main chamber lacks any record. Isn't it odd, Old Tang?"

"You previously said, given the tomb's feng shui and scale, a royal should be buried here. But I've seen on TV that royal tombs have burial accompaniments: ceramics, jade, gold, silver, livestock, and sacrificial humans. Besides porcelain and jewels, there's nothing else here."

"You're right, indeed, it seems unlike a royal burial." Ling Chen turned his gaze to the stone coffin.

"Old Tang, why don't we... open up this stone coffin for a look?"

"I would like to, but we're amateurs. What if we accidentally damage the remains inside? I've heard archaeology is meticulous; we shouldn't ruin their work."

Ling Chen found the logic sound.

"Alright then, let's find the others first."

"Tang Yuan!" Suddenly, Tang Yuan seemed to spot something, pointing to a corner of the chamber, "Look at that."

Ling Chen turned his head and scrutinized the area, sighting a lever in the corner. Because its color matched the wall, they hadn't noticed it when entering.

"Do you think... this lever controls the entire tomb's mechanism?" Tang Yuan asked.

"Possible. But it's just our guess; who knows what might happen."

"What's there to fear; it's just a tomb. With our skills, even if danger arises, we can escape."

Ling Chen cast an annoyed glance at Tang Yuan, "We may, but others can't. Don't forget, we're not the only ones in this tomb."

Right as he finished speaking, they heard a faintly trembling voice from Hao Dongnan on the walkie-talkie, "Chief Tang, are you there?"

Chapter 1343 The Eerie Ancient Tomb (1)

"I'm here." Tang Yuan picked up the walkie-talkie and replied, "Professor Hao, how's it going on your side?"

"I... I found a lot of corpses..."

"Corpses?" Tang Yuan glanced at Ling Chen beside him and said helplessly, "Professor Hao, you're an archaeologist, often dealing with ancient corpses. Are you still afraid of corpses?"

Through the walkie-talkie, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan could clearly hear Hao Dongnan gulp, "Chief Tang, I've seen many ancient corpses, but... but... I've never heard of or seen ancient corpses that have remained intact for hundreds of years. This... is too eerie. Can you come over to support us as soon as possible? There are too many ancient corpses here. We really can't stay any longer."

Hearing this, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan exchanged glances. For some reason, an eerie wind overhead made them both feel a chill.

This ancient tomb is hundreds of years old, so even if there were corpses inside, they should have turned into a pile of skeletons by now. Just as they were thinking this, Tang Yuan's phone rang; it was Hao Dongnan. He had sent over photos of those ancient corpses. Tang Yuan took out his phone and looked at the photos Hao Dongnan sent, his face turning slightly pale.

"Tang Yuan, you... take a look." Tang Yuan handed the phone to Ling Chen.

Ling Chen examined it closely, seeing two ancient corpses. These ancient corpses were very well preserved. If not for being in the ancient tomb, they could be mistaken for living people at first glance. Looking at those two corpses, Ling Chen felt a chill in his heart. This was too eerie!

How could people who have been dead for hundreds of years be so well preserved? Ancient technology wasn't developed to this extent. Even now, the only way to maintain a corpse unchanged for hundreds of years is freezing. But this tomb doesn't have a freezer, nor freezing technology. How on earth did the ancients achieve this? As he pondered, Hao Dongnan's voice continued over the walkie-talkie: "Chief Tang, I roughly counted, there are about thirty or so ancient corpses here, men and women of all ages."

"All right, I understand. Wait there; we'll come over right away."

Immediately, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan retraced their steps to the entrance of the tomb corridor. This time, they didn't alter the corridor as before but walked directly into it. When they reached the end of the corridor, they returned the way Hao Dongnan did. By then, the trap mechanism in the corridor had already activated, and as they went back, they had actually entered another corridor.

Not far along the corridor, Ling Chen found Hao Dongnan and the others waiting as they had originally. These people gathered together, their faces slightly pale. It was apparent that those eerie ancient corpses had given these archaeology professors quite a scare.

"Professor Hao, are you all okay?" Tang Yuan asked.

"Yes, we're fine." Seeing Ling Chen and others arrive, Hao Dongnan and the others obviously breathed a sigh of relief. "Chief Tang, Mr. Ling, this ancient tomb is too eerie. We... we should leave first."

"Old Tang, you take Professor Hao and the others out first. I'll continue to search for Miss Su's whereabouts."

"Don't you want me to accompany you?"

Ling Chen smiled faintly, "It's just some dead people, what's there to be afraid of?"

"Okay, then be careful. Contact me if anything goes wrong." With that, Tang Yuan led Hao Dongnan and a few others toward the exit of the ancient tomb.

Although this ancient tomb is a massive mechanism, once you figure out its operating pattern, the mechanism becomes easy to break. After Tang Yuan and his group left, Ling Chen searched the entire ancient tomb alone. However, what puzzled Ling Chen was that, despite searching every corner of the tomb, there was no trace of Su Lin.

"How could she vanish?" Ling Chen furrowed his brow, thinking. He was standing where the tunnel and corridor connected. Based on Hao Dongnan, Su Lin entered the tomb from here. Around the area, Ling Chen also found a lot of equipment, indicating that Hao Dongnan was right that Su Lin had indeed been here. Because it had been sealed for hundreds of years, dust covered the floor of the corridor.

Ling Chen switched on his flashlight and looked around, quickly spotting Su Lin's footprints. Following her footprints, Ling Chen immediately dashed forward down the corridor. After a few minutes, Ling Chen suddenly stopped. He hadn't paid attention before, but now he was surprised to discover that Su Lin's footprints were all over the tomb. This meant that before they entered the tomb, Su Lin had already figured out the mechanism's operating pattern.

Since Su Lin had wandered through the entire tomb, why didn't she come to find them when they entered? Moreover, he had searched the entire tomb and found no trace of Su Lin. Where did she go?

"Hello! Tang Yuan, have you found Miss Su yet?"

Hearing Tang Yuan's voice from the walkie-talkie, Ling Chen replied, "Not yet."

"There shouldn't be any dangerous mechanisms in the tomb. I'm preparing to bring people in. Why don't you come out and meet us first?"

