

The Beauty 1371

Chapter 1371 Father and Ancestor

"Dad, are you okay? I want to take you somewhere."

"Where to?"

"Don't ask too much now, you'll know when we get there."

After leaving Falcon Private Security Company, the father and son drove straight to the Guo Family. Since they were in Beijing, Ling Chen seized the opportunity to reveal Ling Gengqiu's secret to Ling Kun. In matters like this, there was no need for the father and son to keep secrets.

Once at the Guo's, Ling Kun asked strangely, "Son, are you bringing me to see Guo Ming?"

"Dad, you know him?"

"Of course, he's a renowned master craftsman in the Martial Arts world. Many martial artists wish for Guo Ming to forge a good weapon for them. How could I not know someone as famous as him?"

"Okay, good that you know him." Saying this, Ling Chen pushed open the Guo Family's door and strode in.

Though Ling Chen and Ling Kun casually entered the Guo Family, they passed at least five checkpoints on their way. There were at least dozens of Dark Posts lurking outside the Guo Family, tasked with verifying the identity of anyone entering. Having received the news, Guo Ming soon appeared in Ling Chen's sight, and seeing Guo Ming briskly coming over, Ling Chen smiled and greeted him.

"Mr. Guo, let me introduce someone to you, this is my father, Ling Kun."

"So it's Mr. Ling, hello." Guo Ming smiled lightly and proactively extended his right hand.

"Mr. Guo, hello, I've long admired your name and unfortunately haven't had the chance to meet you. Meeting you today is my honor."

"Haha! Mr. Ling, you're too kind." Saying this, Guo Ming turned to look at Ling Chen and asked, "Are you here to see him?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Is he awake now?"

"He's awake, I just returned from him. Come, I'll take you there."

Listening to the exchange between Ling Chen and Guo Ming, Ling Kun was rather curious, not knowing who they were referring to. Moreover, what surprised Ling Kun was how his son had built such a good relationship with Guo Ming. Over the years, all of Ling Chen's moves had been under his supervision, so logically, he shouldn't have been unaware. As these thoughts raced through his mind, the three had arrived at the Guo Family's secret laboratory.

Looking at the laboratory before him, Ling Kun was once again shocked. No time for questions, he saw Guo Ming stop and point at the sterile room ahead: "You can go in, I won't disturb you. I'll go ahead and prepare some tea, we'll drink it later."

"Alright," Ling Chen responded.

After watching Guo Ming walk away, Ling Chen led Ling Kun through the door into the sterile room. Behind the thick transparent glass, Ling Kun stared, seeing a strange large metal box inside the sterile room, not knowing what it held.

"Who is this person?" At this moment, a row of text appeared on a large screen hanging at the top of the glass.

Ling Kun, surprised, asked, "Son, who is asking?"

"Son? Ling Chen, is this man your father?"

Seeing the words on the large screen, Ling Chen smiled and nodded, "Yes, he's my dad."

"So, he's also my descendant."

"Who do you mean by descendant?" Ling Kun's face changed slightly, shouting at the words on the screen.

Ling Chen, amused but exasperated, explained, "Dad, why are you so worked up, he isn't wrong. You are indeed his descendant."

Ling Kun paused, looking puzzled at Ling Chen, and asked, "Son, are you out of your mind?"

"Dad, let me be frank, the person communicating with you is Ling Gengqiu, the ancestor you've been searching for."

"What did you say? Ling Gengqiu?" Even with his strong will, Ling Kun was stunned by Ling Chen's words, unable to react for a while.

"Dad, here's the situation." Ling Chen then explained everything to Ling Kun. After listening to Ling Chen's recount, Ling Kun finally understood. Immediately, he knelt down on the ground, respectfully knocking three times on the glass, "I didn't know who you were earlier. Please forgive me if I've offended you, ancestor."

"Stand up, there's no need for such formalities in my presence."

Standing up, Ling Kun moved closer to Ling Chen, grumbling slightly, "You rascal, why didn't you tell me beforehand so I could be emotionally prepared."

Ling Chen grinned, "Wasn't this meant as a surprise?"

Ling Kun scolded his son affectionately, this surprise was quite significant.

"Dad, you should have a good chat with Old Ancestor; I won't intrude on you guys." After saying that, Ling Chen waved his hand and turned to leave the sterile room.

Upon leaving the laboratory, Ling Chen arrived at the Siheyuan's main hall, where Guo Ming had already prepared hot tea and was waiting for him.

"Ling Chen, have any more of Ling Gengqiu's body parts been found?"

Upon Guo Ming's inquiry, Ling Chen replied, "If nothing unexpected happens, there should soon be results. However, I haven't found Zhu Hong's whereabouts yet. Old Ancestor's leg is in his hands, no idea where he's hidden it." That's what troubled Ling Chen; having dealt with Zhu Hong many times, he knew how cunning Zhu Hong was. With his own faction now booming, Zhu Hong certainly wouldn't challenge him head-on. He would likely hide in a secluded place, slowly strengthening, waiting for the right moment to covertly strike.

In the midst of these thoughts, his cellphone suddenly rang. He answered the call, and though it was unclear what the person on the other end said, Ling Chen's eyes brightened, "Okay, got it. Prepare yourselves, I'm coming back soon."

Ending the call, Ling Chen chatted casually with Guo Ming for a while. Ten minutes later, Ling Kun entered from the outside alone, seeming to have had a pleasant chat with Ling Gengqiu judging by his smile.

"Dad, you're just in time, there's a matter at home I need to address. Let's head back now."

"Alright." Ling Kun nodded, thanked Guo Ming, and then left with Ling Chen.

On the way back, Ling Chen glanced at Ling Kun in the passenger seat and asked, "Dad, what did you talk to Ling Gengqiu about?"

"Just about his past. Son, since Ling Gengqiu's most important body parts are with us, we need to find a way to gather the rest quickly."

"The company called earlier, some from the Southern Ling Family have reached out to Li Bin. With this lead, this time we should be able to handle the Southern Ling Family."

"Good," Ling Kun responded eagerly, "Once the Southern Ling Family is taken care of and Old Ancestor is resurrected, our Ling Family's good times are finally here. After all these years, I can finally relax and enjoy an ordinary life by your side."

Chapter 1372 - 1680: Setting Out to Sea

Back at Falcon Private Security Company, Dong Ying was already waiting for Ling Chen's return. Sitting in the chairman's office, Dong Ying handed a piece of information to Ling Chen and said, "This is the time and location. Chairman, I've already arranged the plane, we can depart at any time."

"Great, thanks for your hard work. You can go handle other things now." After Dong Ying left, Ling Chen picked up the information in his hand and looked it over.

Tomorrow morning at nine o'clock, depart from Jin Hai City's port.

Plenty of time left! Ling Chen smiled slightly, as long as they find that island, there'll be a chance to catch the Southern Ling Family all at once.

After getting prepared, Ling Chen, Ling Kun, and Ling Tao flew directly to Jin Hai City. By four in the afternoon, they arrived at the hotel where they were staying.

As they entered the hotel lobby, two people quickly approached from the sofa—Hu Fei and Kaelina. East Sea City is relatively close to Jin Hai City, so Hu Fei and the others arrived in advance.

In the hotel's presidential suite, the eight peculiar people and Chen Junfeng were all present. For this operation, Ling Chen virtually deployed everyone. There's no choice—the opponent is the Southern Ling Family, and according to the information from Ling Kun, the Southern Ling Family has at least two Heavenly List experts stationed. Therefore, for safety's sake, they had to bring enough personnel for this operation.

After resting for a night in the hotel, the next morning Ling Chen, accompanied by Ling Kun, arrived at Jin Hai City's port, waiting for that ship to appear.

