

The Beauty 1391

Chapter 1391 The Mysterious Kidnapper (1)

Suddenly appearing in front of him was a middle-aged man. However, despite the man's appearance resembling that of a middle-aged man, Ling Chen sensed from his deep-set eyes that this person seemed to have weathered countless changes over the years. Who was this person? Ling Chen carefully scrutinized him. In his memory, he had never seen the man standing before him. Although this middle-aged man gave off a calm-as-water vibe, Ling Chen was acutely aware through years of experience that this person was anything but simple.

"Who are you?" Ling Chen asked. This person had suddenly ambushed him, and he was eager to uncover his identity. Nowadays, the Southern Ling Family had been annihilated, and there shouldn't be anyone left to pose a threat to him. So, he was very puzzled and had no idea about the origins of this person.

"Are you Ling Chen?" The middle-aged man asked, seemingly ignoring Ling Chen's question and speaking to himself.

"Yes, that's me." As he spoke, several more cars drove up around them, with seven or eight people stepping out, each dressed in suits and sunglasses, exuding a menacing aura. Ling Chen glanced around, secretly vigilant to prevent a sneak attack from the other party.

"Very well." The middle-aged man nodded, "I've been looking for you for a long time. Come with me." As soon as he finished speaking, the middle-aged man waved his hand, and a Mercedes business car promptly drove over and stopped in front of them. A man in a suit hurriedly stepped forward to open the car door and ushered the middle-aged man inside.

Seeing the man's actions, Ling Chen was slightly taken aback. What did this guy mean? Just by throwing out a simple sentence, he expected Ling Chen to obediently comply? Ling Chen chuckled to himself, shook his head, and said, "Sorry, I have urgent matters to attend to. If you want to invite me as a guest, you should make an appointment in advance, and maybe I'll find time to meet you."

Having said that, Ling Chen turned and walked away. However, after only a few steps, a strong sense of foreboding suddenly welled up from deep within his heart. From ghosts till now, Ling Chen had faced countless dangers, but he had never felt such terrifying foreboding. He felt that if he took another step forward, death would instantly descend upon him.

Seeing the men in suits gradually closing in from both sides, Ling Chen took a deep breath and slowly retracted his foot. After an intense mental struggle, Ling Chen chose to compromise. He had no choice; the killing intent was too overwhelming. Even when facing Qin Chuan, a master ranked on the Heavenly List, he had never felt this way. For the sake of his life, he could only make this choice.

Seeing Ling Chen returning to the Mercedes business car, the middle-aged man's cold face finally showed a slight hint of a smile.

"Mr. Ling, please hand over your phone." The man in the suit sitting in the passenger seat said. Ling Chen obediently took out his phone and handed it to him. The latter took out a jamming device and inserted the phone into it. After a while, the red light on the jamming device turned green.

"We can go now."

With that, the driver immediately started the engine and drove the Mercedes business car in the opposite direction of the airport.

Sitting in the car, Ling Chen carefully observed the middle-aged man in front of him. From the moment he got in the car until now, the man hadn't said a word and kept his eyes closed as if dozing off. However, for some reason, even though the man didn't open his eyes, Ling Chen felt as if he had been stripped naked, completely seen through by him, and this feeling made him extremely uncomfortable.

After a brief silence, Ling Chen couldn't help but speak, "You've 'invited' me here, shouldn't you tell me who you are?"

Upon hearing this, the middle-aged man finally opened his eyes, looked at Ling Chen across from him, and said lightly, "You don't need to know who I am; that's just a waste of time."

Ling Chen squinted his eyes and said, "It seems like my life won't last much longer."

The middle-aged man nodded and said, "You're quite self-aware." As he spoke, the Mercedes business car slowly pulled to a stop, entering a standalone luxury villa. The villa was surrounded by iron fences, with men in suits patrolling around, observing the surrounding activities.

Once the car was parked, the middle-aged man ignored Ling Chen and walked straight into the villa. Meanwhile, the man in the suit sitting in the passenger seat got out of the car and led Ling Chen to follow. Upon entering the spacious and luxurious villa, the man in the suit pointed to a single sofa, indicating for Ling Chen to sit. Shortly thereafter, a woman with a delicate appearance brought over tea and a fruit plate, placing it beside Ling Chen.

To an outsider, it might seem like Ling Chen was a guest of this villa.

"Here, make a call." The man in the suit took the phone off the jamming device and handed it to Ling Chen.

Ling Chen was momentarily stunned and confusedly asked, "Who do you want me to call?"

"Your friend, your family, anyone you think can save you, you can invite them over." Pausing, the man in the suit continued, "I don't need to tell you the address, right? With your influence, I believe they won't have any trouble locating you."

The man spoke lightly, but Ling Chen's heart sank heavily. What did this mean? Letting him actively call for rescue — how many kidnappers would do such a thing? The fact that they did this could only mean they were absolutely confident they could ensure those who came to rescue him would remain here permanently.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen instinctively glanced at the distant middle-aged man. He simply sat there silently, without even turning on the television, like a lifeless puppet. Who exactly was this person? Ling Chen's heart surged with doubts.

Undoubtedly, these people's greatest reliance was that mysterious middle-aged man. His might was terrifying; just a single glance could instill a soul-deep fear. All these years, Ling Chen had never encountered anything like this before.

Ling Chen, holding the phone, found himself lost in contemplation, not knowing what to do.

"Not planning to make a call?" The man in the suit saw Ling Chen sitting there dazedly and couldn't help but urge him.

Hesitating for a moment, Ling Chen finally dialed a number. Before long, the call connected, and a familiar voice came through: "Hello! Son, do you need something?"

"Dad, I've been kidnapped." Ling Chen said helplessly.

"Kidnapped?" Ling Kun exclaimed in surprise over the phone, "Who did it? Where are you? I'll come and rescue you right away."

"Don't come." Ling Chen glanced at the man in the suit in front of him, calmly saying, "Remember my words, don't come to rescue me, otherwise we will all die." With that, without waiting for Ling Kun to ask anything more, Ling Chen directly hung up the phone.

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Seeing the phone Ling Chen handed back, the man in the suit sneered, "You've got guts, but unfortunately, even if you don't tell us the location, as long as my phone stays on, they'll find their way here sooner or later." With that, the man in the suit called for one of his men to take Ling Chen to a room upstairs.

Despite being kidnapped, Ling Chen was treated well. At least the place he stayed was luxurious, no less than a five-star hotel. Not only that, but there was also 24-hour meal service if he got hungry, just like staying in a hotel.

Standing by the window, Ling Chen drew back the curtains and looked at the night view outside. A trace of worry surfaced in his heart. He had just called Ling Kun, telling them not to come to rescue him because he didn't want them to fall into the other party's trap. He didn't want others to be in danger because of him.

Sigh... Ling Chen breathed a light sigh, wondering if his father understood his message.

At this moment, back at the base in East Sea City, Ling Kun hurried to the control room. As news of Ling Chen being kidnapped spread, everyone gathered in the control room in no time, inquiring about the situation.

"When Ling Chen called me, he only said one thing: Don't come to rescue him," Ling Kun said with a furrowed brow. "I don't quite understand what he meant. Since he was kidnapped, why would he call me and stop me from helping him? Don't you find it a bit contradictory?"

As he spoke, Hu Fei's voice came over, "I tracked Ling Chen's phone location; it's in a standalone villa more than twenty kilometers away."

Upon hearing this, everyone gathered around the computer screen, looking at the map showing the location. "Sixth Brother has always been cautious. There must be a reason for his actions. Perhaps he doesn't want to drag us down," Qiu Yong suggested.