"Okay, I'll go out right away." After speaking, Ling Chen headed straight for the tomb exit. He hadn't gone far when a thought occurred to him. Inside the main chamber, they had found a pull ring. At the time, fearing the pull ring might be dangerous, neither Ling Chen nor Tang Yuan dared to try it. Now that he thought about it, since Su Lin had ventured through the entire ancient tomb, did she pull that ring and enter an unknown place?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen felt it was very likely. Otherwise, why did he not find Su Lin after searching the whole tomb? Without delay, Ling Chen contacted Tang Yuan to share his guess.

"All right, I'll go in to find you now."

"No need," Ling Chen said. "I'll go by myself. We don't know what the pull ring does. If there's danger, at least you can rescue me."

"Okay, I'll wait outside. You be careful."

It wasn't long before Ling Chen returned to the main chamber. Looking at the hanging pull ring overhead, Ling Chen reached out, grabbed it, and gave a gentle pull. Instantly, a subtle creaking sound came from within the walls, as if numerous cogs and mechanisms were working.

At the same time, the sarcophagus placed at the center of the main chamber slowly moved forward about a meter.

Just as expected!

Ling Chen's eyes lit up as he quickly walked to the sarcophagus side, seeing at its base a stairway leading downward revealed.

"Old Tang, I found a secret passage. Miss Su should be inside. I'll go in first. Bring people over immediately."

Chapter 1344 - 1652: The Strange Ancient Tomb (Part 2)

Following the stairs all the way down, Ling Chen quickly saw flames flickering in the tomb passage at the bottom.

"Miss Su!" Ling Chen shouted toward the direction of the flames.

"Ling Chen?" Soon, Su Lin's surprised voice came from inside. Confirming Su Lin's location, Ling Chen immediately quickened his pace and rushed over.

Arriving at the source of the flames, Ling Chen looked around and saw Su Lin standing in front of a stone table, holding an ancient book with yellowed pages in her hand. The room wasn't very large, only about ten square meters, but it was filled with papers and books scattered everywhere, looking very messy.

Seeing that Su Lin was safe and sound, Ling Chen couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief and said, "Finally found you."

Su Lin asked in astonishment, "How did you end up here?"

"Your sister said something happened to you here, so I came over to help." Ling Chen replied with a teasing smile, "Miss Su, knowing you for so long, I didn't expect you to be so brave, staying in an ancient tomb alone without fear."

"I never said I wasn't afraid. When I first got trapped in here, I was scared to death, especially seeing so many ancient corpses. However, fear aside, I'm now more curious." Su Lin said, pointing to the scattered

papers in the room, "Ling Chen, do you know what I discovered? You definitely won't believe it, but there are people in this world who can live for hundreds of years, even longer."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was taken aback, "How do you know that?"

"There are many notes left by the tomb owner here, if you don't believe me, you can take a look." Su Lin handed the ancient book in her hand to Ling Chen.

Looking at the record, Ling Chen's brow furrowed. As Su Lin said, the tomb owner lived for at least several hundred years. Not only that, but they also conducted many experiments on themselves to discover the secret of their longevity. There are many well-preserved ancient corpses in the tomb, all of which were the tomb owner's test subjects. Ling Chen couldn't help but admire them, wondering what method they used to preserve those ancient corpses intact for so many years.

"These are all the tomb owner's experiment records, I've only read some, and there are still many more I haven't finished." Su Lin pointed to the thick ancient books beside her.

"Alright! Let's not worry about these for now. You've been in this tomb for so long without eating or drinking, you must be hungry. Come on, I'll take you out first, Wanqing and the others are outside."

"What about these materials..."

"Leave them here, I'll call someone in later to organize them."

At this moment, Tang Yuan already led dozens of soldiers into the tomb, installing lighting equipment at various locations in the tomb. Soon, the bright lights dispelled much of the tomb's gloom. Meanwhile, under Tang Yuan's lead, Hao Dongnan and Nanrong Wanqing and others arrived at the main burial chamber.

"Old Tang." Ling Chen greeted Tang Yuan as he came out of a dark passage under the stone coffin.

Seeing Su Lin appear safe and sound, Nanrong Wanqing quickly ran over, holding Su Lin's hands, her face full of joy, "I was worried sick."

Su Lin smiled, eager to share her discovery with Nanrong Wanqing, "Cousin, let me tell you, I found something down there..."

"Miss Su." Before Su Lin could finish, Ling Chen immediately interrupted her, "Wanqing, Miss Su is already tired, I'll have someone take her out to rest first." With that, Ling Chen called Tang Yuan over and whispered a few instructions.

"Don't worry, I'll handle it." Tang Yuan nodded, called over a few soldiers, and sent the unwilling Su Lin out.

"Professor Hao, you've been working for so long, you must be tired, please go out and rest for a while." Tang Yuan said to Hao Dongnan, who was conducting archaeological research.

Hao Dongnan replied without looking up, "It's nothing, we're not tired, these artifacts are of great archaeological value, we..."

"Professor Hao!" Tang Yuan's tone grew slightly heavier, "From now on, this tomb will be managed by the military, without our permission, no one is allowed to conduct research on this tomb. Now, please take your team and leave immediately."

Hearing this, everyone's gaze focused on Tang Yuan, even Nanrong Wanqing felt surprised. Just now, Ling Chen suddenly stopped Su Lin's words, which made her feel odd. Now, seeing Hao Dongnan and others being forcibly 'escorted' out of the tomb by soldiers, she felt even more puzzled.

How did Tang Yuan's attitude change so suddenly, and what did Ling Chen say to him?

After thinking for a moment, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Ling Chen, what on earth is going on?"

"Wanqing, it's not something that can be explained in a few words. In short, the things in this tomb are extraordinary, it's better that you don't know." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen continued, "I'll explain it to Miss Su later, but until then, please don't meet with her."

Seeing Ling Chen's serious expression, Nanrong Wanqing realized the matter was far from simple. Otherwise, Ling Chen wouldn't treat her and Su Lin this way.

"Alright, I'll go back to the tent first."

After watching Nanrong Wanqing and others leave, Tang Yuan came to Ling Chen's side and asked, "Tang Yuan, I've done everything you asked. But are you sure you want the military involved in this?"