At eight o'clock, a cargo ship slowly approached the port. Noticing the ship's number, Ling Chen immediately identified it as the cargo ship coming to pick up Li Bin.

As the cargo ship docked at the port side, several middle-aged men walked down from the deck. Meanwhile, several loading vehicles slowly drove over, preparing to transport goods onto the ship. Ling Chen and Ling Kun hid aside, observing carefully. Next to the boarding area, two men were stationed there, counting the personnel and goods boarding the ship.

As the time approached, Ling Chen picked up the walkie-talkie and whispered, "You can move now."

Just as Ling Chen issued the action command, a team of over ten people in the sea gradually approached the bottom of the cargo ship. Once they reached the back of the ship, Yuan Yun, who was the first to surface, took out a grapple hook and threw it upwards forcefully. The hook was immediately secured on the ship's side. Following the rope hanging from below the hook, they climbed onto the cargo ship one by one.

"Ling Cheng, we're all on board." Hearing Yuan Yun's voice from the walkie-talkie, Ling Chen secretly breathed a sigh of relief. As long as the main team is aboard, everything else would be manageable.

By eight forty-five, all the goods had been loaded onto the ship. A few middle-aged men stood at the boarding entrance, persistently watching the time, their expressions showing a hint of impatience. After a while, one of the middle-aged men took out his phone and dialed a number.

Meanwhile, a vibrating sound came from Ling Chen's pocket. Taking out the phone and seeing the displayed number, Ling Chen did not answer but directly hung up. The phone belonged to Li Bin, kept with Ling Chen as a precaution.

"Dad, you can send him now."

Not far from Ling Chen, Ling Kun held Li Bin in check and said coldly, "If you're smart, you'll know what to do. Remember, don't play tricks; the poison I gave you can only be cured by me. Got it?"

Li Bin nodded obediently. At this point, he dared not entertain any thoughts of resistance. Otherwise, he would have no other path but death.

"Go on."

Seeing Li Bin appear at the boarding entrance, Ling Chen couldn't help but tense up. There's no choice; to avoid arousing suspicion from the opponent, they had to let Li Bin show himself. Luckily, Li Bin was equipped with a listening device, allowing Ling Chen to hear every word they exchanged.

After meeting, those middle-aged men merely grumbled a few complaints, blaming Li Bin for being late. Watching them board the cargo ship, Ling Chen immediately shifted, running towards the edge of the port. Then, he leapt into the sea.

Finding an unattended spot, Ling Chen took out two suction cups from his body, adhered them to the surface of the ship, and slowly climbed up. Before long, he successfully reached the cargo ship.

Since it was a cargo ship, the deck was piled with many containers. Ling Chen maneuvered between the gaps in the containers, searching for a concealed spot.

"Dad, how are things on your side?"

"Don't worry about me, I've already found a spot."

"Good." After ending the call, Ling Chen slowly exhaled, finally calming his anxious heart. Now that everyone was safely aboard, all they needed was for the cargo ship to reach the destination, and then unleash havoc.

Without realizing it, the sky gradually darkened. Ling Chen checked his watch; it was already evening. The cargo ship had been sailing on the sea for nearly ten hours, with no idea how much longer till the destination. Fortunately, everyone was well-prepared, with ample water and food.

The crew on the cargo ship wasn't large, only about twenty people, half of whom were security personnel. Roughly every hour, these security personnel would patrol around, checking for any unusual occurrences.

Taking advantage of the moment, Ling Chen closed his eyes to recharge. After a few more hours, nearing midnight, Ling Chen noticed the cargo ship's speed gradually decreasing.

Arrived?

Ling Chen abruptly stood up, climbed to the top of the container, gazing into the distance. Given it was night, the light was weak; Ling Chen could barely discern a blurry silhouette in the distance.

Strange, why did the cargo ship stop here?

While pondering, Ling Chen, with his keen ears, suddenly heard the sound of engines coming from the sea. It's inflatable boats! Three inflatable boats!

Ling Chen glanced around and noticed from the splashing water that all three inflatable boats were speeding towards the silhouette direction. In a blink, they reached around the cargo ship.

What are they up to? Ling Chen was startled. As he mulled over, he saw all the personnel aboard the cargo ship walking out from the cabin, gathering on the deck, smoking and chatting as if they didn't find anything unusual.

Soon, all personnel on the three inflatable boats boarded the cargo ship. Ling Chen glanced secretly, seeing that about twenty fully armed people had come aboard.

Once on board, the armed personnel first did a thorough ID check of the sailors on deck; only after ensuring everything was correct did they start searching the entire cargo ship.

Damn!

Ling Chen cursed silently, the Southern Ling Family is really cautious, halting the cargo ship at sea for inspection, ensuring no suspicious personnel enter the island. This is bad! I hope my elder brothers won't be discovered. Ling Chen worried, as they had hidden twenty-plus people aboard this cargo ship.

Just then, rapid footsteps suddenly approached Ling Chen's location.

Chapter 1373 - 1681: Island Raid (1)

Dang! Someone's coming. Ling Chen's heart sunk, and he looked to his side where the footsteps were coming from. To his left was a container, and the footsteps were approaching slowly alongside it. Damn... Ling Chen frowned slightly to himself. He was currently wedged in the gap between two containers, barely fitting, unable to make any significant movements.

If that armed personnel walked this way, they would surely see him. No, this position is not favorable for counterattack; he must relocate immediately. Thinking of this, Ling Chen quickly climbed up the container, preparing to transfer from the top stealthily.

However, just as Ling Chen reached the top of the container, a powerful beam of light suddenly shot down from above, landing right on him.

Not good! Ling Chen sharply raised his head, but due to the strong light, his vision was somewhat obstructed, and he could barely make out two figures atop the cargo ship. What a miscalculation... Ling Chen thought to himself. Besides people on the deck, there were watchers on the top.

"Someone's on the container, quick, grab him."

Upon hearing the voices from above, the armed personnel on the deck rushed towards the container. Hearing footsteps approaching from all directions, Ling Chen dared not hesitate any longer, quickly climbing down from the container to change his position.

"Fatty, speed!" Ling Chen shouted, then leapt off the container, landing squarely on the head of an armed personnel.

Bang! With a punch swung, the armed personnel didn't even have the chance to resist, falling directly to the ground. Meanwhile, seven or eight armed personnel rushed from both sides, encircling Ling Chen. Faced with this encirclement, Ling Chen was nonchalant, not waiting for them to take the initiative, he had already charged in, instantly diving into the crowd. In a blink, more than half of the seven or eight armed personnel were down.

"OK! Done!" Hearing Hu Fei's voice through the earpiece, Ling Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief.

"Done!"

"Both atop settled." Soon, the voices of Yuan Yun and others came through the earpiece one after another.

After dealing with the armed personnel on the deck, Qiu Yong and others quickly came over. Hu Fei was holding a laptop, carrying a large backpack with three antennas at the top.

"Fatty, you're sure there's no problem, right?" Ling Chen asked. Before the action, Ling Chen's biggest worry was the armed personnel notifying the island base about the situation on the ship, as who knows if the island folks might launch a missile sinking this cargo ship.

Thankfully, Hu Fei had prepared extensively before departure, promptly jamming the entire cargo ship's signals. This way, the armed personnel and the island were disconnected. Hearing Ling Chen's inquiry, Hu Fei made an 'OK' gesture, smiling as he said, "Rest assured, not a single message got out. But we have to hurry with arrangements, if there's still no message, the island folks will definitely start asking questions."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, suddenly breaking into a grin, and said, "I do have a method."

"What method?" Qiu Yong asked from the side.