"Elder Qiu, I disagree with you," Zhou Jun said, "If Ling Chen didn't want to involve us, there was no need to call Uncle Ling. Moreover, doesn't it seem strange to you? Typically, kidnappers are very careful after kidnapping someone, keeping the hostage in a secret place. But now, the situation is quite the opposite. Those kidnappers seem afraid we won't know where Ling Chen is. Something's off here."

Hu Fei nodded in agreement, "I think Zhou Jun is right. Although no one answers Ling Chen's phone, it remains on, as if the other side intends for us to lock onto Ling Chen's location." Pausing for a moment, Hu Fei continued, "Of course, another possibility can't be ruled out. Perhaps Ling Chen isn't in that villa at all, and someone just took his phone to lure us there."

Yuan Yun spoke up, "I think Hu Fei's speculation makes a lot of sense. Only that aligns with the behavior of kidnappers. How about... let's send two people to scout first. If Ling Chen isn't there, we'll find another way. What do you think?"

"That's fine; rather than wasting time here, it's better to investigate in person," Ling Kun volunteered, "Leave this matter to me."

"Ling Kun, I think you'd better stay here," Qiu Yong interjected. "It's not that we don't trust you, but because you're Sixth Brother's father, your judgment might be impaired in case of an emergency. So, it's better for a few of us to handle this, while you stay here to oversee things."

"Well..." Ling Kun hesitated for a moment, then slowly nodded, "Alright then. Elder Qiu, I'll trouble you all."

Leaving the base, Qiu Yong and his team hurriedly headed to the luxurious villa by car. To avoid being discovered by the other side, Qiu Yong and the others were very cautious, getting off the car a hundred meters from the villa, approaching slowly.

Soon, they finally arrived near the villa. Looking at the villa in close proximity, Yuan Yun sneaked around the iron fence, surveying the outside and getting a rough idea of the conditions, then returned to Qiu Yong's side.

"Big Brother, I just checked. There are over a dozen security personnel outside." At this point, Yuan Yun's expression appeared somewhat odd.

Noticing the change in Yuan Yun's expression, Qiu Yong asked, "Third Brother, what's wrong?"

Yuan Yun, puzzled, said, "I can't quite figure out who kidnapped Sixth Brother. Sixth Brother is quite strong, at least among the Earthly List experts, few are his match. So, I think the kidnappers should be Heavenly List experts. However, the security personnel outside are not experts."

Just then, Xia Yue suddenly rushed to Qiu Yong and Yuan Yun, saying urgently, "Big Brother, Third Brother, I've seen Sixth Brother."

Hearing this, Qiu Yong's eyes brightened, and he quickly asked, "Where?"

Xia Yue pointed to the balcony on the far left of the second floor of the luxurious villa, "Look there."

Following her direction, they indeed saw Ling Chen standing behind the glass window on the balcony with the curtains on both sides drawn open, without any cover. Not only that, Ling Chen was holding a tea cup, seemingly relaxed.

Seeing Ling Chen's situation, everyone was puzzled. This... this doesn't look like a kidnapping at all; rather, it seemed like he was a guest.

Was Ling Chen... really kidnapped? This left everyone quite confused.

"Big Brother, what should we do now?" Yuan Yun asked with a wry smile.

"How about we go straight to Sixth Brother?" Xia Yue suggested.

Qiu Yong pondered for a moment, then shook his head, "No one should act rashly. We've known Sixth Brother for so long; shouldn't you be clear what kind of person he is? He may be a bit muddled about minor matters, but he never jokes about big stuff. He knows well how many people would run around for him if he were kidnapped, so he wouldn't mess around with everyone on such matters."

After speaking, Qiu Yong thought for a moment, then asked Xia Yue to contact the base and inform Ling Kun and others of the situation here. Additionally, Xia Yue specifically took a picture of Ling Chen and sent it to Hu Fei's phone.

As time passed, Ling Chen continued to stand by the window, quietly watching the outside.

Suddenly, there was a crisp shattering sound, and the whole glass pane was forcibly broken. Fortunately, Ling Chen reacted swiftly, retreating in time to avoid being injured by the glass shards. Looking closely, he found an arrow embedded in the wall behind him.

Zhang Zhongfeng!

Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, hurriedly pulled the arrow from the wall. A note was tied around the middle of the arrow. However, at this moment, hurried footsteps sounded outside the door.

Not good! Ling Chen's heart sank, and he quickly put away the note.

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Just as he put the note into his pocket, he saw the door being pushed open from outside. Shortly afterward, several men in suits rushed in and surrounded Ling Chen. Watching the arrow in Ling Chen's hand, one of the suited men frowned slightly, reached out to take the arrow, and asked, "Where is the person?"

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "What person? It's just me here."

The suited man snorted, walked to the shattered glass window, stuck his head out, and took a few glances outside. After a while, he turned his gaze back to Ling Chen and said, "Your companions have come to rescue you, aren't you feeling happy?"

Ling Chen replied indifferently, "I'm still here; what's there to be happy about?"

"It's best if you think that way, because those who came to rescue you won't leave alive. I advise you to stay put here." After finishing, the suited man waved his hand and left the room with his men.

After they left, Ling Chen immediately pulled out the note from his pocket and glanced at its contents.

Signal? Ling Chen was slightly startled, and his lips curled into a faint smile. After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen walked to a switch, turned off the room's lights, then turned them back on, repeating the process several times.

Meanwhile, outside the villa, Qiu Yong and others noticed the change in the lights of the room and exchanged a look. Zhang Zhongfeng understood and stood up again, with a bow and arrow aimed at Ling Chen's room, prepared to send the message over.

Whoosh!

Accompanied by the sound of breaking through the air, the arrow shot directly towards the room. Since the glass of the room had already been destroyed, everyone didn't have to worry about causing attention.

However, just as the arrow was about to enter the room, it suddenly wobbled mid-flight. Subsequently, the trajectory of the arrow veered to the side, embedding itself in the wall.

Seeing this, Qiu Yong and others were stunned, all focusing their gaze on Zhang Zhongfeng. The name of the "Arrow God" is not in vain; with Zhang Zhongfeng's skill, such a low-level mistake wouldn't happen.

Zhang Zhongfeng frowned slightly and spoke, "Someone interfered with my arrow."

"Who?"

Zhang Zhongfeng shook his head and said, "Not sure. However, being able to accomplish this means the other's strength is quite formidable." Just as he finished speaking, a 'whoosh' sound was heard, as if something was breaking through the air. Before Qiu Yong and others could speak, Zhang Zhongfeng's face changed drastically, urgently drawing his bow and firing an arrow.

It was only at this moment that everyone noticed an arrow shot from the direction of the villa. With Zhang Zhongfeng's movements, the two arrows soon collided in mid-air. Amazingly, when the arrows collided, the arrow shot by Zhang Zhongfeng was split open by the other arrow. Not only that, but the momentum of that arrow didn't diminish, heading straight for Zhang Zhongfeng.

Seeing the arrow quickly approaching, Zhang Zhongfeng hastily drew two arrows and quickly shot them out. Under the blockade of three arrows, that arrow was finally knocked down. Although they successfully resolved this sudden attack, Qiu Yong and others broke out in a cold sweat.

Everyone knew Zhang Zhongfeng's prowess; his arrows were feared even by ranking experts on the Heavenly List. However, it was unknown who made the shot—it was terrifyingly powerful. At this moment, everyone finally understood why Ling Chen advised Ling Kun over the phone not to come for the rescue.

"Big brother, what should we do now?"

Upon hearing Yuan Yun's inquiry, Qiu Yong thought for a moment and said, "Let's go, we'll discuss further after retreating. No matter who kidnapped Ling Chen, they are not someone we can provoke." Everyone agreed with Qiu Yong's decision without any objections.