Ling Chen nodded, "You're not aware of the seriousness of this matter. In any case, this must remain confidential, currently, only Su Lin knows about the secret of this tomb, so we must keep a close watch on her, not allowing her to contact anyone, or use communication devices."

"What exactly is the secret of this tomb?" Tang Yuan asked curiously, "Did you discover something down there?"

"That's right! Come with me, I'll show you something." With that, Ling Chen called Tang Yuan along and re-entered the room at the bottom of the stone coffin.

After looking through a record left by the tomb owner, Tang Yuan stood in place, mouth agape, enough to fit an egg. It took him a while to recover from the shock.

"Tan... Tang Yuan, is this real?" Tang Yuan asked in disbelief, "There shouldn't be such things in this world."

"Just because you don't know doesn't mean it doesn't exist, I can assure you, this is real."

"Why?" Tang Yuan looked at Ling Chen, puzzled, "Why are you so certain?"

"You don't need to ask too much about that. Old Tang, can you give me a day? I need to go through all these materials."

"Since you've had the military take over this tomb, this matter must be reported."

"I know, I just want to make a copy of these materials. Once I'm done, you can report it. However, I would like to ask you to keep this a secret, don't tell anyone."

"This..." Tang Yuan hesitated for a moment, then slowly nodded, "Alright, for the sake of our friendship, I'll keep it a secret, but I have one condition, you can't keep things from me."

"Deal!"

Chapter 1345 - 1653: The Eerie Ancient Tomb (3)

After leaving the ancient tomb, Ling Chen went straight to the tent where Su Lin was. According to Tang Yuan's orders, Su Lin was kept alone in the tent, with dedicated personnel guarding it outside. "You can leave now," Ling Chen gestured, and the soldiers guarding the tent responded and immediately withdrew.

Entering the tent, Ling Chen saw Su Lin sitting on a folding bed, with leftover meal boxes and a bottle of mineral water beside her. Upon hearing footsteps at the entrance, Su Lin turned her head, saw Ling Chen approaching, and immediately got up to greet him, displeasure evident on her face as she said, "Ling Chen, what do you mean by this? Why are you restricting my freedom and even took away my phone?"

"Miss Su, don't be anxious, I'll explain to you slowly."

After both resettled, Ling Chen spoke, "Miss Su, regarding everything you saw in the ancient tomb, I hope you can keep it a secret and not reveal it to anyone, including Wanqing."

"Why? You must give me a reason."

"Miss Su, do you think if such a matter were to spread, how many people would believe it? Ordinary people would only treat it as a topic for idle chatter and dismiss it with a laugh. However, if those in power knew about it, they would undoubtedly stop at nothing to get to the bottom of it. You must know, for longevity, many people are willing to give up everything. At that time, as the whistleblower, do you think you would be safe? Besides this, there's another very important reason: the government will take over this ancient tomb, and they will definitely issue a gag order to you. If you dare to reveal even a word, the government will definitely hold you accountable, and even those around you would be

implicated. So, for the sake of yourself and others, it's best to keep this matter locked in your heart forever."

"What about Professor Hao and the others?"

"They are not aware of this matter, so you don't need to worry about them. When the government people arrive, they will talk to you, and you just need to agree to their terms. Remember, do not go against them; it won't do you any good," Ling Chen advised.

If possible, Ling Chen wanted to keep this matter hidden, not even telling the government. However, this idea was too unrealistic. After all, too many people knew about the existence of this ancient tomb; it was impossible to conceal it. Moreover, if they did try to hide it, by the time the government pursued it, they would definitely face dire consequences. So, for now, all they could do was let the government handle this significant discovery.

Su Lin pondered for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, I'll listen to you."

Hearing these words, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile, "Miss Su, this is the most sensible choice. Now, you should rest, I have other matters to attend to." With that, Ling Chen stood up and started to walk out of the tent. Just as he reached the entrance, Su Lin's voice suddenly came from behind, "Have you encountered similar matters before?"

Ling Chen turned back, "Why do you ask?"

"I just suddenly thought about your initial reaction upon learning about this matter. If it were an ordinary person, they would definitely think this was a bizarre story. But your first question was 'How did you know about it,' which shows that you've encountered similar matters before. Am I right?"

After listening to Su Lin's analysis, Ling Chen couldn't help but be taken aback. This girl... How had he never noticed her quick mind before, able to deduce so much from just one sentence?

Seeing Ling Chen hesitating to speak, Su Lin nodded to herself, "It seems my guess was correct. No wonder you asked me about the mutation gene thing, you've already been researching their reasons for longevity, haven't you?"

"Miss Su, it's the first time I've truly admired you in all the time we've known each other."

"I want to participate."

"What?" Ling Chen was momentarily at a loss.

"No matter what research you're doing, I want to join in." Before Ling Chen could refuse, Su Lin continued, "If you reject me, when the government people come, I'll surely tell them about this matter. At that time, don't blame me."

Ling Chen chuckled, "Miss Su, it seems you've really grown up a lot, now you even know how to threaten people."

"Be straightforward, do you want me to join or not?"

"Miss Su, let me ask you first, what's your purpose for wanting to join? To research why they live so long? Don't forget, your specialty is in archaeology, not scientific research. And, to be honest, I have indeed encountered similar people, but only met them. So, seeking me is useless. Even if you tell the government personnel about this, I will say the same. Alright! If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave; I still have a lot to do." After saying that, Ling Chen turned and walked out of the tent.

Under Tang Yuan's arrangement, everyone was stationed at the entrance of the ancient tomb, leaving only Ling Chen inside. After spending about an hour in the room, Ling Chen had taken photos of all the materials with his phone and sent them directly to Hu Fei for safekeeping.

After finishing all this, Ling Chen returned to the main burial chamber. Staring at the stone brick in the main burial chamber, a hint of doubt arose in Ling Chen's heart. Since the tomb owner of this ancient tomb, like Ling Gengqiu, had lived for hundreds of years, why did he die? It's essential to know that Ling Gengqiu had been dismembered centuries ago but survived after hundreds of years. So, this mysterious tomb owner might not be dead, but merely in a state of deep slumber.