Ling Chen pointed to the armed personnel on the ground and said, "Since the island sent armed personnel to search this cargo ship, someone must return, or else the island folks will certainly get suspicious. So, including us, there are about twenty people, just enough to disguise as them and land ashore. What do you think?"

Ling Kun nodded in agreement, "This method is good, I agree."

"Alright, since there's no objection, let's quickly prepare." Having said that, Ling Chen turned his attention to Li Bin and the crew on the deck.

With Ling Chen's 'kind' persuasion, Li Bin and the crew were very perceptive. Before long, everything was ready, Ling Chen and others changed into the armed personnel's clothing, then took three inflatable boats to head towards the island.

Approaching the shore, Ling Chen saw someone on the shore using a searchlight to illuminate the sea. When the three inflatable boats reached the shore, staff immediately came and stabilized the boats. Ling Chen and others jumped off, not fearing recognition from those people. All the armed personnel wore masks, so even if they encountered island folks, they wouldn't be recognized.

Disembarking, a staff member approached, saying: "Go report to the captain, he's waiting for you."

"Where's the captain?" Ling Chen casually asked.

"Are you new here? Of course, it's the command center." Leaving this remark, the staff member no longer paid attention to Ling Chen and walked away.

Command center... Ling Chen surveyed the surroundings, noticing this island wasn't very large, with a distance of only about two kilometers between the two ends. Despite not being large, the island was well maintained with towering buildings everywhere, and even had a runway in the middle.

Judging by this setup, the southern Ling Family must have been managing this island for years. Tsk tsk! Ling Chen secretly marveled; given this scenario, the northern Ling Family's loss was understandable. Compared to the northern Ling Family, the southern developed faster and more efficiently.

Not far from the shore, several jeeps were parked. Since buildings were far from the shore, cars were essential transportation.

Driving, Ling Chen headed straight for the cluster of buildings ahead. After a few hundred meters, nearing the buildings, sharp-eyed Ling Chen noticed several jeeps parked outside a two-story building, probably the command center.

"Let's go, check it out, everyone stay alert," Ling Chen reminded.

Soon, the jeeps parked outside the two-story building. Getting off, Ling Chen led everyone inside. Upon entering, the room was filled with equipment and computers, several staff were busy at their computers. In the center of the room stood a strategic table, where a middle-aged man dressed like an officer was standing, unsure of what he was examining.

Hearing footsteps at the door, the officer looked up, glancing at Ling Chen and others, then returned his gaze to the strategic table, "That cargo ship is all clear?"

The inquiry was evidently routine, so Ling Chen simply replied with, "No issues."

"Alright, there shouldn't be anything tonight; you all head back and rest; I'll notify you if needed."

"Understood." Ling Chen replied, heading straight towards the officer. Noticing Ling Chen's move, the officer looked up, asking, "Anything else?"

"Captain, I have a few questions I'd like to ask you."

Chapter 1374 - 1682: Island Assault (2)

"What's the problem?"

"How many armed personnel does this base have, and what defense systems are inside the base?"

Hearing this, the commander's face suddenly changed, and he said in a deep voice, "Why are you asking about these things? These are not matters you should be concerned with."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "But I'm very interested in the answers, so I would appreciate it if you would tell me honestly."

"You are quite bold. Everyone, seize him for me." The commander coldly ordered. However, the crowd standing behind Ling Chen remained motionless, as if they hadn't heard his command.

Seeing this scene, the commander's face instantly turned cold, frowning as he said, "What are you doing? Are you planning a rebellion?"

Ling Chen took off the mask from his face, apologetically saying, "Sorry, we are not your subordinates, so there's no need to follow your orders." Having said that, Ling Chen waved his hand, and the people behind him immediately charged forward, controlling all the tech personnel and the commander in the operations room.

The commander struggled desperately, but his strength was far inferior to Yuan Yun's. Realizing the strength of his opponent, the commander finally gave up resisting, looking coldly at Ling Chen, questioning, "Who are you people?"

Ling Chen pointed at his own face, "You're from the southern Ling Family, don't you recognize me?"

"You..." The commander carefully scrutinized Ling Chen's appearance, and suddenly, his expression changed, as if he realized something, he said, "You... you are..."

Ling Chen smiled and nodded, "It seems you've recognized me. If you don't want to suffer, you'd best answer my earlier question obediently."

The commander hesitated for a moment but ultimately chose life over loyalty. "There are three hundred and sixty people in the base, of which two hundred are armed personnel, and over a hundred are scientific research staff and workers."

"Very good." Ling Chen patted the commander's shoulder and said, "You've made a wise choice." After speaking, Ling Chen walked to Hu Fei's side. At this moment, Hu Fei had already taken over the computer of the opponent's tech personnel and was examining the base's system and setup.

"How's it going, have you found anything?"

"There are two independent systems in this base. One is the outer defense system, including radar, torpedoes, and Hellfire Missiles. Any foreign vessel approaching the island would be blown to bits by torpedoes and bombs. The other is the internal system, which has to be controlled from within the base; I can't invade it from here."

"Shut down their defense systems, stop all defensive weapons. Also, help me locate the important positions in this base."

"No problem." Hu Fei replied and his hands quickly struck the keyboard. In a short time, Hu Fei had found three important facilities in the base.

"Look, here's the armory, this is the dormitory building where all armed personnel reside. It's deep at night now, other than routine patrolling personnel, the rest are resting. If we destroy these dormitory buildings, it will render most of the armed personnel combat ineffective." After a pause, Hu Fei continued, "The armory and dormitory building are my responsibility to handle. Your target is over here, the lab. Ling Chen, you should be on alert; this lab is quite unlike any we've seen before, its shape is very peculiar."

"Peculiar?" Ling Chen asked in confusion, "What do you mean?"

Hu Fei pulled up a diagram from the computer, and Ling Chen moved closer to the screen, asking, "What... what is this?"

"This is the lab."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen was taken aback, "Fatty, you're not mistaken, right? This thing is a lab?" Honestly, at first glance, Ling Chen thought this was a giant eggshell. There was no alternative, as the lab's shape was indeed like an ovoid eggshell, without a single window.

"According to the data I have here, this lab is about fifty meters high, equivalent to a ten-story building, occupying hundreds of square meters. Because I'm on an external network, I can't access the internal diagrams of the lab; you'll have to be cautious during the operation and make sure nothing goes wrong."

Ling Chen nodded, "Don't worry, I understand." After his words, Ling Chen pointed at Zhu Qing and Qin Genglong behind him, saying, "You two stay here and protect Fatty, make sure nothing happens to him. Also, once things here are dealt with, make sure to find a plane or ship and arrange the withdrawal route."

After giving instructions, Ling Chen took the others and drove straight to the location of the lab. The lab was situated at the center of the island; after driving the jeep for not too long, Ling Chen saw the peculiarly shaped lab. From a distance, it really looked like an eggshell on the ground.

Choosing a relatively safe spot, Ling Chen parked and picked up binoculars to observe the lab. Just as Hu Fei had said, this lab was very unique, without a single window.

"Is this really a lab?" Xia Yue asked beside him, "This spooky place doesn't even have a door, how are we supposed to get in?"

Ling Chen shook his head, unsure of how to enter this lab either. For the moment, Ling Chen moved his binoculars downward, only to see more than twenty armed personnel patrolling back and forth outside the lab, guarding its safety.

"Hey! Fatty, are you receiving?"

"Received."

"We're in position, ready to move anytime."

"OK!"

As soon as Hu Fei's voice fell, several streaks of light appeared suddenly in the night sky, descending toward the ground. Suddenly, several loud 'bang bang' sounds echoed, flames shot into the sky, and even the ground trembled slightly.

