

The Beauty 1411

Chapter 1411 The Young Lady's Invitation

When Ling Gengqiu returned home, he was already back, leisurely sitting on the sofa, holding his phone, chatting with those beautiful women.

Seeing Ling Chen come back, Ling Gengqiu said without raising his head, "So soon."

"Big bro, take it easy in the future, stop giving me trouble."

"Hey! Who was that woman you met today?" Ling Gengqiu asked with interest, "She's not only pretty and well-shaped, but also capable. She was originally going to catch me, but as soon as I mentioned your name, she stopped immediately. Tell me honestly, do you have an unusual relationship with her?"

Ling Chen said, crying and laughing, "Big bro, can you stop making wild guesses? What unusual relationship could we have? We're just simple friends."

"Just friends?" Ling Gengqiu asked with a dubious smile, "Don't tell me you have no thoughts when faced with such a beauty. If it weren't for her relationship with you, I would have made a move long ago."

Ling Chen opened his mouth, about to argue, but at that moment, he heard a series of knocks on the door. Opening the door, he was slightly taken aback upon seeing the person outside, and he asked somewhat unexpectedly, "What brings you here?"

"The company had nothing today, and I happened to be passing by, so I came to check on you. What? Is it inconvenient? If so, I can leave first."

"No, no, no, it's not inconvenient at all. Come in!" Saying this, Ling Chen hurriedly welcomed Nanrong Wanqing inside. Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui were very tactful; they greeted Ling Chen and then stayed with the car outside, not coming in.

Upon entering the house, Ling Gengqiu raised his head, his gaze immediately fixed on Nanrong Wanqing, full of amazement and unable to move for a long time.

Feeling Ling Gengqiu's gaze, Nanrong Wanqing looked at him twice. She was accustomed to such gazes, so she didn't feel he was being rude.

"Ling Chen, who is this?"

"Oh! I forgot to introduce him, his name is Ling Gengqiu, my distant cousin who has come to East Sea City seeking refuge with me."

Nanrong Wanqing nodded and politely greeted Ling Gengqiu.

Hearing that gentle voice, Ling Gengqiu finally came to his senses, quickly put down his phone, stood up from the sofa, and walked quickly to Nanrong Wanqing, greeting her with gentlemanly charm, "Lovely Miss, very pleased to meet you. You are the most beautiful lady I have ever seen."

Nanrong Wanqing said with a charming smile, "I'm also very pleased to meet you."

Ling Chen on the side gave a light cough and said, "Big bro, let me introduce you, this is Nanrong Wanqing, my girlfriend." When he said 'girlfriend,' Ling Chen intentionally emphasized it. He knew very well what kind of person Ling Gengqiu was; if this guy set his sights on Nanrong Wanqing, things would get troublesome, so he had to remind him not to have any ideas.

Ling Gengqiu glanced at Ling Chen, fully understanding his intentions.

"I'll leave you two to chat, I have things to do and need to head out." Ling Gengqiu, being very tactful, didn't stay in the room to disturb them, and left on his own.

Ling Chen called out, worried, "Don't drive out again."

"He's grown up, can't you trust him to go out on his own?" Nanrong Wanqing asked with a smile.

Ling Chen shook his head, "You don't know what he's like. Whenever he's let out alone, he's bound to cause trouble for me. Come, sit down, I'll make you some tea."

"No need, I'll sit for a bit and then head back. We have guests at home today."

"Who's coming?"

"Someone you know, Xiaozhu."

"Xiaozhu?" Ling Chen was surprised. He hadn't been in touch with Zhu Xiaozhu for some time, having heard she was in Beijing. He didn't expect she'd visit the Nanrong Family. Ling Chen was well aware of the past misunderstandings between Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu, which had caused tension in their relationship. Only recently did they resolve those misunderstandings and become good friends.

"It's not just Xiaozhu visiting; her parents are coming too, so I need to go back early to prepare. Regardless, the Zhu Family and our Nanrong Family are old friends, so as they value this relationship, we naturally should reciprocate with hospitality."

Ling Chen chuckled, "The Zhu Family never visited before. Now that the Hongyu Group has become the top domestic enterprise, they rush to East Sea City. If you ask me, they're also looking to benefit from your success."

"It's human nature. I had my suspicions when they said they wanted to come. But for my grandfather's sake, we'll help wherever we can, as it doesn't cost us anything." At this point, Nanrong Wanqing changed the subject and asked, "So, are you interested in attending tonight's dinner party?"

"You want me to go?"

"Of course, since you're my boyfriend, you should attend unless you have other plans?"

"No plans." Ling Chen thought for a moment, then nodded, "Alright, I'll make sure to be on time."

"Then it's settled." With that, Nanrong Wanqing got up and said, "I'll head back now, see you tonight."

"See you tonight."

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing out the door and watching them leave, Ling Chen turned back into the room and immediately received a call from Hu Fei.

"Hey! I've looked into what you asked. The medical transport vehicle was filled with illegal drugs, mainly stimulants and sedatives, alongside some cellular medications. I checked, and those illegal drugs onboard were allocations for eight hospitals."

"There must be more to those criminals coming to East Sea City to rob the drugs. Unfortunately, they were all caught by Xia Mutong. Check around for me, see if you can uncover anything. If the situation isn't severe, let the police handle it; we don't need to interfere."

"Alright, no problem." With that, Hu Fei hung up the call directly.

Ling Chen looked at the time, realizing there were still a few hours before dinner. He called Ling Gengqiu and found out he was on a date, so he didn't inquire further. As long as Ling Gengqiu wasn't causing trouble, he could do whatever he wanted.

Knock, knock, knock!

Just then, a knock came from outside.

Ling Chen wondered, someone else after Nanrong Wanqing? Who could it be?

He went to the door and opened it, only to find the entrance completely empty, with no one there. Seeing this, Ling Chen peeked both ways down the hallway.

Where's the person?

He was sure he heard knocking just now, there was no mistake. How come there's no one when I open the door?

Could it be someone playing a prank?

Ling Chen mumbled to himself and casually closed the door. However, at that moment, a strong sense of crisis suddenly hit him from behind.

Oh no!

Ling Chen's pupils narrowed, and he instinctively shrank his body. Suddenly, with a 'bang,' the door in front of him was blasted apart, the whole door flew inward and out.

Chapter 1412 - 1720: Explosion Skill

Using the opportunity, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and rushed out through the destroyed doorway. However, the person behind him followed closely, and the distance between them was shrinking, with Ling Chen constantly facing danger.

Feeling the gust of wind from behind, Ling Chen gritted his teeth; in such circumstances, it was difficult to escape the pursuit. Only by catching the opponent off guard could there be a chance to escape. With a quick thought, Ling Chen took a deep breath, instantly gathering Qi Force throughout his body. Suddenly, his forward steps abruptly stopped, and he turned around to punch towards the person behind.

The pursuer was obviously not expecting Ling Chen's move, but with powerful strength as backing, the pursuer didn't take Ling Chen's counterattack seriously. Watching the steel fist approach, the opponent did not evade and responded with a punch. However, at the moment the two fists collided, the pursuer's pupils slightly contracted with a trace of shock.

Bam!

With a muffled sound, Ling Chen and the pursuer's bodies separated sharply, quickly retreating backward. Stumbling back several meters, Ling Chen finally steadied himself. At this moment, his face was slightly pale, gasping for air, looking somewhat weakly at the opponent. The person opposite him

wore ordinary clothes with a face covered by a cloth, making the appearance unclear. However, from the graying hair, it was apparent the person was quite old.