Thinking this, Ling Chen walked straight to the stone coffin, hesitated for a moment, leaned down, and pressed his ear against the surface of the stone coffin, carefully listening to the sounds inside.

Thump thump! Thump thump!

Although the sound was extremely faint, Ling Chen, with his sharp hearing, heard it clearly. He suddenly lifted his head, staring intently at the stone coffin before him.

A heartbeat... there was a heartbeat! It seems his guess was right, the tomb owner of this ancient tomb is not dead; he is still alive.

Ling Gengqiu... and the mysterious figure from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, both of them have been alive for hundreds of years. Besides that, there's one more thing they have in common: they are both terrifyingly powerful. It seems, those who have lived this long are remarkably powerful individuals.

So Ling Chen couldn't help but worry whether the person lying in this stone coffin possesses extraordinary abilities, just like Ling Gengqiu and the others.

No! Immediate action is needed, who knows when the person in this stone coffin will wake up. In a flash of thought, Ling Chen quickly walked towards the exit of the ancient tomb. This matter must be reported to Tang Yuan right away, and defensive measures should be taken to prevent any incidents.

However, just as Ling Chen was about to exit the main burial chamber, a faint sound suddenly came from the stone coffin behind him.

Ling Chen quickly turned back, his face changing dramatically, only to see that the coffin lid of the stone coffin had moved a fraction.

Chapter 1346 - 1654: The Eerie Ancient Tomb (4)

Dammit! No way, Ling Chen felt a chill rising in his heart. He was just thinking about whether the tomb owner might wake up, and unexpectedly there was already a reaction. Standing there, Ling Chen looked at the opened coffin lid and couldn't help but swallow.

However, a minute passed, and the lid had only opened a crack and did not move any further. Moreover, there was no movement from inside.

Seeing this, Ling Chen dared not stay any longer. If the tomb owner really crawled out of the sarcophagus, he would be in danger. With this thought, Ling Chen hurried towards the entrance of the ancient tomb. Not long after, he reached the entrance, and saw Tang Yuan arranging work with a group of soldiers.

"Old Tang."

Hearing Ling Chen's call, Tang Yuan turned around and walked over in a few steps, asking in a low voice, "Is everything done on your end?"

"Let's not talk about that right now, Old Tang, that... the tomb owner isn't dead yet. He might come out of the sarcophagus, so you'd better organize a team immediately."

"What?" Tang Yuan was somewhat doubtful, wondering if he heard incorrectly. He looked at Ling Chen with a face full of surprise, "Tang Yuan, are you out of your mind? Do you know what you are saying?"

Ling Chen said solemnly, "Old Tang, we've known each other for so many years. When have I ever lied to you? Trust me, the tomb owner lying in the sarcophagus is still alive. Just now, I listened to the sarcophagus and heard a heartbeat. Not only that, the lid was moved from the inside."

"Really?" Upon hearing this, Tang Yuan's expression changed. After pondering for a while, Tang Yuan nodded and said, "Alright, I'll gather a team immediately and go in with you to check."

As soldiers, their actions were fast. In less than two minutes, twenty soldiers were assembled. Because this was an archaeological operation, the soldiers did not carry weapons when they arrived. For safety reasons, Tang Yuan distributed the shovels and picks from the archaeological team to the soldiers as a temporary means of self-defense. Once everything was ready, Tang Yuan followed Ling Chen, bringing along twenty soldiers into the ancient tomb once more.

Soon, the group arrived at the main burial chamber of the ancient tomb. However, when Ling Chen and Tang Yuan reached the main chamber, they found that the sarcophagus in the center had already been completely opened. Glancing at Tang Yuan beside him, Ling Chen gave him a signal. The latter understood and immediately circled to the other side of the sarcophagus, as the two of them approached it cautiously from both sides.

Standing beside the sarcophagus, Ling Chen looked in to see that it was empty except for the padding at the bottom.

Gone! Ling Chen's heart sank, knowing this was not good. It must have been when he left the main chamber that the tomb owner had crawled out of the sarcophagus. The ancient tomb was so vast. Heaven knows where he might be hiding.

"Everyone, stay vigilant," Tang Yuan instructed. "Be careful of sneak attacks."

Ling Chen held his breath as he surveyed the surroundings of the main burial chamber. This area was quite open with no cover, so the mysterious tomb owner must have already left. However, they hadn't encountered him on their way in, suggesting the person was likely still inside the tomb.

"Old Tang, arm yourselves. That person might still be in the tomb."

Tang Yuan nodded, gripping the shovel in his hand as he followed Ling Chen, moving slowly through the corridor. Over ten minutes passed, and the group searched the entire ancient tomb but found nothing. "Tang Yuan, I asked the people guarding the exit and they haven't seen anyone leave the tomb."

"If that's the case, then the tomb must have another secret exit that we haven't discovered yet." Ling Chen sighed helplessly. Pity! The tomb owner still got away. Although he wanted to capture the person, Ling Chen felt somewhat relieved. After all, he wasn't sure of the opponent's strength. If his guess was correct and the tomb owner had strength similar to Ling Gengqiu, then having more people wouldn't help.

After leaving the tomb, Ling Chen talked briefly with Tang Yuan and then went back to the tent to rest.

About half a day later, several buses finally arrived at the camp outside the tomb. Seeing soldiers in military uniforms jumping off the buses, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan went up to meet them immediately. Tang Yuan had already reported their findings in the tomb to the government. The government took the issue very seriously, not only assigning more personnel but also sending the entire National Archaeological Team.

The one in charge of this mission's safety was Tang Yuan. As an elite of the Lonely Wolf and part of the military formation, involved in all the tomb actions, he was the most suitable choice to be in charge. With the arrival of the National Archaeological Team, Hao Dongnan and others all became sidelined. Furthermore, even Hao Dongnan and his team's qualifications to enter the tomb were stripped. Apart from government personnel, no one was allowed to enter the tomb privately.

If it weren't for Ling Chen's good relationship with Tang Yuan, even he wouldn't be allowed into the tomb.

"Wanqing, now that Miss Su is safe, why don't you head back to East Sea City?" Ling Chen suggested at dinner.