At once, they slowly retreated from around the villa and then returned to the base by car.

After understanding Qiu Yong and others' encounter, Ling Kun and others fell into silence. The Southern Ling Family had already been destroyed, and now suddenly a master appeared, leaving everyone puzzled about who would do such a thing.

While pondering, Ling Kun glanced at Zhang Zhongfeng beside him and said, "Zhang, come over and help me with something."

Zhang Zhongfeng, without a word, followed Ling Kun to a spacious spot. The crowd, seeing this, didn't know what Ling Kun intended to do and gathered around.

"Zhang, could I borrow two arrows from you?"

Receiving the arrows from Zhang Zhongfeng, Ling Kun slowly retreated, putting some distance between himself and Zhang Zhongfeng. Seeing Ling Kun's actions, everyone immediately understood his intention—he wanted to evaluate the strength of the master from the villa.

"Are you ready? Here I go." As he finished speaking, Ling Kun flicked his wrist, sending an arrow shooting forth, quickly heading towards Zhang Zhongfeng. Seeing the arrow approaching, Zhang Zhongfeng skillfully drew and fired an arrow, instantly knocking the arrow out of mid-air.

"How much power did you use just now?"

Upon hearing Qiu Yong's inquiry, Ling Kun replied, "About seventy percent." After pausing, Ling Kun continued, "Now I'll try using full strength."

Yet, the result remained unchanged; Zhang Zhongfeng easily knocked the arrow down to the ground, feeling no pressure at all.

"Let me give it a try."

At this time, a voice came from behind the crowd. Turning around, everyone saw Tong Zhentian and He Ziyun walking side by side.

"Elder Tong, Mr. He, you've arrived."

Tong Zhentian nodded and said, "I heard Ling Chen was kidnapped, so we came to check out the situation." Saying this, Tong Zhentian took Ling Kun's place and took an arrow. With a slight preparation, Tong Zhentian's entire aura erupted, shooting the arrow forth like a gust of wind, instantly flying away. Ordinary people wouldn't be able to catch a glimpse of the arrow's shadow.

Clang!

Amidst a crisp sound, the tips of the two arrows collided fiercely, both dropping to the ground. Upon closer inspection, the tips of the two arrows were deformed. This demonstrated the tremendous power contained within them.

Zhang Zhongfeng slowly put away his longbow, shaking his head and said, "Your power hasn't even reached half of that person's."

Upon hearing this, everyone's expression finally changed. What a joke! Tong Zhentian is a towering figure in Martial Arts, a universally recognized expert. If Su He from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is considered the first in the world, Tong Zhentian's strength would rank in the top three. Yet, Zhang Zhongfeng claimed he wasn't even half as strong as the opponent. How formidable must that person be?

"Fourth Brother, are you sure you didn't make a mistake?" Yuan Yun asked, "In Martial Arts, those stronger than Elder Tong are few; could that person truly be that powerful?"

Zhang Zhongfeng nodded and said, "That person's strength is extremely terrifying; I have personally experienced it. Furthermore, the scariest thing is that we still don't know if that is their true strength."

Chapter 1394 Fated Rival (1)

Ling Kun turned to look at Tong Zhentian and asked, "Elder Tong, you are a Martial Arts elder. Over the years, have you ever heard of such a formidable expert?"

Tong Zhentian pondered for a moment, shook his head and said, "Never heard of him. As far as I know, the most powerful one is Su He, who has been in the Heavenly List realm the longest. Moreover, his advancement speed is faster than all of us. Other than him, I really don't know who else could be more powerful in this world."

After speaking, Tong Zhentian put down the arrow in his hand and said, "I don't think there's any need to try anymore."

"Why not let me try?" At this moment, an unfamiliar voice came through.

Upon hearing the sudden voice, everyone turned around to look, only to see an old man and a tall, handsome middle-aged man approaching.

Among these two, everyone only recognized one, and that was Guo Ming, the most renowned forging master in the Martial Arts world. As for the other middle-aged man, none of the people present had seen him before, except for Ling Kun. Upon seeing the middle-aged man beside Guo Ming, Ling Kun's expression suddenly became excited. He hurriedly ran over and knelt down with a 'thud', respectfully kowtowing three times.

Seeing Ling Kun's sudden action, everyone present was stunned. What... what is this about?

Just looking at Ling Kun and the middle-aged man's appearance, they seemed to be of similar age. Ling Kun kowtowing to the other, what could this mean?

While everyone was bewildered, the middle-aged man waved his hand slightly and said indifferently, "No need for such courtesy, stand up." After saying this, the middle-aged man ignored the astonished looks from the crowd and walked straight to Tong Zhentian, taking an arrow from his hand.

"Are you ready?" The middle-aged man looked at Zhang Zhongfeng on the opposite side and said, "You better be careful."

"Zhang Zhongfeng." Ling Kun spoke up in a reminder, "Bring your best state, and do not underestimate him." Ling Kun was aware of the middle-aged man's strength and was concerned that Zhang Zhongfeng might not take him seriously, hence the warning to avoid any public mishap.

Zhang Zhongfeng nodded, his eyes slightly narrowing, paying serious attention to the middle-aged man's movements.

Yet, even without any visible movement from the middle-aged man, the arrow suddenly shot out and swiftly came close. Without thinking, Zhang Zhongfeng immediately drew his bow and fired an arrow, hitting the incoming arrow precisely. At the moment of collision, not only was the middle-aged man's arrow not knocked down, it actually broke through Zhang Zhongfeng's arrow, continuing forward, albeit at a slightly reduced speed.

Seeing this, Zhang Zhongfeng's face darkened, and his gaze became serious.

In almost an instant, Zhang Zhongfeng shot three more arrows in quick succession, finally knocking the arrow down.

Witnessing this scene, everyone present was stunned by the prowess displayed by the middle-aged man, including Tong Zhentian. The middle-aged man's demonstrated skill was at least several folds greater than his own. When did such a formidable character appear in the Martial Arts world?

Connecting Ling Kun's act of kneeling and kowtowing, Tong Zhentian immediately suspected something. Ling Kun, being a prominent Heavenly List expert, was willing to lower himself and pay such respect in front of everyone, which signified the status of this middle-aged man in his heart.

"Is that person's strength about the same as mine?" At this moment, the middle-aged man's leisurely voice pulled everyone back from their shock.

After a brief moment of being dazed, Zhang Zhongfeng snapped back to reality, quickly nodding, and said, "Yes."

"Then I understand." The middle-aged man replied with a smile, "You guys being able to come back alive, really lucky. Perhaps, he disdained killing you few."

After speaking, the middle-aged man pointed at Ling Kun and Guo Ming, saying, "You two, come with me."

Ling Kun and Guo Ming dared not delay, quickly following behind the middle-aged man as he swiftly entered the control room. Shortly after, Ling Kun emerged from the control room and called a few individuals to come in.

When the group entered the control room, they saw the middle-aged man sitting on a chair, with Guo Ming standing respectfully beside him. "Ancestor, these are Ling Chen's most trusted elders and friends."

The middle-aged man nodded and said, "I think Ling Chen's kidnapping this time was not accidental. The opponent came specifically for us. More precisely, for a few of you." The middle-aged man pointed at Ling Kun, Tong Zhentian, and Chen Junfeng.

"Us?" Chen Junfeng asked in confusion, "What do you mean?"

"The person captured Ling Chen, yet did not promptly kill him, instead imprisoned him in a place known to all. Why do this? Given your intelligence, it shouldn't be hard to guess the opponent's purpose."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian and the other two's expressions changed slightly.