At this point, the person's fist was bleeding profusely, with the entire sleeve of their arm bursting open, revealing a blood-stained arm. Looking closely, there were several cracked wounds on the arm, with blood and flesh blurred. Seizing this chance, Ling Chen didn't think twice and started running. In his current condition, staying and engaging further wasn't going to end well.

Watching Ling Chen gradually disappear into the distance, the pursuer squinted, seeming somewhat hesitant. Despite wanting to chase after, the pain in his arm constantly reminded him, causing him to hesitate.

"Consider yourself lucky!" The old man coldly snorted, not lingering further, and quickly fled the scene.

After a while, Ling Chen reached the roadside, gasping for breath, and waved to stop a taxi, then got into the back seat. After telling the driver a destination, Ling Chen immediately took out his phone and dialed Hu Fei's number. As the call finished, Ling Chen's head felt dizzy, his entire body devoid of strength, and everything in sight became blurry. After a while, a wave of fatigue hit, and Ling Chen couldn't hold on any longer, resting his head against the window and falling into a deep sleep.

Not knowing how long had passed, Ling Chen vaguely heard voices beside him and opened his eyes in a daze, rubbing his slightly aching brow and slowly sitting up. "You're finally awake." Hu Fei's relieved voice sounded, and Ling Chen turned to see everyone surrounding him at the bedside, looking at him with concern.

"How long did I sleep?" Ling Chen took the teacup handed by Xia Yue, drank some water, and asked.

"Three hours," Hu Fei replied. "Luckily you called me to pick you up from the taxi, otherwise, that driver might have taken you directly to the hospital. Hey! What's going on with you? I just had a doctor do a full check-up; you're mostly fine, just severely exhausted."

"I was ambushed by someone." Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "That person broke into my house and attacked me from behind when I wasn't paying attention. Fortunately, I reacted quickly; otherwise, you would have been preparing my funeral by now." Ling Chen paused and continued, "The person was masked, so I don't know their identity, but probably around sixty or seventy years old and a Heavenly

List master. There shouldn't be many fitting those criteria. Fatty, help me investigate thoroughly and see if we can find them."

"Sixth Brother, well done." Yuan Yun patted Ling Chen's shoulder with a laugh, "Being able to escape from a Heavenly List master shows you've made progress compared to before."

Beside him, Xu Ming chimed in, "If I'm not wrong, you probably used Inner Strength externally to drive the person back, right?"

Ling Chen nodded. He had used this move before when sparring with Xu Ming, and its power was incredibly formidable. However, the aftereffects were severe, as his own strength hasn't reached the Heavenly List, making usage extremely taxing. Faced with the surprise attack from the Heavenly List master, Ling Chen could think of nothing but this move. Being a Heavenly List master, pursuing an Earthly List master like him, they certainly wouldn't use their full strength.

So, using this point, Ling Chen managed to surprise and injure the opponent and escape smoothly. Reflecting on the situation at that time, besides being grateful, Ling Chen was more shocked. He had seen firsthand the Heavenly List master's injuries, with the entire arm almost crippled. At the moment of their fist clash, Ling Chen's condensed Inner Strength invaded the opponent's arm entirely, erupting from inside like an explosion, instantly damaging the opponent's arm.

Explosion! Thinking of this word, Ling Chen felt it aptly described this move. Since this move doesn't have a name, might as well call it 'Explosion.'

Qiu Yong pondered for a moment and analyzed, "We know only a few Heavenly List masters. Since the opponent ambushed you, it suggests they have a grudge and intend to kill you. Sixth Brother, do you think... the person who ambushed you might be Su He?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and shook his head, "Probably not him. I'm familiar with Su He's strength; if he had struck, I wouldn't have been able to escape."

"Chen Quan." At this moment, Xu Ming uttered a name, "He is associated with Zhu Hong; it might be him who ambushed you."

"If it's Chen Quan, it's possible; only these two Heavenly List masters have grudges with me. However, despite the conflict with Zhu Hong, why would he attack me without any reason? Zhu Hong has been missing for so long; if he directed Chen Quan to strike, wouldn't that expose himself? With Zhu Hong's cautious nature, he shouldn't act this way."

Qiu Yong reminded, "Overall, be cautious; if there was a first time, there might be a second. I think you should keep Lady Zhu by your side; in case something happens, at least there'll be support."

"I know." Ling Chen responded. Originally, Zhu Qing was responsible for his close protection, but recently he's been with Ling Gengqiu. Given the strength disparity within Huaxia, few are a match for Ling Gengqiu. Because of this, Ling Chen gave Zhu Qing a break. Today, the opponent was lucky, catching Ling Gengqiu out. Otherwise, even if two Heavenly List masters came, it wouldn't matter.

"Fatty, what's the time now?"

Hu Fei checked the time and said, "Six o'clock, why?"

Chapter 1413 - 1721: Members of the Zhu Family

Ling Chen suddenly realized he had a dinner appointment with Nanrong Wanqing, and it was almost time. He couldn't break his promise. Although he was still quite tired, a few hours of rest had restored a bit of his strength.

At this point, Zhu Qing drove Ling Chen home, and after he changed his clothes, he headed to the Nanrong Family's residence.

"Lady Zhu, do you want to come in with me?"

Zhu Qing shook her head and politely declined, "No need, this is a family dinner, I won't go in and disturb you all."

"Alright then, you wait for me outside." With that, Ling Chen pushed open the car door and tidied his clothes before stepping forward into the Nanrong Family's home.

At the door, Nanrong Hao was waiting for Ling Chen, and when he saw him approaching, Nanrong Hao quickly went up to him, "Chen."

Ling Chen nodded and asked, "Are all the guests here?"

"Yes, they are in the living room chatting with my grandpa. Come on, I'll take you to greet them first."

Upon entering the living room, Ling Chen glanced around and saw three people sitting in the spacious area. One was the pillar of the Nanrong Family, Nanrong Yong, and the other two were a middle-aged couple. The man looked about fifty, bald, and slightly overweight, while the woman, in her forties, wore the latest fashion with well-maintained skin. Considering she could have a daughter like Zhu Xiaozhu, her appearance was naturally not lacking.

Seeing Ling Chen beside Nanrong Hao, the middle-aged man glanced twice and asked, "Old master, who is this?"

Nanrong Yong introduced with a smile, "This is Ling Chen, a very outstanding young man I mentioned to you. Ling Chen, come over, I'll introduce you. These two are Xiaozhu's parents, Zhu Qianshan and Mrs. Shao."

Ling Chen politely greeted, "Mr. Zhu, Mrs. Shao, hello, very nice to meet you."

Shao Qing smiled slightly, "You must be Wanqing's boyfriend? Not bad, indeed a talented young man."

"Ling Chen..." Zhu Qianshan quietly repeated Ling Chen's name, as if recalling something, his expression changing slightly. He quickly stood up from the sofa, approached Ling Chen, and extended his hand, "I've often heard your name mentioned in Beijing, but never had the opportunity to meet you. I'm glad we did today."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "You're too kind, I'm no match for Mr. Zhu." Zhu Qianshan, being from Beijing and a businessman with vast connections, surely knew Ling Chen had taken over as the leader of the underground forces from Hong Wei.

"Mr. Zhu, feel free to continue chatting, I'll go check on Wanqing." With that, Ling Chen signaled to Nanrong Hao, and the two immediately left the living room.

After Ling Chen left, Zhu Qianshan returned to the sofa. Next to him, Shao Qing leaned in slightly, somewhat discontentedly saying, "That Ling Chen may be Wanqing's boyfriend, but he's just a junior. You didn't have to be so polite to him."

Shao Qing didn't mean anything by it, she just felt Zhu Qianshan was lowering his status by being overly courteous.

