

The Beauty 1461

Chapter 1461 Qi Yong (3)

Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh, "This is interesting; Qi Yong suddenly took four spots, and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion also has four spots. This makes it very difficult for Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to gain control over the Martial Arts Association. Elder Tong, in the end, you have become the most critical person."

"Indeed! That's true. I originally thought my vote was insignificant, but Qi Yong's actions made my vote become the most important one, which is a pleasant surprise. Nevertheless, Qi Yong shares the same thoughts as us. He knows very well that once he controls five spots within the Martial Arts Association, he can influence any decision."

"Elder Tong, do you think Qi Yong will come to see you?"

As soon as Ling Chen's voice fell, Tian Hanzhong ran in from outside, "Master, Vice Master, a guest has arrived outside. He claims to be Qi Yong and wishes to meet the Martial Arts Association's Chairman."

"Ha!" He Ziyun said with a smile, "Speak of the devil, and he shall appear. So, are you interested in meeting him?"

"Since he's here, we shouldn't reject him. Besides, he is now a part of the Martial Arts Association, so it's only polite and reasonable for me to see him." At this, Tong Zhentian turned to look at Ling Chen and asked, "Would you like to go with me to meet him?"

"Sure." Ling Chen nodded, "I'm very curious about what kind of person Qi Yong is."

"Your health has just recovered, so you should be cautious," Ling Gengqiu reminded.

"Don't worry, you're here, aren't you? Even if something really happens, you can still back me up," Ling Chen laughed, then followed Tong Zhentian's footsteps towards the hall of the branch.

Soon, they arrived at the hall, one after another.

"Please sit."

Ling Chen shook his head, "No need, I'm fine standing. Qi Yong is here to see you; I'll just handle the tea serving." As soon as he finished speaking, Tian Hanzhong brought a middle-aged man in, walking briskly from outside the hall.

"Master, Qi Yong is here."

"Elder Tong, apologies for intruding," Qi Yong cupped his fists towards Tong Zhentian, his face full of respect.

"Sect Leader Qi, no need to be so formal. You are a distinguished guest at our Dragon Tiger Hall, please sit." Saying that, Tong Zhentian gave a meaningful look to Ling Chen, who immediately understood, and handed the freshly brewed tea to Qi Yong, "Please enjoy."

Qi Yong swiftly stood up and accepted the teacup with both hands, saying nervously, "How could I dare let Master Ling personally brew tea for me?"

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen looked at him with a smile that wasn't quite a smile, and asked, "You know me? If I remember correctly, this should be our first meeting."

"Ha ha!" Qi Yong laughed, "Master Ling is a renowned figure in Martial Arts. Although we've never met, I've long admired you and have always wanted to meet you."

"Sect Leader Qi is indeed thoughtful."

"Not at all; I have no particular hobby except for making friends with capable people. If Master Ling doesn't mind, I would love to be friends with you."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, "Let's see how things unfold. If we're compatible, we'll become friends sooner or later." After saying that, Ling Chen shifted the conversation, "Alright! Sect Leader Qi, I won't interrupt your discussion with Elder Tong. You two take your time chatting, don't mind me."

"Chairman Tong," Qi Yong turned his gaze to Tong Zhentian and said, "I came mainly to discuss something with Chairman Tong."

"Looking for me?" Tong Zhentian said meaningfully, "Sect Leader Qi, we're all members of the Martial Arts Association. If you have something to discuss, you could come to the Martial Arts Association. Why come to Dragon Tiger Hall? Is it that what you want to discuss can't be known by others?"

"Elder Tong deserves his reputation as an elder in Martial Arts, seeing through my thoughts with just a glance. That's right! What I want to discuss today involves Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and Elder Tong surely wouldn't want them to know."

"Actually, even without you saying, I could guess your intention. Cooperation!" Tong Zhentian slowly uttered the last two words.

"Since Elder Tong already knows my intention, let me speak frankly." Qi Yong said with a smile, "The Martial Arts Association has a total of nine spots. I, like Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, have four spots. If you add Chairman Tong's spot, we'll have five spots, overriding Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Chairman Tong, the benefits should be clear, and I believe it's a mutually beneficial proposition you wouldn't refuse."

Tong Zhentian said indifferently, "Sect Leader Qi, I think you might have misunderstood something. Do you know why we are restructuring the Martial Arts Association? Our main purpose is to promote the development of Martial Arts and expand Huaxia Martial Arts. The entire Martial Arts needs positive competition. While Dragon Tiger Hall and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion may engage in overt and covert struggles, we won't use despicable means to achieve victory."