They finally understood why Ling Chen wanted to phone Ling Kun, emphasizing not to act rashly in the rescue attempt. Because Ling Chen had guessed the person's intention was to use him as bait to draw several Heavenly List experts to rescue, thereby dealing with them one by one.

Figuring this out, the group asked, "Then what should we do?"

"Had I not come, you would surely march to your death. Now, you can rest easy, with me here, I naturally won't let Ling Chen come to harm. Shortly, we'll rest for a bit, then I'll go meet this person and see their true identity. By then, you needn't follow; go directly to rescue Ling Chen, I'll handle the rest."

"Ancestor, if there's nothing else, we'll head out first." Ling Kun clasped his fists together respectfully, then led the group out of the control room.

"Mr. Ling." As soon as they exited, Tong Zhentian immediately approached Ling Kun, eagerly asking, "Who was that person just now?"

Ling Kun apologetically said, "Elder Tong, I'm sorry, I cannot disclose this person's identity for now."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian felt a bit regretful. As one who practiced martial arts, encountering such a master, he naturally wanted to make an acquaintance. However, he understood that the higher the level of the master, the broader the horizon, and they might not regard even a Heavenly List expert highly.

Thinking of this, Tong Zhentian couldn't help but sigh. "There is always someone better," indeed proven true. All along, he thought his skill was rare in the world, with few opponents. Now, this middle-aged man's appearance clarified for him what it meant by the saying "a frog in a well." Perhaps, such individuals are truly worthy of being called reclusive masters.

After a brief rest and preparations, Ling Kun then led the group and headed towards the destination. With the middle-aged man present, everyone was considerably relieved, no longer bearing the previous anxious expressions. Though the opponent was strong, their strength wasn't insignificant either.

Chapter 1395 Fated Rival (2)

Actually, this mission didn't require too many people. However, everyone was eager to join. As for the reason... Rescuing Ling Chen was secondary; the main attraction was witnessing the confrontation between that middle-aged man and the formidable opponent.

Even Tong Zhentian was no exception. Several Heavenly List experts were excited, eager to see what a real battle between masters would look like.

Before long, the convoy slowly arrived outside the luxurious villa.

The group didn't bother to disguise their intentions, openly getting out of the cars and heading straight to the villa, observing the surroundings. Ling Kun and Tong Zhentian led the way, not even bothering to greet the guards, kicking down the villa's iron gate and striding inside.

Immediately, the security personnel responsible for patrolling around the villa rushed over, forming a human wall blocking Ling Kun and the others from entering.

"Get your boss out here," Ling Kun demanded.

A man in a suit stepped forward, glanced at the crowd, and asked, "Which one is Ling Kun?"

Ling Kun replied, "That's me."

"What about Tong Zhentian, Chen Junfeng, and Ji Gang? Are the three of them here?"

Tong Zhentian frowned slightly. It seemed their guess was right; these people were well aware of the Heavenly List masters around Ling Chen, clearly intending to draw them here.

"We're all here, so it's time for you to call your master out," Tong Zhentian said in a deep voice.

"I'm right here." The voice captured everyone's attention. They looked up and saw a person standing on the third-floor balcony of the villa. To be precise, it was a middle-aged man in plain clothing, with unremarkable appearance, hardly standing out in a crowd.

At this moment, the man was standing with his hands clasped behind his back, looking down at everyone. Whoever his gaze fell upon couldn't help but feel a chill in their hearts.

How terrifying! Even for Heavenly List experts like Tong Zhentian, Ling Kun, and Chen Junfeng, they could sense the man's formidable presence. That gaze alone was enough to defeat without a fight.

Clang!

Just then, there was a crisp sound, followed by someone jumping down from the second-floor balcony. Seeing who it was, everyone couldn't help but breathe a sigh of relief.

"Ling Chen, are you alright?"

The one coming wasn't someone else; it was Ling Chen, who had been kidnapped earlier. Facing the concerned gazes, Ling Chen smiled slightly, "I'm fine. They fed me well and treated me nicely. If it weren't for thinking about my life, I wouldn't even want to leave."

Earlier in the room, hearing the commotion outside, Ling Chen knew the rescue team had arrived. The mysterious middle-aged man merely wanted to use his presence to draw Tong Zhentian and the others over. Since everyone was here, there was no point in staying in the room; better to rush out and fight alongside them.

"Hey!" Ling Chen raised his head, shouting at the man on the third-floor balcony, "You've achieved your goal, so shouldn't you reveal your identity now?"

"I said, you're not worthy of knowing my name." The middle-aged man's tone was devoid of emotion, coldly saying, "Tonight, everyone appearing within my sight must die."

"Tsk ts! Quite the arrogance. I say, you'd better watch it so you don't regret it later," Ling Chen mocked.

"Oh, really?" The middle-aged man sneered, "In that case, I'll start with you." As he finished speaking, he lightly tapped with his toes, like an eagle spreading its wings, swooping down from the third-floor balcony at lightning speed. In the blink of an eye, he was in front of Ling Chen, striking towards his forehead. If it hit, Ling Chen's life would be finished.

But at this critical moment, the alert Tong Zhentian swiftly moved forward, striking Ling Chen's back with one hand. Suddenly, propelled by that Power, Ling Chen's body thrust forward, narrowly evading the middle-aged man's assault.

Meanwhile, Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun attacked from the left and right, launching offensives from either side. Faced with their pincer assault, the middle-aged man sneered disdainfully, not taking their attack seriously. As Chen Junfeng approached, the middle-aged man tapped his feet, instantly disappearing.

Where is he?

Seeing this, Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun were shocked. He vanished!

While the two were stunned, Tong Zhentian's voice suddenly came from the side, "Watch out above."

Hearing Tong Zhentian's warning, the two hurriedly looked up at the sky, realizing they didn't even know when the middle-aged man had jumped up. At that moment, the man had his feet upwards, palms downwards, striking towards Ling Kun and Chen Junfeng's heads.

The middle-aged man came on fiercely, moving quickly, with Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun having no time to dodge. With no other choice, they gathered all their Inner Strength, punching towards the sky.

As flesh and fists collided, Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun, standing on the ground, sank sharply, knees slightly bending, almost knocked to the ground.

However, seeing their flushed cheeks, although they barely withstood the attack, they wouldn't last long. After merely a few seconds, their knees and waists bent further, almost unable to hold on.

Beside them, Tong Zhentian, fearing they might be in trouble, tapped his toes, quickly leaping from the ground and kicking towards the middle-aged man in mid-air. Observing, onlookers expected the middle-aged man to retreat. Nevertheless, the man had no intention of retreating; as Tong Zhentian's attack approached, he suddenly rotated his body in mid-air, spreading his legs in opposite directions to form a split.

Suddenly, before Tong Zhentian's foot could contact the man's body, the middle-aged man rebounded him with a kick, sending him flying far away. At that moment, a 'whoosh whoosh' of breaking air came from above.

Looking closely, Zhang Zhongfeng was drawing bow and arrow not far away, shooting over ten arrows to forcefully limit the middle-aged man's movements. Taking this opportunity, Chen Junfeng and Ling Kun, down below, quickly retreated, escaping from under the middle-aged man's palms.

Whew whew!

Retreating to a safe zone, Ling Kun and Chen Junfeng breathed heavily; in those brief seconds, their clothes were almost soaked in sweat.

Exchanging glances, Ling Kun and Chen Junfeng saw a trace of fear in each other's eyes.

Though they knew the opponent was powerful, experiencing it firsthand made them realize that the opponent's power wasn't just strong but terrifying.

Three Heavenly List experts teamed up to attack, yet not only did they fail to inflict damage but were easily repelled instead—what kind of strength is this?

Chapter 1396 Fated Rivals (3)

"Your strength is too weak." The middle-aged man shook his head and said, "I thought you could at least last a minute."