"What do you know?" Zhu Qianshan quietly responded, "If he were just Wanqing's boyfriend, I definitely wouldn't need to be polite."

"Does he have another identity?"

Zhu Qianshan nodded, "His background is quite extraordinary. In short, it's beneficial for our family to maintain a good relationship with him."

At this moment, Ling Chen and Nanrong Hao had arrived at Nanrong Wanqing's place. Before entering, they already heard lively chatter from the living room where three women were conversing.

Hearing footsteps at the door, Nanrong Wanqing and the three women turned their heads toward the sound.

"Ladies, long time no see." Ling Chen grinned and greeted the three of them.

Seeing Ling Chen, who they hadn't met for a while, Zhu Xiaozhu's pretty face blushed slightly. However, catching sight of Nanrong Wanqing beside her, the brightness in her eyes dimmed immediately. Ling Chen was there as Nanrong Wanqing's boyfriend, practically the host. Thinking about her status and her relationship with Ling Chen, Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help but feel a little downhearted. Once, she wished she could take Nanrong Wanqing's place. Now, she didn't even dare to entertain that idea. With Ling Chen appearing in such a formal setting, it meant the Nanrong Family had already accepted him, and he and Nanrong Wanqing only lacked a marriage certificate.

The one least enthusiastic about Ling Chen's arrival was likely Su Lin. Since the archaeology incident, Su Lin had paused her internship plans, deciding to rest at home for a while before looking for a job.

"What are you chatting about?" Ling Chen sat next to Nanrong Wanqing and asked with a smile.

Su Lin responded, "We were discussing men of the new era."

"Men of the new era?" Ling Chen laughed, "I wonder if I qualify."

Su Lin pretended to study Ling Chen and nodded, "You qualify, but you're just a new era man, not a good new era man."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked with interest, "What does it take to be a good new era man?"

"A key quality of a good man is caring for his wife. Do you think you meet this condition?"

Uh... Ling Chen scratched his nose and defended, "It's just that I'm busy."

"That's a common excuse for you men, always using 'busy' as a justification. Can't you earn a little less and spend more time with your girlfriend?" Su Lin snorted lightly, "I've been back for weeks, and you've only visited once, not even calling Wanqing. Is this how you act as a boyfriend? If it were me, I would've dumped you already."

"Yes, yes, yes." Ling Chen nodded quickly, "It's my fault, I'll correct it."

"Cousin, Chen has truly been busy recently, juggling both the company and the club, where does he have the time to accompany Sister?" Nanrong Hao defended Ling Chen.

Su Lin glared at Nanrong Hao, "You still dare to speak? You're not much different. You're at an age where you're the only male in the Nanrong Family, yet you don't hurry to find a girlfriend and get married, perpetuating the family line, but instead, all you know is work and frequenting entertainment

places. Ling Chen might not have time for Wanqing, but at least he doesn't go out and fool around like you do."

"Cousin, I don't even have a girlfriend yet. I should enjoy the freedom while I can. Once I'm married, I'll be stuck at home."

"Says who? My cousin and I were just discussing you."

"Me?" Nanrong Hao paused, puzzled, "How am I involved now?"

"We think you're getting to the age where you should start looking for a girlfriend."

"Finding me a girlfriend? Cousin, you... you wouldn't want me to go on a blind date, would you?"
Nanrong Hao immediately jumped off the sofa, shaking his head, "No way, I won't agree to it."

Chapter 1414 - 1722: Forced Blind Date

"Even if you don't agree, you have to agree." This time it was Nanrong Wanqing speaking, and there was no room for negotiation in her tone.

"Sister, come on." Nanrong Hao said with a mournful expression, "I'm your own brother, how can you trick me like this?"

Nanrong Wanqing chuckled and said, "Precisely because you're my brother, I care about your better half. Actually, I've never told you, but recently, many people have approached me wanting to introduce their daughters to you. I think you're not getting any younger, it's time to consider life's big events. So, I've picked a few outstanding ones for you to meet, see if there's anyone suitable."

"No, definitely not going, even if they beat me to death, I'm not going." Nanrong Hao's attitude was very resolute, refusing to go no matter what his sister said.

Nanrong Wanqing said lightly, "Don't worry, you don't have to go anywhere, just meet them." She paused, and before Nanrong Hao could speak, she continued, "I've already invited them over tonight, you can interact with them then."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Hao was dumbfounded.

"Sister, are you really my biological sister?" Nanrong Hao quickly looked to Ling Chen for help, "Chen, you have to help me, what kind of sister does this?"

Ling Chen teased with a smile, "You're lucky she's your sister, if it were someone else, who would care about your lifelong issues? Come on, don't be so coy, since you're being set up on a date, just go meet them, you won't lose anything, maybe you'll actually find someone you like."

With Ling Chen saying so, even if Nanrong Hao had a hundred objections, he could only reluctantly agree.

After idling together for a while, Liu Kun walked in from outside, saying the meal was ready, and invited everyone to come eat.

In the dining room, Zhu Qianshan, Shao Qing, and Nanrong Yong were already seated. As everyone took their seats, the housekeeper promptly served the dishes. Both families were old friends, naturally there were lots of topics to discuss. Ling Chen, though an outsider, was not neglected, especially by Zhu Qianshan, who kept on toasting him, making Ling Chen almost embarrassed.

After all, this was a family dinner, and Zhu Qianshan was Zhu Xiaozhu's father, his elder, so Ling Chen had no choice but to return the courtesy. Before long, the two had finished a bottle of Moutai.

Nanrong Wanqing couldn't help but advise, "Mr. Zhu, maybe drink a little less, Ling Chen still needs to drive later."

Zhu Qianshan laughed heartily, "Niece, I'm sorry, but Mr. Ling and I hit it off so well. As they say, 'A thousand cups aren't enough when drinking with a friend,' this is just one bottle, not much at all."

Ling Chen shrugged, he knew Zhu Qianshan was deliberately flattering him but chose not to call it out.

Quickly, dinner concluded amid laughter and conversation. After the meal, Ling Chen sat with Zhu Qianshan in the living room for a while. Around eight o'clock, Zhu Qianshan and Shao Qing got up to leave, leaving Zhu Xiaozhu behind.

Back at Nanrong Wanqing's place, Su Lin checked the time and asked, "Sister, didn't you invite them over for nine o'clock? It's almost time, why don't I go out to wait for them?"

"Sounds good, since I invited them, we should send someone to welcome them." With that, Nanrong Wanqing turned to her brother and instructed, "Go change clothes, make yourself presentable; after all, as the vice president of Hongyu Group, you should keep up appearances."

Ling Chen grinned, "You don't have to worry, I'll keep an eye on him. Haozi, let's go, over to your place."

Once outside, Nanrong Hao whispered, "Chen, why don't we sneak away?"

"No way, if you sneak off, your sister will come after me with trouble. Haozi, just going on a date, there's no need to be so scared. When they come, I'll help you screen them." Just then, a phone started ringing. Ling Chen took out his phone and glanced at the caller ID, saying, "It's the fatty calling, probably needs something. You go inside and change clothes, I'll be right there."

Nanrong Hao nodded, heading over to his villa gate. As he opened the door, he glanced at Ling Chen who was engrossed in the phone call, not noticing him, and quickly slipped away into the garden.

Nanrong Hao was fundamentally against blind dates, so if he had a chance to escape, he'd take it.

Once in the garden, he pulled out his phone, thinking of inviting Jiang Hao out for some fun, but recalling Jiang Hao's girlfriend, he quickly abandoned the idea.

Forget it! Better head over to Xiong's nightclub.