Ling Chen picked up the binoculars and looked in the direction of the flames to see a warehouse already destroyed by the explosion, and besides the warehouse, several dormitory buildings had been demolished and crumbled, sending dust flying into the sky.

"Fatty, nicely done." Ling Chen said with a smile. Hu Fei had already taken control of the base's defensive weapons, using Hellfire Missiles to demolish these ground structures was a mere trifle for him.

Putting down the binoculars, Ling Chen turned to look at everyone, saying, "Most of the armed forces on the island have been dealt with, now it's our turn."

"Ling Cheng, look over there, someone is coming out."

Following Yuan Yun's pointing direction, the lab's bottom suddenly opened a door. Subsequently, over ten armed personnel rushed out, spreading around the lab and vigilantly scanning the surroundings.

"We've found the entrance, come on, let's go together." After speaking, Ling Chen started the engine, driving the jeep rapidly toward the lab.

Chapter 1375 - 1683: Island Assault (Part 3)

As the Jeep drew nearer, the armed personnel guarding around the laboratory immediately reacted, forming a human wall along the Jeep's path, prepared to intercept it. However, just at that moment, several people stood up on the back seat of the Jeep, each holding a longbow.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

Accompanied by the piercing sound of arrows, seven or eight armed personnel were instantly shot and fell to the ground. Taking advantage of this moment, Ling Chen lightly stepped on the brakes, his hands turning the steering wheel. Instantly, the Jeep's body tilted sharply, drifting forward and knocking several armed personnel to the ground.

As Ling Chen launched his offensive, Qiu Yong and others rushed over, and soon all the armed personnel outside the laboratory were dealt with.

"Done!" Ling Chen jumped out of the car, striding rapidly to the laboratory's entrance, ready to open the door. But, before anyone could act, a fist-sized hole suddenly appeared in the middle of the door, followed by a gun barrel protruding from the hole, unleashing a burst of bullets outside.

To avoid the bullet attack, everyone had no choice but to retreat to either side. However, this was only the beginning; around the laboratory, multiple holes appeared one after another, each with a gun facing outside. Anyone attempting to approach the laboratory would instantly be shot to pieces.

"Quick, retreat, find cover." Ling Chen shouted loudly, while retreating back, taking shelter behind the body of the Jeep.

"Son, what now?" Ling Kun said gravely.

Ling Chen chuckled bitterly, having no idea at all. This laboratory was like a fortress, with guns every half meter, making it impossible to approach, even for Heavenly List experts. Though their skills were formidable, they were still flesh and blood, unable to withstand the barrage of bullets, unless... unless they approached from above.

Above... Suddenly, Ling Chen had a brainstorm, and his mind was instantly filled with ideas. Those outward-facing gun barrels could only move horizontally, unable to move up or down, so by avoiding their firing range, there was a chance to enter the laboratory.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen took off his backpack, finding a few smoke grenades inside, along with two suction cups. These suction cups were tools he had used to sneak onto a ship and had carried them with him in case of need.

As several smoke grenades were tossed out, the laboratory was soon surrounded by smoke. Taking advantage of this, Ling Chen crouched down, quickly approaching the laboratory. As the smoke began to dissipate, Ling Chen had already dashed to the side of the laboratory. Using the two suction cups, Ling Chen's hands adhered to the surface of the laboratory, quickly climbing up, easily avoiding the firing range of those gun barrels.

Before long, Ling Chen reached the top of the laboratory. Securing the suction cups in place, Ling Chen tapped on the surface of the 'eggshell,' instantly hearing a clanging sound, very crisp. This confirmed that this was definitely a solid steel wall. With Ling Chen's strength alone, there was no way he could break it. Additionally, each steel plate junction was welded shut, making disassembling impossible.

How to get in? Ling Chen couldn't help but complain. The southern Ling Family people were truly extravagant, actually transforming this laboratory into a real iron fortress. If not using powerful weapons, it would be hard to damage the surface of the laboratory.

However, Hu Fei had already destroyed the arsenal, leaving no suitable weapon. Using a Hellfire Missile would likely demolish the entire laboratory, resulting in too great a loss, more than they could bear. Ling Gengqiu's other body parts were definitely in this laboratory, and also the three hostages from the northern Ling Family, so large-scale destructive weapons couldn't be used.

What now?

Frowning, Ling Chen pondered deeply, but had no ideas.

"Son, how is it?" Hearing Ling Kun's voice from the earpiece, Ling Chen didn't think further, using the smoke grenades' cover to quickly return to the Jeep.

"Dad, it seems we'll have to think of another plan." Ling Chen said helplessly, "This laboratory is no different from a fortress; we can't break through."

"What to do then?"

"Let's retreat first, with us guarding outside, they surely won't dare come out. Anyway, we have plenty of time; we'll think of ways slowly."

Ling Kun thought about it, nodded, and said, "Guess we have no choice."

Immediately, Ling Chen conveyed the retreat order to everyone; apart from leaving a few to monitor the laboratory's movement, the others retreated to the operation room.

Upon learning of the situation, Hu Fei rubbed his head and said with annoyance, "That's quite a problem. If we can't take that laboratory, everything we've done is meaningless."

"This isn't the most troublesome," Ling Chen chimed in, "We originally planned to catch them off guard, to leave them unprepared. But now, they already know we're here and will definitely take measures. The key issue is, the hostages are still with them; they might use it to threaten us."

"Damn!" Hu Fei cursed, saying, "I say, let's just blow up the entire laboratory."

Ling Chen shrugged, not continuing the conversation. Everyone knew clearly this wasn't possible, otherwise, they wouldn't be so worried.

Suddenly, everyone fell silent, thinking of countermeasures. After a moment, Kaelina, who hadn't spoken, suddenly said, "Isn't the laboratory shaped like an eggshell? Perhaps we can start from this point."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked, "Do you have a plan?"

"Not exactly a plan, just a rough idea." Kaelina then shared her thoughts. After listening, everyone exchanged looks, unsure whether to agree.

Ling Chen thought seriously, then suddenly laughed, saying, "I think this method is worth a try; we have no other ideas right now, maybe this could really work."

"What about the hostages? If they come to harm..." Ling Tao began but was interrupted by Ling Chen, "Uncle Ling, I think you don't need to worry about that. Didn't you say that the northern Ling Family members are all experts? Being experts, surely their physical condition isn't bad. Besides, if they can be rescued, a few injuries are acceptable, don't you think?"

"Alright." Ling Tao nodded, saying, "Since you say so, I have no objection."

"Good." Ling Chen stood up, "If everyone has no objections, let's rest for a bit and act in an hour."

Chapter 1376 - 1684: Island Assault (4)

An hour later, Ling Chen and his team returned to the exterior of the laboratory. Since they were last here, there had been no sign of activity inside. The people inside were likely relying on the laboratory's security measures, believing that as long as they stayed inside, they would be safe.

Ling Chen slowly approached the jeep, repeating his previous tactics by first using a smoke grenade to obscure the enemy's vision. Then, he used a suction cup to climb to the top of the laboratory again. To execute Kaelina's plan, Ling Chen had come fully equipped this time.

Fastening himself to the top of the laboratory, Ling Chen pulled out a chain gun, firing shot after shot along the laboratory's edge. The base's equipment was very complete, with dedicated areas for storing tools besides the arsenal. In no time, Ling Chen had fired over forty shots onto the surface of the laboratory, with all the nails firmly embedded into the steel plate, connected to chains on the back.

It took more than half an hour for Ling Chen to secure over a hundred chains to the top of the laboratory.

"Dad, I'm all set over here."