Qi Yong said with a forced smile, "Chairman Tong, I'm not quite sure what you mean."

"It's very simple, the Martial Arts Association can have competition, but no ambition. Sect Leader Qi, do you understand?"

Upon hearing this, Qi Yong slowly put away his smile and replied, "Chairman Tong, isn't ambition also a factor in promoting Martial Arts?"

"Perhaps you're right, but history tells us that ambition often leads to destruction. Sect Leader Qi, I acknowledge your capabilities. However, I hope you can change your mindset and not trap yourself, ending up with nothing." After saying this, Tong Zhentian stood up from his seat, "I'm tired; if you have no other matters, I'll go rest."

Watching Tong Zhentian turn to leave, Qi Yong said, "Chairman Tong, this is a win-win opportunity. Since you've given it up, don't regret it in the future." With that, Qi Yong glanced at the silent Ling Chen, hummed softly, and walked out.

"Looks like our guess was correct; Qi Yong indeed came to discuss cooperation with us." As he watched Qi Yong leave, Tong Zhentian returned to his seat and began talking with Ling Chen.

"No doubt, Qi Yong's proposal is quite tempting. If it were someone else, they would likely agree joyfully. Unfortunately, he simplifies us too much," Ling Chen said, "Having hit a wall with us, how do you think Qi Yong will proceed?"

"He might go to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to discuss cooperation. Qi Yong's idea is clever, first aligning with one faction to suppress another, then seizing the opportunity to slowly grow his own influence. Once he's strong enough, he could replace one of our forces. Honestly, he's made a very strategic move."

"Unfortunately, his proposal didn't move us. Elder Tong, didn't you previously say that Su Mei greatly dislikes Qi Yong? If so, even if Qi Yong approaches Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Su Mei won't agree."

Chapter 1462 The Mysterious Meeting

"Your thinking is too simplistic," Tong Zhentian said. "There are no eternal enemies, only eternal interests. We can stay true to our original intentions and not be tempted by benefits, but who can guarantee that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will do the same as us?"

"That's true. It seems we need to be cautious; if the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion really joins forces with Qi Yong, it will be a big problem for the Dragon Tiger Hall."

At this point, Ling Chen sighed helplessly and said, "This time it's my fault. If I hadn't been seriously injured and missed such an important event, we wouldn't be in such a passive situation."

"As things stand, there's no need to worry about it. I've already arranged for someone to keep an eye on Qi Yong twenty-four hours a day. Besides, Ling wants to go over to the Dangyang Sect."

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and asked, puzzled, "Why is he going to the Dangyang Sect?"

"He's interested in a long-lost martial arts manual from the Dangyang Sect and wants to see if he can find it."

Is that so? Ling Chen was immediately intrigued—a martial arts manual that could interest Ling Gengqiu must be extraordinary. However, thinking of his own situation, Ling Chen felt a bit helpless. Now he was no different from an ordinary person; even if he wanted to go to the Dangyang Sect, Ling Gengqiu wouldn't take him along.

"Ling Chen, your injuries have just recovered. Take a good rest recently and don't worry about these things."

"I understand."

Back in the backyard of the branch hall, Ling Chen returned to his room and lay down on his bed for a while.

Knock knock knock!

Not long after, there was a series of knocks on the door outside the room.

When he opened the door, he saw Tian Hanzhong standing at the entrance.

"Tian?" Ling Chen asked, "Do you need something from me?"

"Just now, someone came to the door. He said he was a friend of yours and wanted to arrange a meeting with you."

"A friend? What friend? Do you know his name?"

"I asked, but he didn't say, only left an address. How about... I have Mr. He notify a few people to accompany you?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment, shook his head, and said, "No need. Since the person invited me out, he probably won't harm me. Alright then, Tian, you can go get busy with your matters."

After watching Tian Hanzhong leave, Ling Chen looked at the address left on the note, feeling a bit curious. Who could it be that arranged such a mysterious meeting with him?

In the evening, at 7:30, Ling Chen drove alone to the designated location. It was a restaurant, and by now, the dinner rush was over, so there weren't many customers inside. Ling Chen glanced inside from the restaurant door but didn't see anyone he knew.

"Hello, are you Mr. Ling?" At this moment, a smiling waiter came over and asked.

"Yes, that's me."