"Alright, since the government is involved, Lin and the others staying here is pointless; they might as well come back with me." Just then, Nanrong Wanqing saw Su Lin walk into the tent from outside.

"Lin, are you okay?" asked Nanrong Wanqing, rising to greet her with concern. "What did the government people want with you?"

Su Lin glanced at Ling Chen, who was eating, and said, "Nothing much, just some questions."

"Ling Chen just suggested that since there's nothing much to do here, we should go back. What do you think?"

Su Lin nodded, "Yes, the National Archaeological Team has taken over the tomb. There's nothing for us here."

"You eat something first. I'll go talk to Zhong Wei and have him arrange a plane." With that, Nanrong Wanqing walked out of the tent.

After Nanrong Wanqing left, Su Lin angrily sat down at the table beside Ling Chen. Seeing Su Lin giving him a side-eye, Ling Chen put down his chopsticks and smiled, "Signed the nondisclosure agreement?"

"Did I have a choice? If I didn't sign, they would restrict my personal freedom. Hmph! Can't believe those people are so unreasonable."

"I warned you, this matter is no joke, and it's not something you can meddle in. Since you signed the nondisclosure agreement, act as if nothing happened these past few days, so you won't get in trouble later."

"I'm just curious, wanting to understand why someone could live for hundreds of years, and there's more than one. Don't you find it strange?"

"In this Great Thousand World, there is nothing without wonder. There are many things in this world that science cannot explain. The more curious you are, the more you risk getting caught up, unable to extricate yourself."

Chapter 1347 - 1655: The Eerie Ancient Tomb (Part 5)

"If you ever figure out the reason for their longevity, will you tell me?" Su Lin asked as she looked at Ling Chen.

Ling Chen smiled slightly and nodded, "No problem. However, I can't guarantee that there will be an answer."

The next morning, Ling Chen saw off Nanrong Wanqing and Su Lin. The matters at the ancient tomb were not fully resolved yet, and Ling Chen wanted to stay and see if there would be any other discoveries. In the morning, the National Archaeological Team staff would transport all the ancient corpses from the tomb for proper preservation.

Around ten o'clock, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan stood at the entrance of the tomb, watching as the ancient corpses were carried out one by one.

The corpses included men, women, young, and old. Even though they had been dead for many years, their bodies were extraordinarily well-preserved, appearing as if still peacefully asleep. Honestly, Ling Chen had great admiration for the tomb's owner; considering the medical conditions from hundreds of years ago, it was an incredible feat.

Moreover, from the well-preserved corpses, it was evident that the tomb owner must have discovered the secret to longevity. It's worth noting that despite years of research by both the Southern Ling Family and the Northern Ling Family, utilizing high tech, they still had not made significant progress.

Once all the corpses were removed, Ling Chen picked up his phone and dialed Hu Fei's number.

"Hello! Fatty, have you decoded all the data?"

"Still working on it. The information you sent me is too messy. I need to sort it out first, which may take another two or three days. Why, are you in a hurry?"

"Not really, just checking the progress. Remember, once the data is decrypted, send it to the Guo Family's lab immediately for them to start their research."

"Don't worry, I know what to do." Pausing for a moment, Hu Fei added, "By the way, I've taken care of those matters you asked me to."

"Good, let's leave it at that. Keep me informed if there are any updates." With that, Ling Chen hung up the phone and returned to Tang Yuan's side.

"Tang Yuan, I got a call this morning that the government plans to build a research lab here to oversee the archaeological research of this tomb."

"So you'll have to stay here long term?"

Tang Yuan shook his head, "I'm just a temporary worker. Once things stabilize here, someone else will take over my job." As they spoke, a soldier came running over and saluted Tang Yuan, "Report, equipment has been delivered."

"Good, take a team and try to set everything up before nightfall."

"Yes!"

Listening to their conversation, Ling Chen curiously asked, "What are you guys up to?"

"This area has been designated as a restricted zone by higher-ups. We're ordered to establish a defense line within a hundred meters around the tomb. Let me tell you, the discovery of this tomb is a serious matter. The authorities are taking it very seriously; top leaders have issued strict orders to protect this tomb. No information can be leaked. Otherwise, it could be considered treason. So, you'd better be careful and not get on the government's bad side."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, knowing well what Tang Yuan meant. Tang Yuan was afraid he might reveal the tomb's secrets to outsiders. If that happened, not only Ling Chen but Tang Yuan might also get implicated.

Night fell.

Ling Chen was in his tent, lying on the folding bed. Not far from him was a makeshift research facility where members of the National Archaeological Team worked tirelessly to study the discoveries from the tomb. Besides the ancient corpses, even the tomb owner's stone coffin had been moved out.

They speculated that since the tomb owner had been in the stone coffin for hundreds of years, there might be some hair or skin flakes left inside that could allow for DNA testing. However, Ling Chen knew very well these research methods would not yield any significant results. Neither the Southern Ling Family nor the Northern Ling Family nor even the Guo Family had made any breakthrough in decades of studying Ling Gengqiu's remains.

As he pondered, his phone suddenly rang. Ling Chen pulled it out of his pocket, and upon seeing the caller ID, he immediately got off the bed and walked swiftly out of the tent.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan arrived on foot at the county town of North County.

"Sixth Brother, over here." Upon hearing a familiar voice, Ling Chen looked and saw Yuan Yun standing at the corner, waving towards him.

"Third Brother," Ling Chen greeted as he approached and asked, "Where are the others?"

"They're keeping tabs on those guys. We shouldn't waste any time; let's head over quickly before they escape." With that, Yuan Yun led Ling Chen and Tang Yuan through the alleys of North County, twisting and turning. Before long, they reached the meeting point.

All the members of the Eight Oddities were present except for Yuan Yun.

"Sixth Brother, do you see that house over there?" Qiu Yong pointed to a house more than twenty meters away. "The people you're looking for are inside. I counted carefully; there are twenty of them, but I'm unsure of their strength."

"Do you know their identities? I don't want to end up confronting allies," Ling Chen said.

"I'm not sure about that, but I suspect these guys are from the Southern Ling Family. If they were from the Northern Ling Family and knew you were here, they'd surely find a way to contact you."