"I'm ready too." On the other side of the laboratory's rooftop, Ling Kun put down his chain gun and slowly slid down.

Retreating back to the jeep, Ling Chen tugged on the bundle of chains in his hand, wiping the sweat off his forehead. With over a hundred chains all gathered together, the weight was several hundred pounds. Fortunately, Ling Chen had a strong physique, able to withstand such a heavy load.

At this moment, Qiu Yong and his team dragged over several chains thick as an arm, connecting them all together to form two long chains. About a dozen heavy trucks were parked a few dozen meters away from the laboratory. The group dragged the chains to the back of the heavy trucks, hooking them onto pre-prepared docking hooks.

"OK! Everything is ready." The group looked at Ling Chen and asked, "How about it, can we start?"

Ling Chen nodded, gestured to the driver inside the heavy truck. The latter immediately understood, and all at once, the dozen heavy trucks started up, pulling the two chains, heading in the same direction.

Soon, the few hundred-pound chains were pulled tight, hanging in mid-air. However, despite the unified force of the dozen heavy trucks, the egg-shaped laboratory remained unmoved, its presence unyielding. Witnessing this, a glimmer of disappointment appeared in everyone's eyes. They had expected Kaelina's plan to work, but now it seemed that this method was completely ineffective.

"Ling Chen, it looks like this method won't work," Ling Kun sighed softly.

Ling Chen smiled faintly, "Dad, don't rush, we're just getting started." With that, Ling Chen picked up the walkie-talkie and said, "Fatty, it's your turn."

"Roger that."

"Alright, everyone step back a little." Ling Chen directed the group, having them all hide behind cover. Everyone was puzzled by Ling Chen's actions, not knowing what he was planning. This method had clearly failed, yet was he going to keep at it?

Just as everyone was filled with doubts, two streaks of fire appeared in the night sky. Upon seeing the rapidly approaching flames, someone finally reacted, exclaiming, "That is... a Hellfire Missile?"

Qiu Yong turned to look at Ling Chen not far off, asking, "Ling Cheng, what are you doing? Do you intend to demolish the entire laboratory?"

"Big brother, no need to worry, I'm not that reckless." As his words fell, two massive booms echoed from the sky. More than twenty meters away from the laboratory, two Hellfire Bombs detonated instantly, with dazzling firelight bursting forth, forming a powerful shock wave that spread outward. The steel plates on the northern side of the laboratory were all dented inward under the impact, and the entire laboratory swayed slightly.

Seeing the changes in the laboratory, Ling Chen's gaze brightened. His idea was indeed right, but unfortunately, the shock wave was just a bit weak.

The laboratory's contact area with the ground was several hundred square meters, definitely anchored by something below. To topple the laboratory, relying solely on the dozen heavy trucks certainly wouldn't work. Therefore, Ling Chen utilized the Hellfire Missile's power, not directly hitting the laboratory but detonating it near the laboratory, using the explosion's shock wave to apply strong push force to the laboratory.

However, judging by the situation earlier, the impact of the two Hellfire Missiles was still insufficient to topple the laboratory.

"Fatty, try five Hellfire Missiles."

Upon receiving Ling Chen's command, Hu Fei immediately fired five Hellfire Missiles. Shortly after, the missiles came from the sky, causing another round of explosions. This time, the powerful shock wave was more than twice as strong, instantly lifting half of the laboratory's foundation, causing the laboratory to tilt.

Seizing the opportunity, the dozen heavy trucks exerted their strength, pulling on the chains. With the strong pull from the heavy trucks, the incline of the laboratory increased. As the eggshell lost its balance, a loud 'bang' sounded, and the whole laboratory slammed heavily onto the ground, kicking up a cloud of dust. The impact was so intense that the shape of the laboratory changed.

"Charge!" Upon witnessing the scene, Ling Chen no longer hesitated, rushing forward quickly. Simultaneously, everyone else followed closely, sticking to the laboratory's edge.

Although the laboratory had fallen, the exterior steel plates remained intact. Therefore, to enter the laboratory, the outer steel plates had to be removed.

Ling Chen had already prepared for this. Two cutting machines lined up along the seams of the steel plates, slowly slicing them away. Shortly, a steel plate fell off, revealing a thick layer of soundproof cotton and a steel frame. Peeling away the soundproof cotton, the innermost layer was a rather thin steel plate, which Ling Chen effortlessly kicked out with just two kicks.

Successfully entering the laboratory, Ling Chen scanned his surroundings, searching for enemy positions. Due to the collapse of the laboratory, the resulting shock knocked many people unconscious, with some still dazed and not yet fully awake. Soon, they neutralized all armed personnel who had lost the ability to fight.

Aside from more than twenty armed personnel, there were over sixty scientific researchers in the laboratory. Ling Chen looked around, quickly finding a few culture dishes containing Ling Gengqiu's two severed arms and one leg. Fortunately, the culture dishes were sturdy, remaining intact despite the collision.

Exhaling a breath, Ling Chen immediately ordered people to transport the three culture dishes out. These items were one of his mission objectives, and they mustn't be lost.

Chapter 1377 - 1685: Island Assault (5)

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Yuan Yun's voice, Ling Chen turned his head and asked, "Third Brother, what's up?"

"We've found them. The three hostages from the Northern Ling Family are all locked in the laboratory. Your dad and Ling Tao have already rescued them."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Then our mission is almost complete." Pausing, he shifted his tone and asked, "By the way! Didn't you find those experts from the Southern Ling Family?"

"Not yet, but from the previous situation, it's likely that the Southern Ling Family's experts aren't on this island."

Ling Chen frowned slightly. They weren't here. For this mission, he specially called up Chen Junfeng, Ji Gang, and included Ling Kun, three Heavenly List experts, which was enough to deal with the two Heavenly List experts from the Southern Ling Family. Didn't expect they weren't here.

"Then what about the people from the Southern Ling Family? Did you find any?"

"We found four. They're the ones in charge of this laboratory. Those guys have some skills and tried to resist when they encountered us, but with us brothers taking action, they had no chance to escape."

"Alright, first take control of the entire laboratory. The core figures of the Southern Ling Family are probably on that submarine. With such a big incident happening at the base, they must have notified their people, and that submarine might be heading this way. In any case, have everyone be prepared, and be wary of sneak attacks from the enemy."

When arriving at the laboratory hall, Ling Kun and Ling Tao were present, along with three elders. Ling Chen had seen them on surveillance footage and knew they were high-ranking figures in the Northern Ling Family, but he hadn't met them in person.

"Ling Chen, come here quickly, let me introduce them to you." Ling Tao waved at Ling Chen, pointing to one of the elders, who was 1.7 meters tall with gray hair and wrinkles all over his face, "This is the Family Head I've told you about, Ling Haitian." Ling Tao paused and then pointed to the other two elders, "These two are Ling Gao and Ling Jun, both are the Family Head's deputies, core people of the Northern Ling Family."

"Family Head, to have successfully rescued you and destroyed the base of the Southern Ling Family, we truly owe it to Ling Chen, we really should thank him."

Ling Haitian nodded, about to speak. But before he could say anything, Ling Jun interjected blandly, "Why thank him? He's someone we, the Northern Ling Family, have nurtured. It's right for him to serve the Northern Ling Family."

Hearing this, the smile on Ling Tao's face became somewhat awkward, fully aware of Ling Chen's attitude and stance on the relationship between both sides. Ling Chen shrugged and didn't take Ling Jun's words to heart. He was prepared for this, and besides, he couldn't deny the Northern Ling Family's contributions to him. However, he wouldn't agree if everything he achieved now was attributed entirely to the Northern Ling Family.