Tong Zhentian looked at the opponent with a grim expression. Although the man's words made him uncomfortable, he had to admit that this person in front of him indeed had the right to mock them.

"All of you step back."

At this moment, a voice came from the crowd. Upon hearing this voice, Tong Zhentian and the others couldn't help but feel a surge of spirit and retreated one after another.

"Oh?" The middle-aged man looked at the crowd in surprise and said to himself, "Is there an expert who hasn't appeared yet?"

"Heh! An expert may be too much to say, but I think it's more appropriate for you to call me an old acquaintance."

With these words, a man stepped out from the crowd. Upon seeing this man's appearance, the middle-aged man's expression suddenly changed, completely losing the calmness he had before.

"You... you are actually... alive..." The middle-aged man pointed at the person in disbelief and said.

"Aren't you the same? To be honest, I'm more surprised than you; I thought you were long dead. Su Cheng'en, speaking of which... it's been a few hundred years since we last met, hasn't it?"

A few hundred years? Upon hearing their conversation, the crowd was somewhat confused. Was it that these two spoke unclearly, or did they hear wrong? A few hundred years... are they even human?

Compared to the puzzled crowd, Ling Chen and Ling Kun, who knew the inside story, were even more shocked to realize that this person was from the same era as Ling Gengqiu.

Su Cheng'en... surname Su... could it be! Ling Chen's expression slightly changed, and he couldn't help but cast his gaze toward Xu Ming, not far away. At this moment, the latter lowered his head, hiding in the crowd, seeming very afraid of being discovered by Su Cheng'en.

Perhaps feeling Ling Chen's gaze, Xu Ming slightly averted his head, looked at Ling Chen, and then gently nodded. Indeed! With Xu Ming's confirmation, Ling Chen finally affirmed his thoughts.

Su Cheng'en! This was the person Xu Ming mentioned before. It turns out that the person who kidnapped him was actually Su Cheng'en, no wonder his strength was so terrifying.

"Are you going to intervene in this matter?" Su Cheng'en asked coldly.

Ling Gengqiu said lightly, "The person you captured is my person. You causing him trouble is the same as going against me."

"Hmph!" Su Cheng'en sneered, "Ling Gengqiu, anyway, we have quite a bit of resentment between us already, so it doesn't matter to add one more, don't you think?"

Ling Gengqiu nodded and said, "You're right. In that case, why don't we exchange some blows and see if it's you or me who's stronger after all these centuries?"

"I'm not afraid of you." With these words, Su Cheng'en turned and ran towards the luxurious villa. Upon reaching the wall, Su Cheng'en lightly tapped with his toe, his body akin to a shadow, instantly climbed to the top of the villa, and then disappeared.

Ling Gengqiu turned to Ling Chen and said, "Wait here, I'll go teach that guy a lesson." After saying that, Ling Gengqiu followed Su Cheng'en's steps and disappeared on the villa roof.

Ling Chen knew there was a large terrace atop the villa; Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en didn't want others to see their duel, so they chose it as their battleground.

Seeing Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en disappear, Tong Zhentian and the others couldn't help but feel disappointed. They came along mainly to witness the duel between Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en, but in the end, they couldn't see anything, only hearing 'bang bang' sounds from the rooftop and the scattering stones.

More than ten minutes have passed, and the battle on the rooftop became increasingly intense. Ling Chen and the others grew tense, unable to discern the outcome of the fight above.

A few more minutes passed, and finally, no sound came from the rooftop, nor did anyone come down for a long time.

"Dad, do you think something happened to him? Should we... go up and see?" Ling Chen asked. He wasn't worried about anything else, but if Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en both ended up severely injured, they should hurry up and strike.

Ling Kun apparently thought of this as well and immediately ran towards the villa.

Before long, Ling Kun and Ling Chen arrived at the terrace of the villa. As soon as they stepped out, they saw the large terrace in complete disarray, the ground entirely cracked with stones scattered everywhere. In the center of the terrace stood Ling Gengqiu alone. Apart from him, there was no trace of Su Cheng'en.

"Old Ancestor." Ling Chen hurried over and asked, "Are you alright?"

Ling Gengqiu turned around, looking indifferent, and said, "I'm fine. Haven't fought in hundreds of years, almost got rusty."

"Where's Su Cheng'en?"

"Ran away." Ling Gengqiu said helplessly, "That guy is still as cowardly as ever, afraid of death, not daring to risk his life against me. Sigh! It's too boring, I wanted to loosen up my muscles properly, but that guy didn't even give me a chance."

"Old Ancestor, how strong is that Su Cheng'en?" Ling Chen asked.

"Extremely powerful." Mentioning this, Ling Gengqiu's expression turned solemn instantly, "I'm not kidding, Su Cheng'en's strength might even surpass mine at my peak. However, from the looks of our recent fight, he seemed to have some concern and didn't dare to go all out. Otherwise, I wouldn't have had such an easy time."

Hearing this, Ling Kun couldn't help feeling strange, "Could he be testing?"

"Maybe." At this, Ling Gengqiu sighed lightly, "I never expected, after hundreds of years, to still encounter my arch-enemy, seems like we are destined adversaries."

Ling Chen curiously asked, "Old Ancestor, who exactly is that Su Cheng'en?"

"He is the founder of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the first Pavilion Master, Su Cheng'en." Pausing, Ling Chen added, "The bastard who took my wife."

Uh...

Ling Chen was aware of Ling Gengqiu's romantic past. Back then, because of Ling Gengqiu's amorous nature, his wife left in anger and later followed the first Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, probably the source of the grudges between Ling Gengqiu and Su Cheng'en.

"Old Ancestor, everywhere in the world, there are lovely women, no need to cling to just one flower."

Ling Gengqiu's eyes lit up and he patted Ling Chen's shoulder with a smile, "Well said, very sensible, looks like you have a lot of potential, kid."

Ling Chen chuckled, then shifted the topic to Ling Gengqiu's physical condition, "Old Ancestor, how's your physical recovery?"

"Not bad, but unfortunately I lost a leg. Luckily, there are quite a few new things in this era, Guo Ming got me a set of exoskeleton armor, usually no big problem. Only, with incomplete limbs, my strength is hard to restore to peak levels. Before, with my strength, I could handle all troubles, but things are different now, since Su Cheng'en is still alive, I have to be wary of him."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "I understand. Rest assured, Old Ancestor, I'll do my utmost to help you find that lost limb."

Chapter 1397 Su Cheng'en (1)

Outside the wooden house located in the valley of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there was a muffled 'bang' as the door was forcefully pushed open from outside. Hearing the commotion at the entrance, a young man immediately walked out from inside the house. Seeing the person who had entered, his expression changed slightly, and he hurriedly went up to greet, "Master."

"Ancestor." At this time, Su He also walked out from the room and respectfully called.

Su Cheng'en glanced at Su He and the young man without speaking a word, his face gloomy as he walked into his room. Su He was slightly stunned, immediately realizing something was wrong, and quickly followed the young man into the room. Seeing Su Cheng'en sitting there with a dark expression, Su He didn't dare to breathe heavily and stood honestly to the side. At this moment, he no longer had the demeanor of the world's greatest expert.

After a long while, Su Cheng'en slowly raised his head and directed his gaze towards Su He. Feeling the other's stare, Su He lowered his head even further.

"Ling Chen didn't die." Su Cheng'en opened his mouth, squeezing out a few words through his teeth, "The Heavenly List masters by his side are unharmed."

Upon hearing this, Su He couldn't help but ask, "Ancestor took action personally; it's impossible for there to be a mistake..."

"You are right; this failure wasn't due to my mistake but because of someone's appearance. Su He, you were once the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, with many things under your responsibility, yet you have completely disappointed me. Do you know who I encountered?"