With his mind made up, Nanrong Hao headed for the wall. Su Lin was keeping watch at the front door, so he'd have to climb the wall to get out. Just then, he heard an irate female voice in the garden, "It's such a modern day, yet I'm expected to go on blind dates, no idea what Dad and them are thinking."

From the sound of it, it was a girl, and a soft-spoken one.

Based on years of experience and intuition, Nanrong Hao believed this girl was beautiful.

Thinking this, he moved toward the direction of the voice to validate his speculation. Soon, in the center of the garden pavilion, he saw someone sitting.

Though it was night, the pavilion had a light, and under the dim illumination, Nanrong Hao studied the woman closely.

She looked young, probably around twenty-two or three years old, slim figure, delicate features, a round face—a picture of cuteness, the shiny black hair adorned with a butterfly hairpin, adding a youthful touch.

Wow!

A loli? Nanrong Hao widened his eyes with interest.

He had only heard of lolis but never encountered such a top-tier one.

Thump! Thump! Thump! In the dark night, Nanrong Hao almost felt his accelerating heartbeat.

At this moment, the loli beauty took out a box of cake and a cup of milk tea from her handbag, eating it on her own, not noticing Nanrong Hao at all.

Before long, the cake and milk tea were finished. Watching the loli beauty savor the last bits from her fingertips, her enchanting actions made Nanrong Hao's heart skip—a sensation like he was electrocuted, struggling to keep a steady breath.

Damn! I can't take this, I can't... Nanrong Hao took a deep breath, adjusted his mood, then coughed to catch her attention.

As expected, the loli beauty was so startled by his cough that she looked toward Nanrong Hao, asking nervously, "Who... Who are you?"

Chapter 1415 - 1723: Loli

Nanrong Hao smiled as he looked at the loli beauty and asked, "I'm from the Nanrong Family, but I've never seen you before. Who are you?"

The loli beauty pouted and said, "I'm a guest of the Nanrong Family. My name is Yang Baohui."

"Since you're a guest, what are you doing here?"

"I..." Yang Baohui was about to speak. Suddenly, she seemed to think of something and cautiously asked, "Hey! Since you're from the Nanrong Family, you must know Nanrong Hao, right?"

Nanrong Hao held back his laughter, nodded, and said, "Of course I know him. He's the young master of the Nanrong Family."

Yang Baohui asked curiously, "What does he look like? Could you tell me?"

"Can't you just go see him yourself?"

"I'm too lazy to meet him." Yang Baohui said with a disgruntled look, "If it weren't for my dad pushing me for a blind date, I wouldn't have come here. Just tell me what Nanrong Hao looks like, so when I go back, I can report to them."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Hao couldn't help but laugh, "You really don't want to have a blind date with him?"

"What's so good about him? I heard he's a playboy, spends all his time partying and doesn't do any proper job. He doesn't even manage his family's business and only knows how to fool around. This kind of man is totally unreliable."

Nanrong Hao coughed lightly and said, "That was in the past. Our young master has already mended his ways. He's a good man of the new era now."

Yang Baohui said disbelievingly, "He's your boss, of course you'd praise him."

"I'm telling you the truth." Seeing Yang Baohui's indifferent expression, Nanrong Hao scratched his head and decided to change the topic, saying, "Since you're not interested in the blind date, how about I take you somewhere fun?"

"Where's the fun place?" Yang Baohui asked with interest, "Is there food?" At the mention of food, Yang Baohui couldn't help but swallow her saliva.

So she's a foodie loli beauty. Nanrong Hao smiled to himself; this was going to be easy.

"Come on, I'll take you to eat something delicious."

"Alright." Yang Baohui nodded, picked up her handbag, and got ready to leave with Nanrong Hao. However, after walking a short distance, Yang Baohui suddenly stopped and asked worriedly, "If I leave, how do I explain it to my dad?"

"It's okay. Even if you stay here, you won't see our young master."

"Why?" Yang Baohui asked, puzzled.

Nanrong Hao whispered, "To be honest with you, our young master doesn't like blind dates, so he's already slipped away. I just helped him escape."

"Really?"

"Why would I lie to you? It's true!" Nanrong Hao said confidently, "Didn't you just say it yourself? The young master of the Nanrong Family is a playboy, so how could he give up a whole forest for just one

tree? Besides, the blind date was his sister's idea, and he's very much against it. I just helped provide cover so he could escape."

Yang Baohui nodded lightly, thinking it makes sense, "Where are you planning to take me? This is my second time in East Sea City. The last time was ten years ago, and I didn't expect it to develop so fast."

"Of course, East Sea City is an international metropolis. In all of Huaxia, only Beijing can compare to East Sea City. Since it's your second visit here, I'll take you around tonight to taste the local delicacies. Let me tell you, East Sea City's food street has specialties from all over the country." Nanrong Hao noticed Yang Baohui's interest and used 'food' to entice her.

As expected! Just hearing about food, Yang Baohui's big eyes lit up immediately, and she nodded eagerly, "Sure!"

"Follow me." Nanrong Hao gestured for Yang Baohui to walk with him.

Soon, the two arrived at the fence of the Nanrong Family. Looking at the tall wall, Yang Baohui asked, puzzled, "Why don't we just walk out through the main gate?"

"That's something you don't know. I just helped the young master escape. If I go out the main gate, they'll definitely find out. I'm the assistant of the young master; if he's missing, they'll surely trouble me. So it's safer to go out from here—our young master also left through here."

Saying this, Nanrong Hao moved a retractable ladder from the side and placed it on the fence. He guided Yang Baohui to the top of the fence, and Nanrong Hao followed closely, then placed the ladder on the other side. Before long, the two successfully climbed over the wall and found themselves outside the Nanrong Family.

"Wait here; I'll get the car." Nanrong Hao left this sentence and immediately ran to where he parked.

At this moment, in Nanrong Wanqing's villa, seven or eight beauties who came for the blind date had already arrived. Everyone was sitting in the living room, with Su Lin, Nanrong Wanqing, and Zhu Xiaozhu accompanying them, chatting about interesting topics, and the atmosphere was quite harmonious.

Although everyone knew they were there for a blind date, no one broke the ice, treating it as just a gathering.

At this point, Nanrong Wanqing gave Su Lin a meaningful look, and Su Lin immediately understood, got up, and walked out of the room. "Hey! Where is Nanrong Hao?" Seeing Ling Chen outside making a call, Su Lin couldn't help but ask.

Ling Chen shrugged his shoulders and said helplessly, "How would I know? When I was on a call earlier, that boy slipped away without me noticing. I called him and his phone is off; I have no idea where he went."

"I don't care." Su Lin said with hands on her hips, "You have to find a way to bring him here. The girls have all arrived, and with the main character not showing up, how do you expect us to explain?"

"Just tell them the truth. That kid even turned off his phone; where am I supposed to find him?" Ling Chen really didn't expect Nanrong Hao would secretly slip away without even notifying him. He really didn't take him seriously. Next time when he sees him, he'll definitely give that kid a good lesson.

After finally sending Su Lin away, Ling Chen went alone to Nanrong Hao's residence. There were all women at Nanrong Wanqing's place, and he didn't want to stay there, preferring solitude for peace. Entering the room, Ling Chen opened the fridge, took out a bottle of beer, and sat on the sofa with his legs crossed, browsing the information on his phone. It was the interrogation information just sent by Hu Fei, with all the details the car hijackers had confessed.

According to those criminals, they were rescued by a masked old man and later taken to East Sea City to hide in an abandoned warehouse. The other party gave them a phone, and all the action details were communicated through the phone. They didn't even know who was behind the scenes. However, the other party offered them a deal: if they helped hijack the medical transportation truck and stole the medicines, once the job was done, they would arrange for a ship to take them abroad.