Though the Northern Ling Family nurtured him, much of his current achievements were due to his own effort. Moreover, in Ling Chen's eyes, his greatest achievement wasn't building a massive power, but befriending many like-minded people. Like Tong Zhentian, the Eight Oddities, Chen Junfeng... these friendships were the true treasure he possessed.

"Uncle Ling, you should take the Family Head and the others back, I'll arrange for a plane."

"You're not coming with us?"

"The Southern Ling Family's people should be on their way here. Since they're coming, we must settle this."

Ling Tao nodded slightly and said, "Good. Once the Southern Ling Family is eliminated, the Northern Ling Family will no longer be threatened." After saying that, Ling Tao turned to Ling Haitian beside him, "Family Head, I'll first escort you off the island."

Ling Haitian smiled and said, "Ling Tao, even though I'm getting old, I'm not that old yet. Today is an important day for the Northern Ling Family, and as the Family Head, I must participate. Alright, don't try to persuade me. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity; I've waited too many years for this day. No matter what, I must ensure that the Southern Ling Family disappears completely."

Seeing that Ling Haitian wouldn't leave, Ling Tao had no other choice. As a member of the Northern Ling Family, he must obey the Family Head's orders.

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Ling Haitian call his name, Ling Chen promptly responded, "What does the Family Head need?"

"You are the main force this time; all movements and arrangements are entrusted to you. I hope you won't let me down."

"Rest assured, Family Head, I'll do my best."

Ling Haitian shook his head and said, "I don't want you to do your best; I want success. Do you understand what I mean?"

"Understood," Ling Chen replied faintly, afraid that Ling Haitian would say more, and quickly turned and walked out. This Family Head really took himself too seriously, speaking with such a commanding tone. Frankly, Ling Chen felt a bit annoyed. If not for giving face to Ling Kun and Ling Tao, he wouldn't bother dealing with this so-called Family Head.

Leaving the laboratory, Ling Chen led the group straight to the operations room. Besides their group, Ling Chen also specifically took Ling Gengqiu's body parts with them. Joking aside, he had spent so much effort just to find these body parts, he didn't want to leave them by Ling Haitian's side.

"Fatty, arrange for two people to take these culture dishes back by plane first." There's an airstrip on the island, plus two small planes, very convenient.

"No problem."

Once Hu Fei arranged the planes, Kaelina, sitting in front of the computer, suddenly took off her headphones and said, "Ling Chen, I just received communication from that submarine."

"What did they say?"

"They're asking about the status of the base. How should I respond?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "Didn't we capture a few of the Southern Ling Family's people at the lab? Bring them over."

Soon, four middle-aged men were brought to the operations room. Ling Chen glanced at them and said, "We just received a signal from the submarine; they want to communicate with people on the island. I hope one of you will step forward to help me respond to the people on the submarine. I assure you, whoever is willing to help, not only will I spare your life, but I'll also provide you with a large sum of money, ensuring you live a life of ease for the rest of your days. Remember! There is only one slot, so you'd better be proactive, or someone else might take the opportunity."

Upon hearing this, the four middle-aged men exchanged glances, with none stepping forward.

"Ling Chen, don't waste your time trying to tempt us. We, from the Southern Ling Family, will never betray our own, so I advise you to give up on that idea," one middle-aged man said coldly.

Chapter 1378 - 1686: Discord

"Really?" Ling Chen's lips curled slightly, watching the other party with a half-smile, and said, "I admire your loyalty. Since you refuse to betray the Southern Ling Family, I respect your choice." As the words fell, Ling Chen's right hand suddenly reached for his waist. Before the four middle-aged men realized what was happening, a gush of blood suddenly spurting out, splattering onto the ground.

Upon closer inspection, the middle-aged man standing farthest to the left was clutching his throat, occasionally emitting 'ugh ugh' sounds. Blood streamed through his fingers and quickly stained his clothes.

After holding on for a few seconds, the middle-aged man's body swayed slightly and fell directly to the ground, lifeless.

Seeing their companion die, the other three middle-aged men froze for a moment, a flash of fear in their eyes. At this time, Ling Chen had turned his gaze to another person. Feeling Ling Chen's indifferent smile at the corner of his mouth, the middle-aged man involuntarily stepped back, stammering, "You... what do you want to do?"

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "Nothing. Since you don't want to help me, you have no value to continue existing. I usually destroy things that have no value."

"No, no... you..."

"I'll help, I'll help you." Suddenly, a middle-aged man stepped forward, speaking in a trembling voice.

"Ling Geng, what are you doing?" Seeing a companion agree to help, the other two middle-aged men immediately scolded, "Don't forget, you're part of the Southern Ling Family, even if it means dying, do not betray the Ling Family."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Gentlemen, I don't see it that way. Instead, I think he's quite smart because he's someone who values life." After speaking, Ling Chen didn't wait for them to speak again and waved, signaling Yuan Yun to drag the remaining two middle-aged men out.

"Follow me." Ling Chen led the middle-aged man named Ling Geng to the control panel and said, "I need you to report to the people on the submarine, tell them that the situation on the island is under control, and request their reinforcement. You're a smart person; you'd better do smart things. Otherwise, your end will be miserable, understand?"

Ling Geng nodded, picked up the earphones, and contacted the people on the submarine. Ling Chen walked to the side, put on headphones, and listened carefully to the conversation between Ling Geng and the other side. Ling Geng's performance was decent, without any out-of-line behavior.

After about a minute, the submarine cut off communication. Ling Chen put down his phone, smiling and saying, "Very good, you are indeed a smart person. Rest assured, I won't go back on my promise."

After taking Ling Geng outside, Ling Chen walked beside Hu Fei and asked, "Can you track the location of that submarine?"

"The position isn't very accurate, error within two kilometers."

"It's okay, as long as we have a rough direction and distance."

"If I'm not mistaken, the submarine is about thirty kilometers from us, and if they sail at full speed, they'll soon reach the island."

"Good, notify everyone to prepare for battle. Fatty, keep an eye on the sea, as soon as that submarine surfaces, don't hold back, seize the opportunity and bomb them directly."

"Got it."

Time passed second by second, and all they could do was wait. After ten minutes, Ling Chen finally heard the news from Hu Fei, "They've arrived, right on the eastern sea, surfacing now."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen immediately shouted, "Send them to the bottom of the sea." After speaking, Ling Chen quickly climbed up a nearby watchtower, picked up his binoculars, and looked towards the eastern side of the island. Under the thick night, a vague object seemed to be floating on the sea. Due to the distance, Ling Chen couldn't see it clearly. However, based on the information from Hu Fei, it could be confirmed that it was the Southern Ling Family's submarine.

At this time, several streams of fire shot up from the island, drawing beautiful arcs straight towards the sea. A few seconds later, a dazzling flash appeared in Ling Chen's binoculars, accompanied by an earth-shattering explosion.

After a few minutes, all that was left on the sea was the blazing fire; nothing else.

"Haha!" Soon, Hu Fei's excited laughter came through the earphones, "Ling Chen, how did I do? Sent them straight to hell."

"Nicely done." Ling Chen put away the binoculars and smiled, "Alright, the submarine has been sunk, everyone can stand down. Fatty, pack up and prepare to evacuate."

"Understood."

Returning to the lab, Ling Chen first went to see Ling Haitian and reported the latest situation to him.

After hearing Ling Chen's report, Ling Haitian seemed very excited, "Are you sure the submarine was sunk?"

"Absolutely," Ling Chen nodded and said, "You should have all heard the explosion, at that level of explosion, no one could survive."

"Good, very good. We've finally wiped out the Southern Ling Family after fighting for so many years. Ling Chen, well done, you were a great credit to this operation; when I return, I will certainly reward you handsomely."