"Your table has been reserved. Please follow me."

Seeing the waiter leading the way ahead, Ling Chen appeared somewhat puzzled, still unsure who had invited him and why they were being so secretive.

Soon, the waiter led Ling Chen to a window seat.

This booth was empty except for him. Ling Chen looked around but didn't spot the person who had arranged the meeting.

Just as he was pondering, the waiter who had led him here came over again, placing a briefcase in front of Ling Chen.

"Mr. Ling, a gentleman asked me to give this to you."

Ling Chen glanced at the briefcase and asked, "Didn't the gentleman tell you who he is?"

"Sorry, the gentleman didn't say." As he spoke, a few waiters came over with dishes. Before long, the table was filled with a sumptuous spread, accompanied by a bottle of Moutai.

"Was this also ordered by that gentleman?"

The waiter nodded and said, "Yes. Mr. Ling, please enjoy your meal. If you need anything, just call for me."

Picking up the briefcase, Ling Chen casually opened it. Inside was a phone and a Bluetooth earpiece. Ling Chen toyed with the phone for a moment and discovered a single number saved in the contacts.

Heh! That guy is really cautious, using this method to contact me.

After some thought, Ling Chen pulled out his own phone and first made a call to Hu Fei. After that, he placed the Bluetooth earpiece in his ear and dialed the number from the contacts.

Soon, the call connected, and a processed voice immediately came through from the other end: "Hello, Mr. Ling. I'm glad you could make it to our appointment."

"I came right on time, but it seems the host doesn't have the courtesy to even meet me face to face. Am I really that terrifying?"

"It's not about being terrifying or not. I just think it's best if we don't meet to avoid unnecessary trouble."

"Since you put it that way, it proves you're someone I know, correct?"

"You're smart. Since you've guessed that I'm someone you know, can you figure out my identity?"

Ling Chen thought carefully. He knew many people, but he couldn't figure out who this person might be.

"I can't guess who you are, but you must be someone who knows me well."

"Why do you think that?"

Looking at the table full of dishes, Ling Chen smiled and said, "It's simple. These are all my favorite foods. If you didn't know me well, you wouldn't have made such arrangements."

"Alright, let's not talk about that now. I arranged for today's meeting because there's something very important I want to discuss with you."

"Discuss? Is this your idea of sincerity?"

As soon as Ling Chen finished speaking, a red dot of light appeared on the table in front of him. The red dot slowly moved from the table to the top of Ling Chen's head.

Noticing the presence of the red light, Ling Chen glanced at the glass window outside and said with a smile, "Is this your sincerity?"

"You've misunderstood. I'm just letting you know that I'm right beside you, which shows my sincerity."

"Alright." Ling Chen nodded lightly and asked, "What is it you want to discuss with me?"

"I want to discuss a person with you. Someone you're quite familiar with—Zhu Hong!"

"Zhu Hong?" Ling Chen raised an eyebrow and looked at the glass window outside. "Why bring him up with me?"

"Don't you really want to get rid of this man? I also want to find him because he took something he shouldn't have. Our goals align, so why don't we cooperate this time? What do you think?"

"That's a proposal I can consider." Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "However, you must know Zhu Hong's current location. Not just anyone can go to that place. Even if I wanted to find him, there's nothing I could do."

"Don't worry about that. I can provide everything you need to walk into that research base with ease."

"Since you're so capable, why not do it yourself?"

"It's inconvenient for me to take action directly, so I need you to do this. What do you say, consider helping me out?"

Chapter 1463 Authorization

Ling Chen pondered for a moment and said, "That research facility is owned by the military. If I follow your instructions, wouldn't that put me against the military? How can you guarantee my safety?"

"That's not something you need to worry about," the other person said with a smile. "What if I told you that all your actions are authorized by the military? Would that interest you?"

Hearing this, a gleam immediately flashed in Ling Chen's eyes. Military authorization? This matter indeed sounds interesting. That research facility is managed by the military, and the military's research institute is in charge of it. From any angle, the research facility is military property, and the military has the right to directly oversee it. However, the other party told him that this operation was authorized by the military, which definitely implies some issues.

"Are you sure it's military authorization? Is it not a fabricated reason to deceive me?"

As soon as the words fell, there was silence on the other end of the phone for a long time. Ling Chen's lips curled slightly. Could it be that he had seen through the other party's trickery, causing the person to dare not speak?