Su He shook his head, feeling a bit uneasy. He knew all too well the strength of Su Cheng'en; the person who made Su Cheng'en return without success must be extraordinary.

"Ling Gengqiu." Su Cheng'en practically spat out the name through gritted teeth.

"This is impossible!" Su He's expression changed dramatically, "He has been dead for so many years; how could he still be alive? Besides, wasn't he dismembered by us?"

Seeing the look of shock on Su He's face, Su Cheng'en coldly replied, "Never underestimate the mysteries of this world. Ling Gengqiu possesses immortality, a fact you and I both know well. Even though I dismembered him back then, his limbs never decayed. Haven't you discovered this through all these years of research?"

"Back then, Ling Gengqiu's severed limbs were stolen and scattered across various places. We mobilized so many resources from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion but never found their whereabouts. How did Ling Chen manage it?"

"I don't care how he did it; all I know is none among you can compare to him. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has gone through how many generations of Pavilion Masters? Yet there hasn't been any gain. That Ling Chen found in just a few short years what you failed to uncover in centuries. Hmph! I want to ask you, has the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion become useless to this extent?"

Su He hastily apologized, "Ancestor, please calm down; it is our incompetence, failing your efforts."

"If you weren't a descendant of the Su Family, I would really like to kill you." With a deep breath, Su Cheng'en calmed his anger, and slowly said, "Since Ling Gengqiu has been resurrected, this matter is no longer yours alone."

Su He pondered Su Cheng'en's intentions and said, "Is Ancestor planning to officially come out of seclusion?"

"What else could I do? Do you think you alone can contend with Ling Gengqiu? Ling Gengqiu's strength hasn't fully recovered, and this is our best opportunity."

"Ancestor, if there is anything you need from me, just say the word. I will give it my all and will never let you down again," Su He declared with determination, claspng his fists.

"Rest assured, I still have use for you, so you are of significant value to me right now. But don't blame me if I remind you — I do not wish to see you fail again; otherwise, don't accuse me of being impolite. Understood?" Su Cheng'en coldly admonished.

"Yes." Su He promptly responded.

"The current Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is that little girl named Su Mei. When you have the chance, bring her to see me."

Hearing this, Su He couldn't help but be taken aback, asking with a puzzled expression, "Why does Ancestor want to see her? She's just a little girl, unaware of anything."

"I know. However, Ling Chen's power has already formed, and now with Ling Gengqiu aiding him, do you think the two of us can dismantle their power? Without leveraging the forces of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we can accomplish nothing. To eliminate Ling Gengqiu and Ling Chen, the first step is to curb their power, and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is undoubtedly the best choice."

"But... if that's the case, she must know all the secrets."

Su Cheng'en replied coldly, "So what? I'm her ancestor; does she dare not listen to me?"

"No, that's not what I mean, I just... worry she won't be able to handle it."

"A descendant of the Su Family won't be that lacking." Pausing, Su Cheng'en shifted the topic: "If you don't want her to know too much, that's not difficult. Have you personally step in and take over the entire Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. That way, I wouldn't have to meet that little girl."

Su He thought for a while, nodding: "I'll give it a try and see if I can persuade her."

Stepping out of the wooden house, Su He looked at the familiar valley surroundings and couldn't help but sigh softly. Originally intending to detach from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and let Su Mei develop on her own, considering the current situation, it seems that won't be possible. The thought of meeting with Su Mei gave Su He a bit of a headache.

He knew his granddaughter well, though she was the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, she was, after all, a woman, pure-hearted, and many dirty, bloody affairs were not suitable for her. Because of this, over the years, he had undertaken almost all the clandestine activities.

Unknowingly, Su He had reached the Yangxin Pavilion.

"You're finally back."

The voice came, and Su He turned to see Du Kang leaning against a big tree, holding a wine gourd, drinking by himself.

"You've worked hard during this period."

"Not really hard, I just did what I should do," Du Kang said blandly, "But I am curious why you have returned this time. Is it to reminisce with her or something else?"

"That's none of your concern; just handle what you're responsible for," Su He replied, then walked straight towards the exit of the Yangxin Pavilion.

Watching Su He's gradually disappearing back, Du Kang took a sip of wine, gently shook his head, and murmured to himself, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will probably never find peace."

Before long, Su He skillfully avoided the patrolling members of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and arrived directly outside the room where Su Mei lived.

Knock knock knock!

Accompanied by the sound of knocking, Su Mei's sweet voice immediately came from inside the room: "Come in!"

Chapter 1398 Su Cheng'en (Part 2)

As the door was pushed open, Su He strode in and casually closed the door behind him.

At this moment, in the spacious room, Su Mei was sitting beside the tea table, seriously brewing kung fu tea. Hearing footsteps slowly approaching, she asked without lifting her head, "What is it?"

"Little girl, it's me."

Hearing the familiar voice, Su Mei's hand, which was holding a teacup, trembled slightly. She slowly shifted her gaze to Su He. After staring for a moment, Su Mei lightly bit her thin lip and stood up from her seat.

"Grandpa, you... I thought I would never see you again."

Su He quickly walked up to Su Mei, reached out to stroke her hair, and smiled fondly: "You're my favorite, I would definitely come back to see you. I'm sorry, because of me, you've endured a lot of hardships."

Su Mei hurriedly shook her head and said, "I'm not troubled. I just don't understand. Grandpa, why did you do it? Going against the entire Martial Arts world, this choice was too unwise."

"Little girl, it's not about being wise or unwise." Su He said earnestly: "For us, everything has only two outcomes: either win or lose. This time I lost, and I've already faced the consequences. But I'm very grateful, because of your decision, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has been preserved intact."

"Grandpa..."

Su He waved his hand, stopping Su Mei from speaking, and said, "Little girl, I came back this time to discuss something important with you."

"What is it?"

"Lately, I've been watching your actions closely. I must admit, you've grown rapidly, and you've handled many things very well, including establishing the Heavenly Mechanism Arts Hall. If not for your decisiveness, the status of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would have become precarious."

"That was Elder Du's idea, I just accepted his suggestion."

Su He smiled and said, "A successful leader must learn to adopt others' suggestions, but not blindly. You need to have your own ideas and then make judgments. I don't expect you to grow to that level overnight, just giving you advice. The predicament the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion currently faces is a good test for you. If you overcome this hurdle, you will truly grow. I believe the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will flourish in your hands someday."

"I will try my best." After a pause, Su Mei curiously asked, "Grandpa, you still haven't told me, what important thing do you want to discuss with me?"

"I want to talk about Ling Chen. I originally didn't want to interfere with your and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's development, but this situation is severe enough that I have to step in. Little girl, Ling Chen has someone very skilled by his side now. That person's strength is beyond your imagination, even I am not his match. With the power Ling Chen currently holds, he can easily crush the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. So, we can't give him this opportunity; we must find a way to eliminate this threat."

"So, Grandpa, what do you mean...?"

"You're currently competing with the Dragon Tiger Hall, that's good. But I hope you can continue to pressure them, forcing them to focus all their attention on the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Only this way will I have enough time to prepare other things."

Hearing this, Su Mei couldn't help but ask, "Grandpa, what are you planning to do?"

"That you don't need to know. In any case, I won't involve the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion." At this point, Su He changed the subject and said, "There's one more thing, I want you to release Wang Hao."

"Wang Hao?"

"Because of the Skyhawk Pavilion incident, you've kept him locked up in the cell. This person is still of great use to me. I hope you release him, so he can be my assistant."

"This..." Su Mei said with some difficulty, "Grandpa, just releasing him like that, I'm afraid it will arouse suspicion, how about..."