Ling Chen gave a faint smile, "No need for a reward, this is what I should do."

Ling Jun spoke up from the side, "You have this awareness, we didn't waste so much effort in training you." After speaking, Ling Jun turned to Ling Haitian and said, "Family Head, since the Southern Ling Family is extinguished, we should go back; there's still much work to be done rebuilding the Northern Ling Family."

"You're right, let's go."

Before long, everyone arrived at a small hangar by car. At this moment, Hu Fei and the rest were ready and could depart at any time. However, because there's only one small passenger plane left, which can only accommodate fifteen people at a time, they must fly two rounds.

"Family Head, please board the plane."

As Ling Haitian boarded the plane, Ling Tao and others followed closely behind. However, when Hu Fei and his group prepared to board the plane, they were stopped by Ling Jun.

"You take the next flight."

Upon hearing this, Hu Fei's face became ugly, "What do you mean? This plane can clearly seat fifteen people."

Ling Jun replied coldly, "We are the high management of the Northern Ling Family, and have important matters to discuss, no outsiders allowed."

"You..."

Before Hu Fei could explode, Ling Jun turned his gaze to Ling Chen and said solemnly, "Keep your subordinates in check, they have no sense of decorum." After speaking, Ling Jun pointed to Kaelina and Zhu Qing in the crowd, "Bring these two up to serve the Family Head."

Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, he could ignore Hu Fei's matter, but seeing Ling Jun asking Kaelina and Zhu Qing to serve them was a bit excessive.

Darn it! Really treating his friends like they're servants of the Northern Ling Family.

Chapter 1379 - 1687: North-South War (Part 1)

"Ling..." Ling Chen opened his mouth, about to speak, when suddenly a loud shout came from behind: "Watch out! Someone is ambushing us!"

Ambush? Everyone was momentarily stunned, and quickly turned to look behind them. Immediately, they saw two shadows rapidly approaching from the rear. Several members of the Divine Arrow Team, caught off guard, were instantly knocked to the ground, blood spraying everywhere.

"Ling Chen, be careful!" Chen Junfeng shouted from the side, suddenly rushing over. He pushed Ling Chen aside, then swung his fist towards the front.

At once, there was a muffled sound of 'boom', as one shadow was forcefully driven back by Chen Junfeng's punch. When the two shadows came to a stop, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly. Damn! It turned out to be people from the Southern Ling Family. Judging by their strength, they should all be Heavenly List experts.

Weren't the Southern Ling Family's people supposed to have sunk to the bottom of the sea with that submarine? Why are they still alive?

"Ling Chen." An elderly man on the opposite side looked at Ling Chen coldly and sneered, "Did you really think we would fall for your trick? You're not the only one who's cautious. That submarine was just to draw your attention. We had already landed on the island from the other side with inflatable boats."

As he spoke, more than thirty people gradually appeared from behind the small hangar.

Seeing so many people from the Southern Ling Family appear, Ling Chen's brow furrowed slightly. He hadn't expected to be fooled by them. Before, he was still wondering why it was so easy to deal with all the Southern Ling Family's people, which seemed unbelievable. Now it seems, they were not as easy to deal with as he had imagined.

He was very cautious, but the Southern Ling Family's people were even more so.

At this moment, the people on the plane had all disembarked. Leading the way was Ling Haitian, who said in a deep voice, "Ling Ao, Ling Feng, I didn't expect you guys to still be alive."

"Ling Haitian, aren't you an old man still alive too? I really regret it now. I should have just killed you sooner, instead of letting you live this long." A voice came, and everyone's gaze focused on the person. The man was a very old elderly man, slightly hunched, his face full of wrinkles and age spots, looking like he was a hundred years old.

Seeing the man step out from behind Ling Ao and Ling Feng, Ling Haitian's expression darkened, "Ling Jian, you really have a long life. Over a hundred years old and still not dead." As he spoke, Ling Haitian glanced at Ling Chen beside him, a trace of reproach in his eyes.

Ling Chen shrugged indifferently. He understood Ling Haitian's implied meaning, but how could he be blamed? Who knew the Southern Ling Family's people were so cautious, sacrificing a submarine just to distract them?

"Ling Chen, kill them for me, don't let a single one escape." Ling Haitian ordered coldly.

Ling Ao and Ling Feng, these two elders were the backbone of the Southern Ling Family, two Heavenly List experts. However, the one Ling Chen couldn't figure out was that Ling Jian, despite being over a hundred years old and looking feeble and unable to truss a chicken, somehow gave Ling Chen an extremely dangerous feeling. According to Ling Kun and others, the Southern Ling Family's head, like Ling Haitian, was an Earthly List expert, hardly a threat.

Forget it! No need to overthink it, as long as Ling Ao and Ling Feng are dealt with, the Southern Ling Family will surely be defeated. With this thought, Ling Chen signaled to Chen Junfeng. Understanding his hint, Chen Junfeng immediately started moving towards Ling Ao. At the same time, Ling Kun took on the other Heavenly List expert, Ling Feng.

"Big brother, come with me to clean up the rest." Ling Chen said.

Qiu Yong nodded, without saying a word, and charged straight towards the people behind. Yuan Yun and the others followed closely, as the Eight Oddities launched their attack.

Against the onslaught from Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun, Ling Ao and Ling Feng appeared calm and composed, easily deflecting every move. A battle between Heavenly List experts can hardly be decided quickly, so the main focus still lies with Ling Chen and the others. As long as they eliminate all the Southern Ling Family's experts, they will have a large part of their team free to deal with Ling Ao and Ling Feng. No matter how strong Ling Ao and the others are, facing two Heavenly List experts and a group of Earthly List experts, they are bound to lose.

The attack from the Eight Oddities was extremely fierce. With just one encounter, three or four members of the Southern Ling Family had fallen. However, it must be acknowledged that the people the Southern Ling Family brought were all elites. Besides a group of Dragon List experts, they also had seven or eight Earthly List experts, which was indeed the true foundation of the Southern Ling Family.

In no time, Ling Chen's and his group's assault was blocked. The person fighting Ling Chen was a middle-aged man, whose strength was formidable, enough to rank in the top three of the Earthly List. If it were before, Ling Chen might not have been a match. But with his efforts and guidance from Ling Gengqiu over this period, Ling Chen's strength had improved rapidly. Of course, the most critical factor was Tang Shiyun. Without Tang Shiyun's voluntary offering, his progress in the Prajnaparamita Sutra wouldn't have been significant.

"Heaven and Earth Reversal!"

With the idea of ending the battle swiftly, Ling Chen didn't waste time with his opponent and directly executed the ultimate move of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step. Instantly, Ling Chen's body split into three afterimages, moving at extreme speed in front of his opponent, making it impossible to distinguish between the real and the illusory.

Just as the opponent was overwhelmed, one afterimage abruptly rushed forward, crashing into the opponent's body forcefully.

Immediately, a mouthful of blood was spat out as the middle-aged man's body was directly knocked flying. Before the opponent could land, there was a sharp 'whoosh', and a sharp arrow suddenly shot forward, piercing through his vital spot instantly.

Glancing at Zhang Zhongfeng holding the longbow beside him, Ling Chen returned a smile. With Zhang Zhongfeng controlling the overall situation at the side, no one could withstand their onslaught. Whenever someone was in danger or needed help, one or two arrows from Zhang Zhongfeng would solve the problem.

Soon after, the remaining Southern Ling Family members had been mostly cleared by the Eight Oddities, with only a few Earthly List experts still stubbornly resisting. However, given the formidable nature of the Eight Oddities, their defeat was only a matter of time.