While he was lost in thought, the waitress who had brought him in earlier came in again and placed a file folder in front of Ling Chen, then turned and walked away.

Picking up the file folder and feeling its weight, Ling Chen immediately opened it and pulled out a document. After just a quick glance, Ling Chen's expression changed. Having spent so much time with the ghosts, he naturally recognized the document in his hand. It was an authorization document approved by the highest levels of the military. Moreover, he could be very sure that this document was absolutely genuine.

"So, do you have any more questions now?" Hearing the voice on the phone once more, Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh and asked, "There's one more thing I'm puzzled about. Since it's an authorization from the highest military level, it means the operation is a secret mission permitted by the military. With so many elite forces in the army, why not directly assign the task to them, but instead seek me, an outsider?"

"You're also an elite nurtured by the army, so you're not considered an outsider. Besides, the reason we seek your help is mainly to leverage your capabilities. Zhu Hong is a formidable figure, and he is protected by experts. Although the military has many elite fighters, none can match him."

"Are you talking about Chen Quan?"

"Exactly! Zhu Hong used certain means to transfer Chen Quan, who was imprisoned, to the research facility. By the time we found out, it was too late. Although we've never encountered a master from the Heavenly List, we understand people like them have very strong individual capabilities."

Ling Chen casually picked up the Moutai, poured himself a full glass, and said, "If that's the case, I'm afraid you'll be disappointed."

"What do you mean?"

"If you had approached me a month earlier, I would have certainly agreed to help, but not now. Recently, I had an accident and suffered serious injuries. Forget about Zhu Hong and Chen Quan, I can't even contend with a common soldier sent by the army. So, I truly apologize, I really can't help you. Oh, and thank you for your hospitality." With that, Ling Chen put down his glass and prepared to leave.

"Wait!" The person on the other end quickly called out to Ling Chen, saying, "You might have misunderstood my intentions. I'm not asking you to confront Zhu Hong, but to leverage your influence. This matter can only be accomplished with the resources you control."

"You want to use my influence? My friend, do you expect my people to undertake such a dangerous task just based on your word? Don't you think that's unreasonable?"

"I understand your point. As long as you can help, we can consider agreeing to some of your demands. Since it's a transaction, we will not let you suffer a loss in vain."

Hearing this, Ling Chen thought seriously. If he could have the military owe him a favor, it wouldn't be a bad thing. Thinking of this, he sat back in his seat and, looking out the glass window, nodded and said, "If that's the case, maybe I can accept this task." After a pause, Ling Chen continued to ask, "Can you tell me a bit more about it? Is there something wrong on the research facility's side that even your military can't handle, so you came to me for help?"

"To be honest, I'm not very clear on the details. My task is to persuade you to execute this mission. Other matters are handled by designated personnel." The other person laughed and said, "Speaking of this 'designated person', you are actually very familiar with him; it's your good brother Tang Yuan. He went to the research facility in North County two days ago. If you want more detailed intelligence, you might want to find him. You've cooperated for so many years; I believe that as long as you work together, you can overcome any difficulty."

So Tang Yuan is also involved in this mission... Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, I will hurry to North County to meet up with Tang Yuan."

"I'll send Tang Yuan's contact information to your phone. As for what to do next, that's entirely up to you." After saying this, the other person didn't say any more and hung up the phone directly.

In less than ten seconds, Ling Chen's phone received a text message with Tang Yuan's phone number and location.

After saving the information, Ling Chen didn't waste the sumptuous meal on the table and had a full meal before getting up to leave the restaurant, heading straight to the base.

This mission involving Zhu Hong and Chen Quan gave Ling Chen no reason to refuse. However, being a cautious man, he was determined to do his homework before executing the task to avoid danger.

"Fatty, hadn't I asked you to monitor the activities of that research facility a while ago? Did you find anything?"

"Don't mention it; that research facility seems to have turned into a ghostly entity; nothing can be found out. Hey! Is that mission you mentioned reliable? Isn't someone pulling a fast one on you?"

"No way!" Ling Chen's tone was firm. "There's nothing wrong with that authorization document; I've been in the military for so many years, I wouldn't make a mistake."

"In that case, you'll have to look to Tang Yuan for information. I can't find anything here. By the way! Who are you planning to take with you on this mission?"

"Our main targets are Zhu Hong and Chen Quan, with Chen Quan being the greatest threat. To be on the safe side, besides Sir Chen, I'm planning to have Qin Genglong and Kaelina accompany me. With Tang Yuan as well, the five of us should be able to handle any situation."