For freedom, those criminals chose to compromise.

Chapter 1416 - 1724: Risking Himself (1)

Another masked elder again... Ling Chen slightly furrowed his brow; if he was not mistaken, the masked elder was probably the one who ambushed him this afternoon.

Chen Quan? Thinking it over, only Chen Quan seemed to fit the bill. He currently had three main enemies: Su Cheng'en, Su He, and Zhu Hong. Zhu Hong and Chen Quan had a master-disciple relationship; Chen Quan's ambush was surely under Zhu Hong's orders.

A while ago, during the siege of the Skyhawk Pavilion headquarters, Zhu Hong fled with one of Ling Gengqiu's severed limbs, and there has been no news since. Now that Chen Quan has appeared, it indicates Zhu Hong is definitely nearby. The most dangerous place is the safest place; thinking this, Ling Chen's lips curled slightly — Zhu Hong had a clever plan, no wonder his whereabouts were unknown for so long, he had been hiding under their noses all along.

Zhu Hong possessed one of Ling Gengqiu's severed limbs; he likely sent people to steal those drugs to complete the experiment.

After figuring this out, Ling Chen immediately called Hu Fei, asking him to mobilize personnel to search the entire East Sea City to see if they could find Zhu Hong's whereabouts.

At this moment, inside a warehouse located in the Old City.

Researchers in white lab coats gathered together, faces full of disappointment. After painstakingly carrying the experiment to this point, they lacked sufficient agents to supplement, forcing the experiment to end in failure. As researchers, having spent so much energy and time, they felt deeply saddened by this outcome.

At this time, Zhu Hong walked over accompanied by Chen Quan. The crowd's attention was immediately drawn to Chen Quan's arm. His right arm was wrapped in thick bandages, even covering his hand.

"What are you all standing here for?" Zhu Hong coldly eyed the group of researchers and asked.

A middle-aged man stepped forward and said, "Mr. Zhu, without sufficient agent, we have no choice but to stop the experiment."

"Who said that?" Zhu Hong said coldly, "I haven't given the order; who allowed you to stop the experiment?"

"Mr. Zhu, besides stopping the experiment, we have no other option. If we enforce continuing the experiment, all the test subjects will merely die in vain; I don't think we should waste these subjects."

Upon hearing this, Zhu Hong strode to the glass chamber on the warehouse's left side. To ensure the experiment proceeded smoothly, he specifically constructed a sterile glass chamber in the warehouse. At this moment, two iron beds were placed inside the chamber with two young men in their twenties lying on them, respectively connected to over a dozen intravenous conduits. Zhu Hong stood outside the glass chamber quietly for a moment, then turned back and asked, "How much of our agent do we have left?"

"Very little in stock, not even enough for one person," the middle-aged man replied.

Zhu Hong said in a deep voice, "I have invested too much in this experiment; no matter what, we can't stop it, and it must go on."

"But..."

"No buts," Zhu Hong interrupted before the middle-aged man could finish his sentence and barked in anger, "go, bring out both test subjects."

Although puzzled, the middle-aged man obediently followed orders. Soon, both young men were transferred out of the glass chamber. Meanwhile, Zhu Hong removed his upper garments and directly walked into the glass chamber. Seeing Zhu Hong's actions, the middle-aged man couldn't help but be shocked and asked, "Mr. Zhu, what are you doing?"

"I'll be the test subject."

"That's not feasible," the middle-aged man hastily said, "Mr. Zhu, the risk is too great; a slight oversight could be life-threatening..."

Zhu Hong waved him off, halting his words, and said, "I know the risks. Since there aren't enough agents, I will step up myself. My body has been enhanced before; it is three to four times that of a normal person. Even without sedatives and painkillers, I can endure it." He paused for a moment and, seeing the middle-aged man wanted to speak, impatiently urged, "Quit the chatter, hurry and get me ready."

The middle-aged man dared not defy Zhu Hong's orders; he immediately assembled personnel into the glass chamber, attaching intravenous conduits onto Zhu Hong.

Watching Zhu Hong lying quietly on the bed, Chen Quan, standing outside the glass chamber, asked, "Have you really thought this through?"

"It's my only way forward; only by succeeding will I have a chance to contend against Ling Chen. Otherwise, what's the point of living? Master, if anything happens to me, please help ensure my ashes are sent to my family. Also, tell my parents their son was unfilial; I will repay them in the next life."

Chen Quan nodded and said, "I understand."

Soon, preparations for the experiment were completed. When all researchers exited the glass chamber, the middle-aged man responsible for conducting the experiment approached a machine, flipping several switches. After repeated confirmations, he picked up the walkie-talkie and said, "Mr. Zhu, if there are no other issues, I'll begin."

After speaking, the middle-aged man turned to his colleagues and said, "Everyone, get ready for the first stage."

As the middle-aged man's words fell, red liquid gradually appeared in the intravenous conduits attached to Zhu Hong, injecting into his body. Meanwhile, fresh red liquid flowed from another conduit out of his body.

This was the first step of the experiment: blood exchange!

After multiple experiments and combined with Skyhawk Pavilion's research data, Zhu Hong finally discovered the key element, which was the blood. However, the blood in the severed limb had already solidified. To replace the blood in his body, Zhu Hong used artificial blood. Time flowed second by second; after about half an hour, Zhu Hong's blood was mostly exchanged. After the blood exchange was complete, Zhu Hong fell into a seemingly comatose state, lying motionless with his eyes closed.

If not for the monitoring equipment detecting his heartbeat, his appearance would be like that of a dead man.

"Proceed to the second stage, injection of cell enhancer," the middle-aged man ordered.

Instantly, a light purple agent appeared in the intravenous conduits, injected entirely into Zhu Hong's body. Immediately, his body seemed struck by lightning, violently trembling, and blood trickled out of his nostrils.

Witnessing this, Chen Quan's expression changed and he said in a deep voice, "What's going on?"

The middle-aged man frowned, looking worried, and said, "His blood and body haven't fully fused yet. The cell enhancer caused a rejection response upon injection."

"What will be the outcome?"

"Hard to say; if he can't endure it, his life could be in jeopardy."

Chapter 1417 - 1725: Risking One's Own Body (2)

Hearing this, Chen Quan grabbed the middle-aged man's collar and said coldly, "Listen to me, if anything happens to him, I'll bury all of you with him, understand?"

The middle-aged man quickly replied, "Sir Chen, don't worry, it's not that bad yet." After speaking, the middle-aged man hurriedly instructed his assistant, "Inject him with painkillers and sedatives, and also inject ten milliliters of cell dissolution solution."

"What is that cell dissolution solution you're talking about?" Chen Quan asked.

"It's a neutralizing agent that can help alleviate his body's rejection, giving him enough time for his blood to complete the fusion." After a pause, the middle-aged man continued, "At this point, I've done all I can. Now it all depends on him. As long as he can get through this, the experiment is more than half successful."

Chen Quan walked to the glass room, looking at the still trembling Zhu Hong, and asked, "Can't you give him more painkillers?"

The middle-aged man shook his head and said, "We don't have enough in stock, we've used up all that's available. If it were an ordinary person, they wouldn't withstand this pain. Mr. Zhu's body is different from ordinary people. It's not easy for him to hold on until now."

As time ticked by, Zhu Hong's fusion continued. At this moment, lying on the bed, Zhu Hong's face was pale, and he was drenched in sweat. Moreover, the most terrifying thing was that his body was showing a bluish hue, looking extremely frightening.

Chen Quan couldn't help but ask, "How much longer will it take?"

"Hard to say, we don't have experience with this experiment either." As soon as the middle-aged man finished speaking, his assistant excitedly exclaimed, "It's successful! The body and blood have one hundred percent fused."