"I understand." Su He, being so clever, immediately grasped Su Mei's intentions, "Don't worry, I will handle it personally."

...

That evening, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was attacked by unknown individuals. More than ten Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples were injured. By the time Su Mei and Du Kang arrived with reinforcements, Wang Hao, who was held in the cell, was nowhere to be found.

"Pavilion Master, do you know who rescued Wang Hao?" Du Kang, after inspecting the site, quickly came to Su Mei's side and asked.

Su Mei shook her head and said, "I don't know. However, anyone daring enough to rescue someone from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion must be strong. Elder Du, help me release a Heavenly Mechanism Order to search throughout the Martial Arts world for the intruder's whereabouts. Daring to act recklessly at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I must make him pay."

"Heavenly Mechanism Order?" Du Kang was slightly taken aback, feeling it might be an overreaction. Since the establishment of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, a Heavenly Mechanism Order has been issued fewer than five times. Now, to use a Heavenly Mechanism Order for one intruder seemed unnecessary.

"Pavilion Master, should we reconsider?"

"No need." Su Mei sternly said, "The dignity of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion cannot be desecrated. I want everyone to know that, past or present, those who oppose the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will never meet a good end."

Seeing Su Mei's determination, Du Kang simply stopped persuading and nodded, "Alright then."

Watching Du Kang leave, Su Mei let out a sigh of relief, fearing he might see through anything.

Grandpa, I've done everything I can, wish you good luck!

...

These days, Ling Chen's life had been quite comfortable. Although Su Cheng'en's appearance gave him a scare, fortunately, nothing happened. Moreover, with Ling Gengqiu's arrival, Ling Chen felt all the threats had disappeared. It's a joke, who would dare bully him with such a formidable ancestor around?

A few days ago, Ling Chen had sent Ling Kun, Yang Qingling, and Ling Tao on a flight to Beijing. They were determined to rebuild the Ling Family, and Ling Gengqiu's appearance only strengthened their resolve.

Not only had mom and dad left, but even grandma and grandpa went to Beijing with them, leaving Ling Chen alone in their large house. Fortunately, with Ling Gengqiu around, taking advantage of his status as a Ling family descendant, Ling Chen invited Ling Gengqiu to live at home, under the guise of honoring his ancestor. In reality, his true intention was to learn from Ling Gengqiu and increase his knowledge.

Ling Gengqiu was a man full of stories, and given his many years of experience, talking with him was a delightful thing.

In the past couple of days, Ling Chen and Ling Gengqiu hadn't left the house, spending their days lounging, eating, drinking, and enjoying a lazy life.

Ling Gengqiu was by no means a righteous gentleman. Such a life of wine, meat, and attendants was something he longed for. The only pity was the lack of women.

Ling Chen was quite filial, providing good food and drink every day. He wasn't lacking money, so as long as his ancestor had any requests, he would immediately make a call and have them arranged.

Chapter 1399 Taking the Old Master Out for Some Fun

"Hey! I say, you punk, we've been cooped up at home for so many days, isn't it time to go out and do something?" Ling Gengqiu swung the empty wine bottle, burped, and said.

"Elder Ling, where do you want to go for fun?" Ling Chen asked with a smile. The two had been hanging out for a few days, and the relationship had gotten quite close. Ling Gengqiu was someone who didn't like being constrained by rules. Ling Chen kept calling him ancestor, which annoyed Ling Gengqiu. Eventually, he forced Ling Chen to change the way he called him to 'brother,' making him feel younger.

But honestly, Ling Gengqiu's appearance and physique were well-maintained. At a glance, people might think he just turned thirty.

Except for the beginning, when he was unaccustomed to the new title, Ling Chen got used to it after saying it enough. Fortunately, Ling Kun and the others weren't around; otherwise, if they knew Ling Chen and Ling Gengqiu addressed each other as brothers, they'd probably scold Ling Chen thoroughly.

Ling Gengqiu's eyes turned as he spoke with a half-smile: "People like us, young folks, of course, should go where there are a lot of peers. What do you think?"

As expected!

Ling Chen shook his head slightly. Ling Gengqiu's mind was still on women. As the saying goes, a mountain can be moved, but a nature can't be changed; this ancestor of the family was beyond saving.

Oh well, let's treat it as showing respect to the elder and take him out to indulge a bit.

"Alright, bro, I'll go get the car. Tonight, I'll take you out to have a real good time."

In no time, the two of them drove from home, heading straight for the busiest area in the city center.

Half an hour passed, and Ling Chen parked the car by the roadside, then led Ling Gengqiu to a nightclub outside. Listening to the explosive music coming from inside the club and looking at the sexy beauties dressed skimpily outside, Ling Gengqiu felt rejuvenated and couldn't wait to rush forward.

Was he that eager? Ling Chen felt helpless and quickly held Ling Gengqiu back, "Bro, don't rush; the exciting part is still inside. Come, let me show you around first."

Upon entering the nightclub, someone immediately greeted them, "Chen!"

"Yo! Xiong, what are you doing here?" Ling Chen asked with a smile.

"One of my guys just got your call saying you were coming over to hang out, so I definitely had to come to accompany you." While speaking, Zhao Zhengxiong glanced at Ling Gengqiu beside him and asked, "Chen, who is this?"

"This is Ling Gengqiu, my bro," Ling Chen casually introduced.

Zhao Zhengxiong immediately greeted, "Chen's bro is my bro too. Qiu, my name is Zhao Zhengxiong. In the future, no matter what you want to play, just let me know, guaranteed satisfaction."

"No problem, no problem," Ling Gengqiu responded vaguely.

"Chen, your private room is ready. Come, I'll take you inside."

The private room Zhao Zhengxiong personally arranged was undoubtedly the best spot in the entire nightclub, located on the second floor, offering an excellent view of the whole place.

Sitting in the private room, Ling Gengqiu glanced left and right, searching everywhere for the presence of women.

Seeing so many sexy beauties twisting their bodies in the dance floor, Ling Gengqiu couldn't sit still, itching to dive over immediately.

"Bro, watch your image," Ling Chen whispered beside him.

Just then, the nightclub's performance began, with over a dozen sexy bikini-clad women stepping onto the stage, twisting and turning their figures freely under the explosive music, exuding passion and allure.

Ling Gengqiu stared wide-eyed, watching the sexy women dance without blinking, his throat occasionally undulating as he swallowed mouthfuls of saliva.

"Tsk ts! You kids from this generation are truly lucky."

Hearing Ling Gengqiu's exclamation, Ling Chen chuckled and asked, "Bro, what's up?"

"In our generation, where were there any women daring to dress like this? They all wrapped up tightly, and a slight exposure would be considered disgraceful. Ah! You're the lucky ones. Women, if you have something good, you should show it off, share it with everyone, right?"

Listening to Ling Gengqiu's insights, Ling Chen couldn't help but cough lightly. Is he really someone who's lived for hundreds of years? Why does he seem like an oddball?

Zhao Zhengxiong, who was a quick thinker beside him, saw Ling Gengqiu gazing intently at the beautiful women on stage and immediately called a subordinate over to whisper instructions.

Before long, the private room door opened, and a young man led seven or eight slim, young, and pretty women inside.

"Qiu, see if there's anyone you fancy. I have lots of women here, and if you don't like these, I'll call another batch right away."

Ling Gengqiu examined the beauties lined up before him, smiling and nodding, "They're all decent quality. This one, this one, and this one, just these three."

"What are you all standing around for? Quickly come over to accompany Qiu for drinks," Zhao Zhengxiong immediately commanded, "Qiu is my bro, so you all better take it seriously and serve him well."