Hearing this, Ling Chen nodded. Qiu Yong's words made sense. After the secret of this tomb was discovered, Ling Chen pondered many things. Given the Southern Ling Family's expansive influence and connections, they would know about this tomb. So, the Southern Ling Family would likely take action to gain all the tomb's secrets.

Thus, Ling Chen had Hu Fei inform Qiu Yong and others to come quickly. If members of the Southern Ling Family intended to make a move on the tomb, they would undoubtedly pass through North County. Over the past few days, Qiu Yong and others had been secretly lying in wait in North County, watching for any suspicious individuals.

"Sixth Brother, should we act now or wait for them to come out?" Xia Yue asked.

Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "Since they're still inside, why don't we take the initiative and catch them off guard." With that, Ling Chen turned to Tang Yuan beside him, "Do you have everything you need?"

Tang Yuan grinned and nodded, "Don't worry. After your notification, I made all the necessary preparations."

"Alright then, you go first, and we'll surround them from the sides."

Once everything was in place, Tang Yuan, with his backpack, lay low in the grass and slowly approached the house. Soon, Tang Yuan reached the wall beside the house. Once everyone was in position, Ling Chen gestured to Tang Yuan by the wall, signaling him to take action.

Chapter 1348 - 1656: The Eerie Ancient Tomb (Part 6)

Receiving Ling Chen's signal, Tang Yuan immediately pulled out a few flashbangs from his backpack and threw them through the nearby window.

Bang! Bang!

Accompanied by several loud bangs, bursts of strong light shot out from the bungalow, filling the air with smoke. Taking advantage of this moment, Ling Chen and the others quickly rushed to the front of the bungalow, kicked open the door, and charged inside.

Inside the bungalow's living room were seven people, all stunned by the flashbangs, clutching their eyes and crying out in pain.

Ling Chen showed no mercy, swiftly approaching the men, and with lightning speed, they were all knocked to the ground in the blink of an eye.

At this moment, people from the two guest rooms rushed out from the doorways, totaling thirteen in number. Seeing Ling Chen in the living room, one man's expression slightly changed, and he hurriedly said, "Split up and go!"

As soon as the man spoke, Ling Chen locked his gaze on him. As expected, this man was likely the leader. Instantly, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toe and quickly dashed forward, intercepting the man's path.

Blocked ahead, the man was forced to accept the challenge. Meanwhile, his companions all smashed through the window, fleeing outside. Ling Chen was not worried about their escape; Qiu Yong and others were guarding outside unless one of them was a Heavenly List expert. Otherwise, they could not escape.

Bam!

A punch was thrown, forcing the man back a few steps. Watching Ling Chen step closer, the man's face turned dark with anger, "Ling Chen, we haven't provoked you, so why are you against us?"

"Sorry! The place you want to go is already mine. If you're wise, leave early, and tell those behind you that if they dare to target that ancient tomb again, I won't be so polite."

"Fine, Ling Chen, remember this, those who oppose the Southern Ling Family will never have a good end." Finished, the man smashed through the window, quickly running outside.

"Stop!" Seeing the opponent emerge, Qiu Yong immediately chased after him.

"Big brother, don't chase, let him go, someone needs to carry a message back."

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Qiu Yong stopped, "Besides the guy you let go, everyone else is taken care of."

Ling Chen nodded, "Hand them over to Old Tang, let him deal with it."

Just then, a phone ringtone suddenly rang. Looking at the unfamiliar incoming call displayed on the screen, Ling Chen answered, "Who is this?"

"It's me."

Ling Tao! Ling Chen immediately recognized the caller, "You still remember me. How are things recently?" Ling Tao had previously called him, saying the Southern Ling Family launched a comprehensive offensive against the Northern Ling Family. As a result, the Northern Ling Family had shrunk back for a while, vanishing without a trace; it was unexpected that Ling Tao would call today, seemingly for the ancient tomb matter.

"Rest assured, your father and the porridge girl are fine." Ling Tao shifted to the main topic, "Ling Chen, have you heard about the ancient tomb in North County?"

"I'm currently in North County."

"Really?" Ling Tao seemed somewhat surprised, but his tone quickly turned to joy, "That's the best. I heard there's a significant discovery in that ancient tomb; the person buried there, just like Ling Gengqiu, possesses immortality."

"Indeed! But the person in the stone coffin is missing." Ling Chen promptly briefed Ling Tao on the general situation.

"You did right; that person should be very dangerous, try not to have direct contact. By the way, can you send me the materials you mentioned?"

"No problem, I'll notify Hu Fei."

"Good." Ling Tao directly hung up. Ling Chen had a lot he wanted to say, but could only hold it back.

After handling the scene, Ling Chen and his team didn't linger, heading straight to the camp. On the way back, for some reason, Ling Chen always felt as if someone was watching him from behind. However, every time he turned around, he saw nothing.

Was it just his imagination?

Ling Chen shook his head and caught up with Qiu Yong and the others.

Back at the camp, they stayed another two days; the ancient tomb's relics had all been excavated and stored in a warehouse, guarded daily by dozens of soldiers. Since the matter gained top-level attention, security was raised to the highest; all soldiers were on duty fully armed. Moreover, a provisional research institute had been set up, requiring all archaeology members and security personnel to wear identification cards. Those without these cards were asked to leave.

During approvals, Tang Yuan reported Ling Chen's name, but it was rejected. With no other option, Ling Chen packed up and returned with Qiu Yong and others to East Sea City.

After leaving the airport, Ling Chen didn't go directly home but drove to the base.

"Fatty, did you get those materials ready?"

"Sure!" Hu Fei handed a neatly arranged document to Ling Chen, "All the materials you transmitted from the ancient tomb are here. I've marked them; those with red markings are very important materials."

Ling Chen glanced through, asking, "Has Ling Tao contacted you?"

"He has, asking me to send him all the tomb materials. But I've only sent most of it, keeping a small portion back."

Ling Chen asked puzzled, "Why?"

Hu Fei earnestly replied, "Ling Chen, don't blame me for speaking up; though you're close to the Northern Ling Family, you shouldn't fully trust them. As they say, you shouldn't intend harm, but you must guard against it. Moreover, with your current strength, you can be independent; there's no need to follow their orders. If they need you, cooperate, but clarify the terms. Remember, we're working for you, not for the Northern Ling Family, so I must consider your interests."