"What about the cell enhancer?" the middle-aged man quickly asked.

"It's slowly merging; there shouldn't be any major problems."

"Great." Hearing this, the middle-aged man finally breathed a sigh of relief, "Sir Chen, rest assured, Mr. Zhu has pulled through."

"Then how long until he wakes up?"

"I can't say for sure. After the cell enhancer merges, there are still a series of tests to undergo, but they are not very dangerous. The main focus is to check the stability of his body to see if there will be any abnormalities."

In no time, two more hours passed. Zhu Hong was still lying on the bed in the glass room, while the middle-aged man led several researchers to examine Zhu Hong's body.

"From the current situation, Mr. Zhu is very stable, with no abnormalities, except that, for some reason, his limbs have become a bit stiff."

"Stiff?" Upon hearing this, the middle-aged man pinched Zhu Hong's hands and feet, finding his limbs extremely rigid, not as soft as a normal person's skin, but as hard as a steel pipe.

Seeing this, the middle-aged man asked, "Are you sure there are no abnormalities in his body?"

The assistant shook his head and said, "His condition looks very good from the data. Could the stiffness be temporary? It might be fine later."

"Then let's wait and see."

Unbeknownst to anyone, the night passed. For Zhu Hong's safety, the middle-aged man and his research team stayed up all night, constantly monitoring Zhu Hong's condition. Chen Quan didn't leave either, finding a chair in the warehouse to take a brief nap.

"Awake!"

Someone shouted, prompting Chen Quan to open his eyes immediately and quickly walk to the glass room, looking at the iron bed where Zhu Hong was lying.

At this moment, Zhu Hong slowly opened his eyes, looking at the researchers beside him, and spoke, "Am I still alive?"

The middle-aged man smiled slightly, "Mr. Zhu, congratulations on successfully completing the experiment."

Hearing this, Zhu Hong sat up from the iron bed, then placed his feet on the ground and carefully stood up. Watching Zhu Hong's movements, the middle-aged man supported his hand and asked, "Mr. Zhu, how do you feel?"

Zhu Hong nodded, "It's fine, but..." Saying this, Zhu Hong glanced at the middle-aged man supporting his hand, frowning slightly, "Why can't I feel your hand?"

"Can't feel it?" The middle-aged man thought for a moment and immediately took a needle from the side, directly stabbing it into Zhu Hong's arm, "Mr. Zhu, do you feel anything?"

"No, I can't feel anything." As he spoke, Zhu Hong used his left hand to squeeze his right hand, quickly changing his expression, "Why has my body become so stiff?"

"Well..." The middle-aged man said awkwardly, "Mr. Zhu, we are not sure of the reason either. Based on the data, your body is very healthy, with no discomfort. So... I guess this might be an aftereffect of the experiment, and it might recover over time."

"That's just your guess." Zhu Hong said coldly, "Go, bring a mirror."

The middle-aged man dared not be slow, hurriedly bringing a mirror in front of Zhu Hong. Looking at himself in the mirror, Zhu Hong found no difference between himself before and after the experiment.

Putting down the mirror, Zhu Hong moved his hands and feet a little, then walked out of the glass room, directly approaching Chen Quan.

"Master."

"How is it, everything okay?"

"Aside from the stiffness, everything's fine. Master, I want to test what changes have occurred in my body."

Chen Quan nodded, "Alright, first try your strength. Come, punch me and see."

Hearing this, Zhu Hong, without hesitation, gathered all his strength and swung his fist towards Chen Quan. As Zhu Hong's fist approached, Chen Quan stood still. Only when the fist was close did Chen Quan extend a hand to block Zhu Hong's attack.

Although Zhu Hong used all his strength, Chen Quan remained stationary, unmoved.

"Not bad!" Chen Quan nodded affirmatively, "Your strength has increased several times compared to before, seems like the enhancement worked."

"Only several times?" Zhu Hong was somewhat disappointed, "Master, with my current strength, can I compete with Ling Chen?"

"If you want to compete with Ling Chen, that's impossible. Martial arts focus on gradual progression and building a solid foundation. You came into this later and relied on modern technology to enhance your body. In terms of mere physical strength, Ling Chen surely cannot match you, but your biggest flaw is being unable to utilize Inner Strength, which is the difference between you and him. With your current strength, you can compete with a master from the Dragon List at most, but not someone from the Earthly List unless you can double your current strength."

"Is it only similar to the Dragon List masters..." Zhu Hong frowned, eyes showing a hint of disappointment. If it's just like this, then this experiment is a failure. Thinking that all this effort only led to this result, Zhu Hong was unwilling to accept it.

Chapter 1418 - 1726: Rigid Man

Bam!

Just as Zhu Hong was contemplating, Chen Quan, who was standing nearby, suddenly struck, hitting him in the chest with his fist. Under the impact of that powerful force, Zhu Hong's body was sent flying backward, crashing heavily into the wall behind him. With a loud noise, the entire wall was covered in dense cracks.

This sudden change stunned everyone present. At this moment, Zhu Hong emerged from the dented wall, looking at his limbs with a face full of confusion. Seeing Zhu Hong's dazed expression, Chen Quan quickly walked up and asked, "Are you okay? I just wanted to test the strength of your muscles and see how much force they can withstand."

Hearing Chen Quan's words, Zhu Hong raised his head and looked at Chen Quan with a strange expression, "Master, how much strength did you use just now?"

"Thirty percent."

"Now, try attacking me with fifty percent strength." Saying this, Zhu Hong took a step back, stood straight, and gestured for Chen Quan to make a move. Chen Quan hesitated for a moment, then channeled his inner strength, concentrating it in his palm. Immediately, he leaned forward and struck Zhu Hong's body directly with his palm.

Instantly, Zhu Hong's body was sent flying again, tracing an arc in the air before landing heavily on the ground.

Before Chen Quan could catch up, Zhu Hong seemed unfazed, got up from the ground by himself, and rubbed the spot where Chen Quan had just hit him, his face showing even more astonishment.

"Are you hurt?"

Hearing Chen Quan's voice, Zhu Hong shook his head and said with some excitement, "Master, it seems that this experiment not only strengthened my power. Your two attacks just now didn't harm me at all. More importantly, I didn't feel anything at all all over my body." After speaking, Zhu Hong hurriedly called over a group of researchers. There must be a reason for such a change in his body.

Soon, a group of researchers surrounded Zhu Hong and led him into the glass room. After Zhu Hong lay down, everyone connected all the medical equipment lines to his body and scanned his entire body.

About half an hour later, the middle-aged man responsible for the diagnosis looked at the results and said, "Mr. Zhu, your body has very slight injuries, not very serious, and they won't affect your body. Also, perhaps due to your body being rigid, you can't feel any pain."

"Is this good or bad?"

"I can't easily conclude on this issue, it requires further observation. Mr. Zhu, I suggest you rest for a while to see if there will be other changes in your body."

Zhu Hong sat up from the bed, waved his hand, and said, "No need, I feel the current situation is quite good." After a pause, Zhu Hong turned to Chen Quan and asked, "Master, you used half of your strength just now, it should be comparable to the masters on the Earthly List, right."

"That's right, equivalent to the top three on the Earthly List. With your current defensive power, you can stand toe to toe with Ling Chen. Moreover, I think your body has a lot of potential to be tapped into, I can help you try it out then."

As they were speaking, the warehouse's shutter door slowly rose, and a young man crawled in from the bottom. Seeing the newcomer, Zhu Hong immediately walked out of the glass room and asked, "What are you doing here?"