"It's best for you to be careful yourself; you're not what you used to be these days," Hu Fei advised worriedly.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "Don't worry, I won't be charging into battle anymore. Alright! I won't say more. Once I arrive in North County, let's keep in touch at all times. I have a feeling this mission is somewhat odd."

Chapter 1464 - 1772: North County Research Institute (1)

The next day.

After greeting Ling Kun, Ling Chen boarded a plane with Chen Junfeng, Qin Genglong, Kaelina, and Zhu Qing heading to the destination. Zhu Qing was responsible for his close protection, given the current situation. She had to follow him at all times to prevent any danger.

Because this mission involved the military, strict confidentiality was required. Furthermore, considering his own circumstances, Ling Chen feared Ling Kun would worry about his health and not allow him to take on this military mission. Therefore, he only said he was going out for some relaxation and did not reveal his true purpose to Ling Kun.

After several hours of arduous travel, the four finally entered the borders of North County. It was Ling Chen's second time here, so he was familiar with the environment. Upon reaching the county town of North County, Ling Chen found a hotel and arranged accommodation for the four of them. Afterwards, Ling Chen made a phone call to Tang Yuan to set up a meeting to understand the situation at the research facility.

Upon connection, Tang Yuan immediately expressed surprise upon recognizing Ling Chen's voice. "Why is it you?"

"Why not me?" Ling Chen replied with a smile, "Surprised? Hey! Where are you? I'm already at the hotel. Why don't you come to see me?"

"You... sigh! What are you doing getting involved in this mess? Alright, let's skip that for now. Wait for me at the hotel; I'll be there soon."

After hanging up, pondering over Tang Yuan's words, Ling Chen felt puzzled. Tang Yuan's tone lacked excitement. Previously, Tang Yuan would have been thrilled to cooperate. Could it be... this mission was truly extraordinary?

After waiting about half an hour in the hotel, a 'knock, knock, knock' was heard from outside the hotel room. Opening the door, seeing Tang Yuan outside, Ling Chen grinned, promptly stepping aside to welcome him in.

"Tea or coffee?" Ling Chen asked with a smile.

Tang Yuan waved his hand and said, "Let's cut out the nonsense. Why did you leave Beijing and come here?"

"The military approached me and asked for my help. They offered conditions I found acceptable, so I agreed. Besides, this mission involves Zhu Hong, and I certainly wouldn't refuse."

"Sigh!" Tang Yuan sighed helplessly, saying, "I don't even know how to talk to you about this. Earlier, they informed me that someone would come to meet me in North County; I never imagined it would be you. If I had known, I would have stopped you."

"What's wrong?" Ling Chen asked puzzled, "Is this mission dangerous? It's just Chen Quan; I know he's formidable, but this time I have even stronger allies."

"If you think the targets of this mission are only Zhu Hong and Chen Quan, you are greatly mistaken." Tang Yuan said seriously, "What did they tell you when they approached you?"

"They said nothing, only mentioned Zhu Hong and Chen Quan."

"That's it." Tang Yuan chuckled bitterly, shaking his head, "You've been set up."

"Set up?" Ling Chen was startled, confused by Tang Yuan's words, "Come on! Don't create this tense atmosphere. Tell me, what's going on exactly."

"Since Zhu Hong was transferred to the research facility by the military, issues began emerging at the facility. Over twenty days ago, the facility lost all contact with the military; all communications were severed, and even the internet could not access the facility's system. Additionally, the troops originally deployed by the military to guard the facility mysteriously vanished; there's no news, and even the military cannot reach them. Later, the military sent an investigative team to find out what happened at the facility. However, all five members of that team disappeared without a trace."

"Moreover, the military discovered their internal servers were breached, and many classified documents were stolen. In the military, only a few have the authority to access secret files, one being the director of the Military Research Institute, Yi Haisheng. Since the establishment of the North County research facility, Yi Haisheng personally led a team to study the ancient tomb, overseeing the facility entirely. During this period, Yi Haisheng stayed at the facility. Additionally, Yi Haisheng was the one who authorized Zhu Hong's transfer to the facility."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen asked, "Are you suggesting that the director of the institute betrayed the military?"

"I don't know; it's all speculation at this point, without concrete evidence. But now there are two possibilities: either Yi Haisheng and Zhu Hong reached a certain agreement and are collaborating, or Zhu Hong took over control of the research facility, forcing Yi Haisheng to help him steal military secrets."