Hearing this, the three beauties' eyes lit up. Everyone in East Sea City knew Zhao Zhengxiong's name, and someone who's a brother to him was naturally not an ordinary person. As long as they pleased this elder brother well, there would surely be many benefits.

Looking at Ling Gengqiu, surrounded by three beauties and full of smiles, Ling Chen felt helpless. Humiliating, too humiliating!

After sitting in the private room for a while and seeing Ling Gengqiu enjoying himself thoroughly, Ling Chen got up and left, conveniently taking Zhao Zhengxiong along. If the two of them stayed around, Ling Gengqiu definitely wouldn't let loose. Since they brought him out to have fun, naturally, he should enjoy himself to the fullest.

As they shut the private room door, Zhao Zhengxiong took out a cigarette and asked, "Chen, is this Bro Qiu... freshly released?"

"Hmm? What do you mean?" Ling Chen didn't catch his drift immediately.

Zhao Zhengxiong chuckled, "I saw how thirsty he looked, so..."

Hearing this, Ling Chen finally caught on and smiled as he said, "Sort of, he's been holding back for many years."

"No wonder. Chen, why not come sit in my office? It's quieter there, and we can go back when Brother Qiu has had his fill."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Sounds good."

And with that, the two walked through the second-floor corridor straight to Zhao Zhengxiong's office. Although the office was on the nightclub's second floor, its soundproofing was excellent, hardly letting any outside noise through.

Sitting on the sofa, Ling Chen crossed his legs, took the wine glass Zhao Zhengxiong handed him, and asked, "What have you been busy with lately?"

"I've been busy with nothing. Didn't Chen tell Jiang Hao last time? So we've halted all expansion plans, even letting go of nearby towns."

"East Sea City is a rich piece of meat, big enough for us to feast on. No need to put energy into those things. You've worked hard for so long; it's time to enjoy yourself, find a woman to marry, you surely won't stay a bachelor for life."

Chapter 1400 Who Is the Dog? (1)

"Chen, are you joking? Do you think someone like me can attract a woman?" Zhao Zhengxiong laughed self-deprecatingly. "Yes, that's right, we do have our moments of glory, always having a group following us wherever we go, with others nodding and bowing to us for fear of offending us. But, while we enjoy things others can't have, we also can't enjoy what ordinary people have. To us, family is both a longing and a vulnerability."

"At your level, do you still fear someone would use your family against you?" Ling Chen shook his head with a smile, "I believe no one in East Sea City would dare to do that."

"Not now, but what about the future?" Zhao Zhengxiong said helplessly, "Chen, we've done a lot of bad things, and made many enemies, there's karma for this, it just hasn't caught up with us yet. I don't want my family to bear unnecessary risks because of me. Moreover, the world changes every day, and we can't guarantee we'll be here laughing and chatting ten years from now."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately understood Zhao Zhengxiong's concern. No one knows what will happen tomorrow; Zhao Zhengxiong can't guarantee, and neither can he. While the future holds endless beauty, it also harbors countless dangers.

"What I need to do now is enjoy and cherish every day." Zhao Zhengxiong suddenly laughed, "I heard that Jiang Hao kid seems to have found a girlfriend. Last time, when we dined together, he brought her to meet me, said they were just friends, but I could tell their relationship was not ordinary."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen became interested, "That kid never mentioned it to me. Hey! What does that woman do?"

"Seems she's a teacher, a recent college graduate. She looks decent, and is quite gentle. Jiang Hao is quite lucky; I hope the two of them make it."

"Okay, next time there's a chance, I'll definitely want to meet her."

Just as they spoke, there was a 'knock knock knock' on the door outside.

"Come in."

The door opened, and a young man in a suit walked in to report, "Xiong, there's trouble outside."

"Trouble?" Zhao Zhengxiong chuckled lightly, "This is truly rare. No one ever dares to make trouble in my place. Who are these people?"

"I don't recognize them, all unfamiliar faces, plus a few foreigners."

"No wonder, no one from East Sea City should dare make trouble here. Chen, interested in checking it out with me?"

"I'm just as idle, let's go and have a look."

With that, Ling Chen followed Zhao Zhengxiong out of the office and straight to the nightclub's first-floor hall's private room.

Before they even entered the room, they could hear 'bang bang' sounds from inside, clearly things were being smashed. At the door, several men in suits stood guard, with no one going in.

"Chen, Xiong."

Seeing Ling Chen and Zhao Zhengxiong approaching, the men in suits quickly stepped aside.

Ling Chen glanced into the room, only to see three foreign friends and several Huaxia people fighting, the ground littered with debris from smashed bottles, and even a few chairs were broken.

However, what surprised Ling Chen was that besides the fighting men, there were two women in the room, one of them also a foreigner, blonde and blue-eyed, and very beautiful.

But it was the other woman who caught Ling Chen's attention.

Leng Feifei!

What is she doing here? Ling Chen was taken aback and turned to say something to Zhao Zhengxiong. The latter immediately made a gesture, and the men in suits pounced into the room like wolves and tigers, quickly separating the fighting individuals.

At this time, Leng Feifei also noticed Ling Chen's presence, got up quickly and walked over, "Ling Chen, you're here too?"

"This nightclub belongs to a friend of mine, so I came over to take a look. I didn't expect to run into this." Ling Chen said, pointing at the foreign friends, "Are those people your friends?"

Leng Feifei nodded, "Just a misunderstanding, we'll handle it ourselves. Please tell your friend we're very sorry, and we'll compensate for the damages at cost."

"That's not a problem, as long as no one was hurt."

"Feifei, is this your friend?" The blonde-haired, blue-eyed foreign beauty stepped beside Leng Feifei, looked Ling Chen up and down, and asked in not-so-fluent Chinese.

"Sofia, let me introduce you. This is Ling Chen, a very good friend of mine. I owe a lot of my success to his help."

"So this is Mr. Ling, nice to meet you." Sofia was very polite.

"Hello."

"Feifei, let's go, don't stay with these white dogs, or you'll catch their stench." As he spoke, a handsome, tall young man strode over with an angry face. Due to the earlier fight, his casual suit was soaked in alcohol, and even his tie had been pulled off.

White dogs? Ling Chen was slightly startled, his gaze swept over the faces of the foreign friends, and he understood the young man's meaning. These were all Caucasians, no wonder the young man called them white dogs.

Leng Feifei frowned slightly, dissatisfied, "Shao An, watch your language, they're all my friends, don't insult them."

"Feifei, look what I've become? If it weren't for these bastards, would I be like this?" The young man named Shao An said with anger, "I've never suffered such a loss in my life. Just wait, I'll deal with them sooner or later."

"Chen." Taking advantage of the situation, Zhao Zhengxiong quietly came to Ling Chen's side and whispered, "I know this Shao An, he's the eldest son of the Shao Group, very wealthy, a regular here."

"Shao Group?" Ling Chen thought for a moment and shook his head, "Never heard of it."

Zhao Zhengxiong subtly flattered, "Chen, a person like you, it's no wonder you haven't heard of a small company like that. The Shao Group's headquarters are in Beijing, among the top 100 enterprises in the country. Hongyu Group is currently ranked first domestically, and the Shao Group is at ninety-eighth."

With this comparison, Ling Chen immediately recognized the weight of the Shao Group.

A small company, not worth mentioning!

"Mr. Zhao." At this moment, Shao An noticed Zhao Zhengxiong outside the private room and his face lit up with joy. He immediately beckoned Zhao Zhengxiong over with a wave.

Zhao Zhengxiong hesitated for a moment, his eyes falling on Ling Chen. Since Ling Chen was here, he naturally had to follow his lead. Seeing the latter nod slightly, he walked over to Shao An with a full-faced smile and asked, "President Shao, what can I do for you?"