"Mr. Zhu, I just received news that Ling Chen has given orders and is searching the entire city for your whereabouts, so I came to remind you."

Upon hearing this, Zhu Hong slightly frowned and said, "It seems he has already guessed."

"Probably because I ambushed him," Chen Quan chimed in from the side, "If I'd known, we shouldn't have acted rashly."

Zhu Hong snorted coldly. It was his idea to have Chen Quan ambush Ling Chen because Ling Chen's appearance disrupted his plans, preventing them from acquiring enough agents. In a fit of anger, Zhu Hong made this irrational decision to kill Ling Chen directly in anger. Who would have thought Ling Chen not only escaped Chen Quan's ambush but also injured Chen Quan, causing his strongest fighter to be harmed?

All these grievances added up, making Zhu Hong hate Ling Chen to the core now.

"Disciple, East Sea City is full of Ling Chen's people. Although our location is very hidden, we can't guarantee they won't find us. I'd say we should leave East Sea City first, find a safe place to stay, and think about how to come back when things settle down."

Zhu Hong pondered for a moment, then said to the young man, "Arrange for a truck and move all this equipment and personnel out."

"Mr. Zhu, this area is filled with Ling Chen's men. Wouldn't getting a truck be too conspicuous? Also, as far as I know, Ling Chen has stationed men at all stations, airports, and highways. No matter which route we take, we're likely to be discovered."

"Is there no way at all?" Zhu Hong's face looked very troubled. These researchers and equipment are all he has, and under no circumstances can he abandon them. Otherwise, he would truly be left with nothing.

Just then, Zhu Hong's phone suddenly rang in his pocket, it was a text message alert. Taking out his phone and looking at the message on it, Zhu Hong's eyes suddenly lit up.

"Alright! You don't have to worry about this; I'll solve it myself. You continue to monitor Ling Chen's men."

"Understood." The young man responded and turned to leave the warehouse.

"Master, you go to rest first, I'll be paying someone a visit later."

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

Zhu Hong smiled faintly, "No need, he won't harm me."

...

The Nanrong Family.

It was still early in the morning, and everyone except the nanny was still in bed. At this point, a figure suddenly climbed over the wall and then quickly ran towards the villa in the backyard. At the door, the person took out a key and then pushed the door open to enter.

"You brat, you finally came back."

The voice startled Nanrong Hao, who had just walked in the door. Once he saw the person in the living room clearly, he was relieved and asked with a smile, "Chen, did you not go back last night?"

"Go back?" Ling Chen said with displeasure, "I wanted to go back, but your sister wouldn't let me. She insisted I find you. So, I had to stay over at your place and see when you would come home. Come clean, where did you go messing around last night? Your phone was off."

Nanrong Hao smiled apologetically, "Chen, I just went out for a walk, really not messing around. You know, I don't like blind dates, so I could only escape."

"Alright! Save it for your sister. It's getting late, I have things to do today, so I'll head back first." Finished speaking, Ling Chen ignored Nanrong Hao and walked out of the villa by himself.

Chapter 1419 - 1727: Disfigurement (1)

After leaving the Nanrong Family, Ling Chen was still preoccupied with the matter of Zhu Hong. With the manpower they currently had, searching the entire East Sea City wouldn't be difficult. As long as Zhu Hong was still in East Sea City, it was only a matter of time before they found him.

Initially, Ling Chen planned to head straight to the base. However, thinking about Ling Gengqiu at home made him uneasy. Without him there to keep an eye, who knew what Ling Gengqiu might do. So, he drove to his home first.

As soon as he opened the door and stepped inside, a pungent smell of alcohol hit him. Seeing the chaotic living room, Ling Chen's expression darkened.

Was this still his home? Ling Chen couldn't help but groan. There were empty bottles and cigarette butts everywhere, not just on the floor, but even on the sofa, covered in trash, a complete mess. Moreover, Ling Chen found some women's intimate clothing on the sofa.

He followed the stairs to the second floor, reaching Ling Gengqiu's room, and even before he entered, Ling Chen heard more than one person breathing inside. Four people... Ling Chen rubbed his nose, speechless. There was no need to guess what had happened last night.

Forget it! Since they were sleeping so soundly, there was no need to disturb them. However, Ling Chen had already decided in his heart that no matter what, he had to arrange for someone to stay by Ling Gengqiu's side to constantly prevent him from doing anything untoward.

After leaving home, Ling Chen drove straight to the base. But halfway through, he received a call from Hu Fei.

"Hey! Ling Chen, we've found a place where Zhu Hong might be hiding."

"Are you sure? Where is it?"

"In a warehouse in the Old City, it's under Jiang Hao's jurisdiction. I've already asked him to send someone over."

"If Zhu Hong is there, then Chen Quan is likely there too. Sending Jiang Hao's men is a death wish. Tell me the address and have Sir Chen meet me there immediately." After speaking, Ling Chen accelerated towards the destination.

More than ten minutes later, Ling Chen, speeding all the way, finally arrived in the Old City. At that moment, a few business cars were parked outside a warehouse, with Jiang Hao leading people to check the surroundings.

"Chen, you're here!"

"Is it here?"

Jiang Hao nodded and said, "Weren't you looking for Zhu Hong? After I was notified, I immediately had my men search the entire Old City. Later, a subordinate reported that this warehouse seemed strange. They often heard noises from inside, but the door was always closed, and no one ever went in or out."

"And now? Is there anyone inside?"

"I just listened but heard nothing," Jiang Hao said. "I've already sent someone to find the owner of this warehouse." As he finished speaking, a young man brought over a portly, bald man.

"Hao, Chen, this warehouse is registered under his name."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen and Jiang Hao scrutinized the bald man and asked, "Do you use this warehouse yourself or have you rented it out?"

The bald man quickly replied, "Hao, I rented out this warehouse a few months ago."

"Who did you rent it to?"

"A young man with the surname Chen, named Chen Rong."

Ling Chen took out his phone, brought up a photo of Zhu Hong, showed it to the bald man, and asked, "Is this him?"

The bald man examined it closely, then immediately nodded, "Yes, that's him. When he first came to me, I wanted to sign a lease agreement with him and have him provide some information. But he told me that because he was from out of town, he didn't have much information with him. Later, he paid double the rent directly. Since there was money to be made, I naturally didn't refuse."

Ling Chen nodded, "You can go now."

Having confirmed it was Zhu Hong, there was no need for the bald man to stay. After waiting outside the warehouse for about ten minutes, Chen Junfeng finally arrived.

With a master from the Heavenly List by his side, Ling Chen was much more at ease. He wasn't afraid of Zhu Hong, his main concern was Chen Quan. With his current strength, he couldn't compete with Chen Quan yet.

Soon, everyone was ready. Ling Chen came to the side of the rolling shutter door, gave a signal to Chen Junfeng across from him. Then, the two kicked the bottom of the rolling shutter door open and lifted it up. At the same time, Chen Junfeng rushed into the warehouse, with Ling Chen following closely behind.

However, upon entering the warehouse, Ling Chen was surprised to find that, apart from a few empty boxes and a glass room, there was nothing in the huge warehouse, let alone any people. "Chen, why is there no one here?" Jiang Hao came in from behind and asked, looking at the empty warehouse.

Ling Chen frowned; he was still a step too late. It seemed Zhu Hong had already escaped.

"Ling Chen, there are a lot of drag marks here," Chen Junfeng's voice came. Ling Chen quickly walked over and saw many marks left on the ground at the back door of the warehouse, as if something heavy had been dragged away. Immediately, the two lifted the back door of the warehouse, revealing several pieces of heavy equipment stacked outside.

"Huh! Why are these things still here?" Jiang Hao asked strangely.