Ling Chen thoughtfully nodded, "I'll remember what you said. By the way, which materials did you keep?"

"Here." Hu Fei pulled out a file bag from the drawer, "Guard this; the tomb's value is all in here."

"Alright, I got it." Taking the file, Ling Chen returned to his room.

Closing the door, Ling Chen brewed some tea, sat alone on the sofa, and attentively reviewed the materials. Hu Fei's work was done well; the materials were sequenced from shallow to deep. After going

through a few initial documents, Ling Chen finally had some understanding of the mysterious tomb owner's identity.

Chapter 1349 - 1657: He Zhishen

The owner of that ancient tomb was named He Zhishen, a martial artist. When he was over ninety years old, he mastered martial arts. Over the next ten-plus years, he found his body strangely growing younger, even his appearance changed. Moreover, in the following decades, he never suffered illness, and his body grew stronger. It was then he realized his uniqueness.

At the time, He Zhishen was puzzled, thinking something was wrong with him. To understand his situation, he spent a lot of time researching his body. Unbeknownst to him, he had already lived for over two hundred years. Watching those around him grow old while he retained his youthful appearance made him an outsider in others' eyes. To avoid drawing attention, He Zhishen moved to a new place every ten years. Eventually, he settled in the mountains, cutting off human interaction.

Living alone, although peaceful, meant that He Zhishen was ultimately alone; no one can endure centuries of solitude and loneliness. Spending so long on the mountain, he nearly lost the ability to speak. So, he often wrote to record his life in detail.

Many of He Zhishen's records written on the mountain were found in the ancient tomb by Ling Chen.

Ling Chen casually flipped through several pages, finding mostly descriptions of He Zhishen's mood and questioning his own condition. In these records, the sentence he wrote most frequently was: Is this a gift from heaven, or a curse? Clearly, each time He Zhishen wrote this line, his emotions were very complex.

Setting aside He Zhishen's life records, Ling Chen picked up Hu Fei's documents marked with a red imprint. According to Hu Fei, these were very important documents.

After reading the first document, Ling Chen looked very surprised.

Back then, when He Zhishen lived alone in the mountains, he kept many wild animals as pets to alleviate loneliness. Among those pets was a wild wolf. According to He Zhishen's records, he encountered a wolf pack of over a hundred wild wolves while wandering in the mountains.

Attacked by the wolf pack, He Zhishen fought back fiercely, relying on his formidable strength to slaughter over half the wolves. However, because of the sheer number of wolves, He Zhishen made a mistake during the battle and was bitten by the pack leader, nearly losing an entire chunk of flesh.

Later, the wolf pack was brutally slaughtered by He Zhishen and fled in defeat. As they escaped, He Zhishen captured the pack leader and took it back to his dwelling to raise it. Over the following ten years, all other wild animals kept by He Zhishen died, but that wolf did not die, nor did it show signs of aging. Because of this, He Zhishen suddenly realized that the wolf's survival was likely related to consuming his flesh and blood.

Guided by this idea, He Zhishen conducted numerous attempts and experiments. He discovered that through blood transfusion, any life could remain young and extend their lifespan. However, it merely extended life, not granting immortality like himself.

"Blood... no wonder!" Ling Chen nodded to himself, thinking that the ancient corpses found in the tomb maintained their state without decay despite dying hundreds of years ago because they had received He Zhishen's blood transfusion.

Although Ling Tao and Guo Ming found Ling Gengqiu's body, it had been placed for hundreds of years, and the body was shattered with coagulated blood. According to He Zhishen, only live blood would work, which is why Ling Tao and the others had made no progress.

To revive the blood, Ling Gengqiu's body would have to be made whole again. Earlier when Ling Tao called, Ling Chen had forgotten to tell him about Ling Gengqiu's matter. But this couldn't be blamed on him; Ling Tao hung up the phone in a hurry, leaving him no chance to speak.

"He Zhishen, where are you?" Ling Chen muttered to himself. Since He Zhishen crawled out of that stone coffin, he must still be alive in this world. Unfortunately, his whereabouts are unknown now. If he could communicate with him, it would be a good thing.

After resting for a night.

The next day, Ling Chen sent the documents to Guo Ming. The Guo Family's laboratory had decades of research experience, not only well-equipped but experienced, so it was best to leave this research to them.

After breakfast, Ling Chen packed his things to visit his home. Just then, he received a call. The call was from Xia Mutong, with whom he had not been in contact, busy with various matters lately.

"Ling Chen, where are you?" Upon hearing Xia Mutong's familiar and sultry voice, Ling Chen's mouth curved into a smile, "Officer Xia, long time no see. I'm in East Sea City, is there anything you need?"

"You'd better come by the police station."

"What's the matter?"

"Don't ask so many questions, I'll tell you when you get here." Without waiting for Ling Chen to ask more, Xia Mutong directly hung up the phone.

Putting down the phone, Ling Chen smiled wryly; this girl was as fiery as ever. Since he needed to visit family, he might as well go to the police station on the way. After notifying Hu Fei, Ling Chen drove alone to the police station.

Upon arrival, Ling Chen went straight to the third floor, to Xia Mutong's office.

"Officer Xia." Ling Chen greeted with a smile as he pushed open the office door. At first glance, Xia Mutong seemed the same, but upon closer inspection, there was something different, perhaps... a touch more makeup.

Ling Chen clearly remembered that Xia Mutong never bothered with makeup, always showing her bare face. With her looks, even without makeup, she'd be an exceptional beauty. Now, with foundation, she appeared even brighter, giving an eye-catching impression.

Glancing at Ling Chen at the door, Xia Mutong stood expressionlessly without inviting him to sit, directly leading him out of the office.

Following Xia Mutong, Ling Chen curiously asked, "Officer Xia, what's the matter for calling me here?"

"The police in Jin Hai City found a body by the sea, and clues from the body led them to you. Since you're from East Sea City, the case was transferred to our East Sea City police for handling."