However, just at this moment, a shadow suddenly burst forth, charging swiftly towards Yuan Yun. Before Yuan Yun could react, there was a loud shout, and Yuan Yun's body suddenly flew up, crashing heavily into the oil barrel beside him.

Puff!

Seeing the blood spat from Yuan Yun's mouth, Ling Chen and the others' expressions changed dramatically, exclaiming in shock, "Who is it?"

As soon as the words fell, Ling Chen suddenly perceived a blur in front of him, followed by a strong sense of crisis surging from his heart. Not good! Ling Chen's pupils narrowed, hastily retreating backwards. Although he retreated less than half a meter, this action allowed him to narrowly escape disaster, as a sharp palm wind struck the air, missing his face by just a few centimeters.

Chapter 1380 - 1688: The Great Battle Between North and South (Part 2)

At this moment, Xu Ming and Qiu Yong had already reacted and quickly rushed to Ling Chen's front, their fists striking towards the opponent. However, the person's speed was faster. Before the attack could approach, the opponent had already retreated, avoiding the two's offensive.

Once the opponent had steadied himself, Ling Chen finally saw clearly the person's appearance. Ling Jian! Ling Chen's gaze sharpened, as expected, this Ling Jian was extraordinary. From the strength he had just displayed, this person was undoubtedly a Heavenly List expert.

Three Heavenly List experts... at this moment, Ling Chen finally felt the pressure.

It was apparent that Ling Jian aimed to eliminate their group. With Ling Jian's strength, if Ling Chen and the others were caught unprepared, achieving that would not be difficult. Last time when besieging Su He and Qin Chuan, although they could jointly kill Qin Chuan, it was because everyone had already arranged tactics, just waiting for the fish to take the bait. But this time was different, Yuan Yun was wounded, the true combat strength consisted of only Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, Ling Chen, Zhang Zhongfeng, and Xia Yue; Yang Chen and Wei Jiahao needed to look after Yuan Yun, and besides, their strength wasn't suitable for joining the fight.

Seeing Qiu Yong and the others slowly encircling, Ling Jian sneered coldly, not taking any of those present seriously at all.

Taking this opportunity, Ling Chen glanced at the others; Zhu Qing and Qin Genglong were suppressing the Southern Ling Family's Earthly List experts, keeping them occupied and unable to interfere with the battle here. Five Earthly List experts against one Heavenly List expert, honestly, Ling Chen didn't feel very confident.

But regardless, the arrow was on the string, and they had to shoot; they must withstand Ling Jian's offensive to buy time for the others. In a flash of thought, Qiu Yong lightly tapped his toe, swiftly rushing towards Ling Jian.

Seeing Qiu Yong engage, Ling Chen and the others followed closely. Without verbal or eye communication, everyone already understood the tactics. Qiu Yong practiced cross training, with strong defensive power in his body, so he stood against Ling Jian from the front. Xu Ming's strength was the strongest among them, tasked with restraining Ling Jian, relieving part of Qiu Yong's pressure. Besides, Ling Chen, Zhang Zhongfeng, and Xia Yue were responsible for leading the attack.

Facing Qiu Yong and the others' strategic allocation, Ling Jian sneered coldly, his gaze disdainful, not putting Ling Chen's attack in his eyes. If there was anything that posed a bit of a threat, it was probably only Zhang Zhongfeng. Zhang Zhongfeng's archery was indisputable; as long as one arrow hit, it would be a deadly threat to Ling Jian. So, besides dealing with Ling Chen and the others, Ling Jian always diverted some attention to Zhang Zhongfeng, evading his arrows.

After a brief exchange, Ling Chen finally had a general understanding of Ling Jian's strength. Though Ling Jian was a Heavenly List expert, his time on the Heavenly List shouldn't be long. During his times at Dragon Tiger Hall, Ling Chen had sparred with Chen Junfeng and Tong Zhentian multiple times. Chen Junfeng and Tong Zhentian, as long-established Heavenly List experts, exuded a powerful presence when battling them. Without a move, just that presence was enough for Ling Chen to lose half. However, when facing Ling Jian, Ling Chen did not feel that.

It was evident that Ling Jian's strength was much lesser than Tong Zhentian.

At this moment, during the attack, Ling Chen glanced at Ling Haitian and the others not far away, just seeing them standing by the airplane, watching the battle, with no intention of intervening. Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but feel a bit irritated. Damn! At a time like this, they still have the mind to watch the fight on the side, don't they know to come and help?

Ling Chen had heard from Ling Kun that the Northern Ling Family had two Heavenly List experts. Besides Ling Kun, another one was Ling Jun. Additionally, the elder named Ling Gao was also an Earthly List expert, with strength similar to Xu Ming's, already touching the threshold of a Heavenly List expert. As long as they helped, the Southern Ling Family's people wouldn't be able to resist.

"What are you guys doing standing there." Ling Chen said coldly: "Help out quickly."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's shout, Ling Gao and Ling Jun both turned their gaze towards Ling Haitian, waiting for his command.

Ling Haitian pondered for a moment and spoke: "Ling Gao, go help them; Ling Jun stays by my side."

"Yes." Ling Gao responded, immediately joining the battlefield to help Ling Chen encircle Ling Jian. With Ling Gao's added strength, Ling Chen felt much relieved.

"Why isn't Ling Jun coming to help?" Ling Chen asked. If Ling Jun intervened, with their strength, they could easily take care of Ling Jian.

Ling Gao replied nonchalantly: "It's too chaotic here; Ling Jun needs to be responsible for protecting the Family Head's safety."

Damn!

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but curse inwardly. That Ling Haitian was really something, everyone else was risking their lives for him, yet he only cared about his own safety, not considering others at all. Despite the curses, no matter how much dissatisfaction was in his heart, Ling Chen could only bear it for now, settling accounts after dealing with this situation.

Facing the fierce attacks from Ling Chen, Xia Yue, and Ling Gao, Ling Jian began to struggle, slowly retreating backward. However, Xu Ming was constantly looking for opportunities from behind, occasionally launching surprise attacks that gave Ling Jian a headache.

"Stand aside, let me." At this moment, Ling Chen shouted loudly, his speed suddenly increasing, rushing directly at Ling Jian, his steel fist aiming straight at the opponent's face. Upon hearing Ling Chen's shout, Qiu Yong and Ling Gao both moved aside to avoid hindering Ling Chen's move.

As Ling Chen closed in, Ling Jian sneered disdainfully. Truly courting death, daring to match himself in strength. Immediately, Ling Jian's palm turned, directly meeting Ling Chen's steel fist. As the fist and palm were about to collide, Ling Chen abruptly stopped his advance, swiftly moving aside.

At the same time, a figure darted out from behind Ling Chen, supplementing the previous attack position.

This sudden change made Ling Jian slightly flinch. At this moment, both had already charged in too close, retreating was too late. Seeing this, Ling Jian gritted his teeth, inner strength gathered, striking fiercely.

Suddenly, the spectators only saw two figures swiftly approach, followed by one of them suddenly flying out, heavily landing on the ground.

"Family Head!"

Seeing Ling Jian collapsed on the ground, engaged in combat, Ling Ao and Ling Feng couldn't help but be shocked. How was this possible? Ling Jian was a Heavenly List expert; who could punch him flying? After a brief stupor, everyone turned their gaze to the one who struck.

Ji Gang?

Soon, the people of the Southern Ling Family identified the opponent's identity, unexpectedly discovering another hidden Heavenly List expert.

"Haha!"

Ling Chen laughed loudly, patting Ji Gang's shoulder, looking at Ling Jian slowly climbing up from the ground, saying: "You're not the only one capable of hiding strength."