Ling Chen said in a deep voice, "Zhu Hong must have left not long ago. He must have spotted your men and abandoned this equipment to escape. Immediately call the Fatty and have him check the surveillance on the nearby streets. If Zhu Hong moved so much equipment, he must have used a truck or lorry."

Jiang Hao responded and quickly took out his phone to call Hu Fei.

After the call, just as Ling Chen was about to leave, he suddenly heard a familiar voice coming from the warehouse: "Ling Chen, you're really annoying, like an annoying shadow that I can't shake off."

"Zhu Hong!" Ling Chen raised an eyebrow, looking around the warehouse. He quickly discovered a loudspeaker in the corner, from which Zhu Hong's voice was emanating. Furthermore, a surveillance camera was installed in the corner of the warehouse, keeping all their actions under watch.

"Too bad, even if you caught up, it's still futile, I managed to escape nonetheless."

"As long as you haven't left East Sea City, you have no right to say that."

Zhu Hong laughed, "Is that so? I'm afraid you'll be disappointed. I'm currently on a plane leaving East Sea City, which will take off in five minutes. No matter how capable you are, it's impossible to rush here and stop me."

Airport... Ling Chen's heart sank. He had clearly stationed people at the airport. Moreover, Hu Fei was constantly monitoring the airport surveillance; if Zhu Hong showed up, there was no reason they wouldn't notice. With that in mind, Ling Chen no longer wasted time with Zhu Hong and ran straight out of the warehouse.

However, just as they were about to rush out of the warehouse, there was a loud 'bang,' and the entire warehouse instantly turned into a sea of fire.

Chapter 1420 - 1728: Disfigurement (2)

At this moment, on a flight to Beijing, Zhu Hong sat in first class, watching the raging fire on his phone screen, his lips curling up. Trying to catch me, huh! I'll make you suffer too.

"Is everything resolved?" A middle-aged man's voice came from beside him.

Zhu Hong nodded with a smile and said, "I hope so. But even if he survives, he'll be missing an arm or a leg."

"What did you say?" Hu Fei, sitting at the computer, immediately stood up upon receiving the news, "The warehouse exploded? What about Ling Chen and the others, how are they, are they injured? What! You don't know?"

Damn it! Hu Fei cursed, quickly put away his phone, and shouted, "Send people to the Old City immediately."

Soon, Qiu Yong and others who received the news hurried over. Without saying much, everyone got into cars and rushed towards the Old City.

When they arrived, the fire brigade and police had already reached the scene, and Xia Mutong was in charge of coordinating. Seeing several commercial vehicles approaching, Xia Mutong immediately had the convoy stopped, prohibiting them from entering the site.

"Officer Xia, it's us." Hu Fei jumped out of the passenger seat, shouting at Xia Mutong.

"It's you?" Xia Mutong immediately recognized Hu Fei's identity and, seeing Qiu Yong and the others getting out, asked bewilderedly, "Why are you all here?"

Hu Fei asked urgently, "Did you rescue anyone from the fire?"

Xia Mutong shook her head and said, "The fire is still spreading, it might take a while to put out. Are there people inside the warehouse?"

"Ling Chen and the others were all inside earlier."

"Ling Chen?" Xia Mutong's face changed, "How... how could he be here?"

"It's a long story. In short, we need to rescue them; if we're any later, it will be too late." Hu Fei said hastily.

Xia Mutong took a deep breath, tried to calm her emotions, nodded, and said, "You stay here; I will organize the rescue team." After speaking, Xia Mutong sprinted toward where the firefighters were. In a moment, a rescue team of ten firefighters quickly entered the fire scene, leaving Hu Fei and the others anxiously waiting on the sidelines. So much time had passed, they didn't know if Ling Chen and the others were safe.

A few minutes later, a firefighter carried out a body completely charred. It was obvious without checking that the person was already dead, the burnt smell from the body evident even from ten meters away. Soon after, more firefighters started rescuing more people. However, Hu Fei and his team were anxious

because, while more than a dozen people had been rescued, they still hadn't seen Ling Chen or Chen Junfeng.

"Mr. Hu, look, it's Hao, he's been rescued."

Hu Fei focused and saw Jiang Hao's situation was slightly better, he wasn't carried but was helped out, limping, evidently having injured his left leg in the explosion. Soon, Jiang Hao was stretchered away by the doctors.

"I'll go check on Jiang Hao, you keep watching." After saying this, Hu Fei quickly ran toward the ambulance.

"Jiang Hao, how are you, are you okay?" Looking at Jiang Hao's face, marked by pain, Hu Fei asked in concern.

"I'm fine." Jiang Hao gritted his teeth and said, "Chen... have you found Chen yet?"

Hu Fei shook his head and said, "Not yet. Jiang Hao, what exactly happened at the time?"

"I don't know, I just heard an explosion, then Chen pounced on me from the side. What happened after that I don't know. Brother Hu, Chen... Chen will be okay, right?"

"Don't worry, Ling Chen has always been tough, this time will be no exception. You go to the hospital first, if there's news of Chen, I'll inform you." With that, Hu Fei instructed the doctors in the ambulance, then got off.

Not long after, more than a dozen people were rescued, including Chen Junfeng. Chen Junfeng's strength was considerable; at the moment of the explosion, he acted to protect himself, which resulted in not serious injuries, just fainting, luckily found by firefighters. Otherwise, if he stayed inside, he would be burned or choked to death by smoke.

"It's Sixth Brother, it's Sixth Brother." At this moment, Yuan Yun, with sharp eyes, pointed at firefighters emerging from the fire and shouted.

At this moment, two firefighters hurriedly carried Ling Chen's body out of the fire. Nearby medical staff saw this and rushed over with a stretcher.

Once Ling Chen was sent to the ambulance, everyone gathered around. Although he was rescued, Ling Chen was still unconscious. Not only that, there were multiple burn marks on his body, especially his chest, which was completely charred.

"Sixth Brother!" Qiu Yong looked at Ling Chen with worry.

"Quick, take him to the hospital," Hu Fei urged anxiously.

Seeing Ling Chen's injuries, Xia Mutong felt a pang in her heart, her throat felt blocked, and she couldn't utter a word. If possible, she wished she could accompany Ling Chen to the hospital, but as the scene commander, she had to stay and lead.

Watching the ambulance drive away, Xia Mutong wiped her tears and focused back on the fire scene.

At the hospital, doctors were already well-prepared and directly sent Ling Chen to the emergency room. Half an hour later, Tong Zhentian and Ling Gengqiu arrived at the hospital upon receiving the news.

"Elder Qiu, how's Ling Chen?" Tong Zhentian asked gravely.

Qiu Yong heaved a sigh and said, "It's still unclear, he's been in there for more than half an hour, should have results soon."

"What exactly happened?" Ling Gengqiu asked, his face stern. Although usually frivolous with Ling Chen, when serious matters arose, he was more formidable than anyone.

"Ling Chen went to chase Zhu Hong at the warehouse, and the warehouse exploded." Hu Fei recounted the events.

"What about Zhu Hong?"

"No idea, we haven't found him."

Just then, the emergency room door finally opened, and a doctor in a white coat came out.

"Doctor, how is he?" Everyone rushed over and asked impatiently.

The doctor gestured for them to quiet down, then said, "Rest assured, the patient is out of danger, but his burn coverage is quite extensive, requiring hospitalization for a period. Additionally, we will have to perform some skin grafting surgeries."

"No need for skin grafts," Ling Gengqiu interjected, "As long as his health recovers, nothing else matters." Pausing, Ling Gengqiu shifted topics, asking, "When can we see him?"

"The patient is still unconscious, it's best not to disturb him."