"A body?" Ling Chen felt a jolt; he had killed many, who knew who this body by the sea belonged to? However, Ling Chen was puzzled; he never left clues, how did the police find their way to him?

Chapter 1350 - 1658: Female Corpse

Before long, Ling Chen followed Xia Mutong to the morgue. Just as they were about to enter, Ling Chen suddenly thought of something and asked, "Officer Xia, is the body you mentioned a male or female?"

"Female," Xia Mutong replied with two words, then pushed the door open and went inside.

In the morgue, several bodies were laid out. Xia Mutong went straight to a cold iron bed, opened the zipper of the body bag. Immediately, a bloated female corpse appeared in front of Ling Chen. "Do you recognize her?" Xia Mutong asked Ling Chen.

Glancing at the corpse in the body bag, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, a hint of surprise in his eyes.

It's actually her! Ling Chen never expected the body found by the police would be her. His mind racing, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Officer Xia, to be honest, I know her." After a pause, he continued to ask, "I want to know how she died?"

Xia Mutong remained silent, instead fully unzipping the body bag, revealing the entire body of the female corpse to Ling Chen.

Looking at the scars on the female corpse, Ling Chen couldn't help but furrow his brows. This female corpse had about a dozen wounds on her body, judging by the width and depth of the wounds, they appeared to be made by a dagger. Moreover, there were bruises on the wrists and ankles, indicating she was tied up with a rope at the time, then stabbed repeatedly with a dagger.

Brutal! Ling Chen squinted his eyes, those people were really cruel. As he pondered, Xia Mutong asked, "I checked the archives for her information, couldn't find anything relevant. Since there are clues related to you on her, can you tell me who she is?"

"Her name is Lin Yiyi, she's from the Ling Family in the south." Ling Chen said, then he asked, "By the way! Officer Xia, you mentioned there are clues related to me on her, what does that mean?"

"When Tianhai City police found her body, they discovered a small wooden piece in her hand with your name engraved on it. I speculate, she might have pried a wooden piece off the board when she was trapped, then carved your name on it so we could find you."

"So that's what happened." Ling Chen asked, "Do you know why she was killed?"

"According to the coroner's speculation, she was killed the day before yesterday and then dumped in the sea. Having been soaking in the seawater for a whole day, her body became slightly bloated. Ling Chen, since you know her, do you know why she was killed? I hope you can provide some clues so we can catch the murderer as soon as possible."

Ling Chen shook his head, "Officer Xia, don't bother thinking about the murderer, you won't catch them any time soon. If I'm not mistaken, the person who killed Lin Yiyi should be someone from their own Ling Family."

Hearing this, Xia Mutong asked in confusion, "Someone from their own family? If so, why would they kill her?"

"I think... perhaps it's because Lin Yiyi betrayed them." Ling Chen said. Back then, because Lin Guodong was secretly purged by the Ling Family in the south, Lin Yiyi, who was closest to Lin Guodong, was heartbroken. Later, she proactively contacted Ling Chen, seeking revenge for Lin Guodong. After that, Lin Yiyi stayed in the southern Ling Family, secretly providing information to Ling Chen.

It's likely that the people from the southern Ling Family noticed something, which is why they sent an assassin after Lin Yiyi. Thinking of this, Ling Chen sighed. The people from the southern Ling Family are truly ruthless, not even sparing their own.

"Alright, since you have no more clues to provide, I won't keep you any longer." With that, Xia Mutong zipped the body bag back up.

Just then, the sharp-eyed Ling Chen noticed something. "Officer Xia, wait!"

"What else do you want to do?"

Ling Chen pointed to Lin Yiyi's body and asked, "Has the forensic doctor examined her body?"

"Not yet, why, is there a problem?"

Ling Chen rubbed his nose, looking puzzled, "I just find it strange. Why did Lin Yiyi want you to find me? Is it just to tell me she was killed? I think what she wanted to convey wasn't that simple."

Saying this, Ling Chen put on a pair of disposable medical gloves. Then, he leaned closer to Lin Yiyi's body, carefully examining her wounds. Seeing Ling Chen's actions, Xia Mutong asked, "Did you find anything?"

Ling Chen pointed to a wound on the abdomen, "This wound is different from the others. The other wounds are all made by a dagger, but this one is special. From my experience, this wound should have been made three or four days ago, and Miss Lin seemed to have treated it, because it was soaked in seawater, this wound looks much like the others."

"What does that imply?" Xia Mutong was somewhat puzzled, "Even if it is a wound from a few days ago, it doesn't mean anything."

Ling Chen picked up a pair of hemostatic forceps, gently flipped over the edge of the wound, and examined it closely.

"Huh?" All of a sudden, Ling Chen seemed to have discovered something, a hint of surprise flashed in his eyes. Immediately, he inserted the hemostatic forceps into the wound, slowly pulling out what was inside. Instantly, a small plastic bag was revealed inside the wound.

Seeing the plastic bag, Xia Mutong's eyes couldn't help but light up, surprised that something was hidden inside the body.

After taking out the plastic bag, Ling Chen immediately took out its contents. It was a phone memory card. Indeed! Ling Chen nodded to himself; Lin Yiyi hadn't wanted the police to find him for no reason, she did it to pass on information to him. Because the Ling Family in the south had started suspecting her, to avoid being discovered, she wounded herself, hiding the phone memory card inside her abdomen.

It has to be said, Lin Yiyi was very brave, something ordinary people would find difficult to do.

"Give it to me." Xia Mutong extended his hand, attempting to grab the phone memory card. However, Ling Chen reacted quickly. Seeing Xia Mutong's outstretched hand, he immediately turned around, dodging Xia Mutong's grab.

"Officer Xia, this is something Miss Lin left for me. How could I casually give it to you?"

"This is important evidence, it needs to be handed over to the police." Xia Mutong extended his hand to Ling Chen, wearing an unyielding expression, "Either you hand over the phone memory card, or you spend a few days in the detention center. I'll let you out when you're willing to give it to me."

Ling Chen looked troubled, "Officer Xia, we're such good friends, why do this? How about we..."

Before Ling Chen could finish his sentence, Xia Mutong immediately interrupted him, "Don't play games with me, one word—are you handing it over or not?"