"If you say so, I think the second possibility is more likely. I understand Zhu Hong's capabilities well, and he also has Chen Quan by his side."

"Really?" Tang Yuan interjected, "I think the first possibility is more likely."

"The first one? Why do you say that?"

"You probably aren't familiar with Yi Haisheng; he's not from a military background, but a science enthusiast with high prestige in this field. Initially, the military investigated his background, and after deliberations at high levels, they decided to appoint him as the director of the research institute. Yi Haisheng is indeed competent; under his leadership, the institute has made great progress, aiding the military in developing many new weapons." Tang Yuan then shifted his tone, "Initially, we were tasked with hunting down the God Organization. Due to Yi Haisheng's high authority, he also knew about the God Organization. Furthermore, he is intensely interested in researching the God Organization. We destroyed many bases of the God Organization, didn't we? All the things seized at those bases were handed over to the institute, personally overseen by Yi Haisheng. Yet, you and I both know that nominally it's safekeeping, but in reality, it's secret research."

"So that's how it is." Ling Chen nodded, "If Yi Haisheng is interested in researching the God Organization, the discovery of the ancient tomb certainly poses great attraction to him."

"Exactly! As I mentioned, Yi Haisheng is a science enthusiast; he cares little for rank and status, only his scientific achievements. So, I feel he is more likely to cooperate with Zhu Hong. Zhu Hong must have possessed some critical information, prompting Yi Haisheng to exploit his connections to bring Zhu Hong to the facility."

"If that's all there is, then there might not be much danger. At best, Yi Haisheng is a knowledgeable civilian. Earlier, you made the atmosphere so tense I thought there was grave danger."

Chapter 1465 - 1773: North County Research Institute (2)

"No, when I say it's dangerous, I mean truly dangerous." With that, Tang Yuan pulled a document from his backpack and handed it to Ling Chen. "See for yourself. This is the last piece of information the military received before losing contact with the institute."

Ling Chen read through the document from start to finish, his face suddenly changing. "Is everything in this document true?"

"It is." Tang Yuan nodded, speaking seriously. "Yi Haisheng mentioned in this document that thanks to Zhu Hong's arrival, their research has made groundbreaking progress. In this document, Yi Haisheng repeatedly mentions 'reinforcement' and 'experiment.' Both of us have dealt with the God Organization, so we know what this implies. So much time has passed since the disappearance, and the military high command is suspecting something."

"What is it?"

"Those missing soldiers didn't vanish without cause; they were used by Yi Haisheng as test subjects. Since Yi Haisheng achieved significant breakthroughs in his research, he must need a large number of subjects to test if their research is correct. Yi Haisheng once submitted a request to draw prisoners as test subjects. However, this request was outright rejected by the higher-ups. Even prisoners have their rights. Yi Haisheng allegedly had a huge argument with the high command over this matter, and in the end, it was left unresolved—this was also the last time Yi Haisheng had phone contact with the military. A few days after this event, all those soldiers vanished. I think Yi Haisheng was influenced by Zhu Hong to make such a decision."

"How many people are responsible for securing the institute?"

"Twenty people, not many, but they are elite units, capable of defeating ten foes apiece. Just imagine, if our speculation is correct and Yi Haisheng and Zhu Hong used those elite soldiers for enhancement, do you think this mission will be simple?"

Hearing this, a hint of seriousness finally appeared in Ling Chen's eyes. If it truly is like that, it's indeed a big problem.

"Old Tang, didn't you investigate that research institute before? What did you discover?"

Tang Yuan shook his head, saying, "Nothing at all. The institute is sealed entirely, no access at all."

"No access?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, saying, "Didn't the person who contacted me say we could go inside?"

"You believe them? They'd definitely describe this mission as very easy so that you'd take the bait. If they directly told you this mission is extremely dangerous, even threatening your life, would you dare come? That's why I said earlier, you've been tricked by them. Honestly, you should abandon it sooner rather than later, lest you end up paying the ultimate price."

"What about you?"

"Me? Of course, I'm staying. I'm a soldier; this is my mission. I can't leave until the mission is complete."

"There you go." Ling Chen smiled and said, "I'll stay too, even if it's not for the mission. I can't just stand by and watch my brother take risks alone. Come on! Stop worrying about this and that. We're brothers; what can't we accomplish together?"

"You... sigh! Forget it, can't be bothered to argue with you. Since you want to stay, I'll take you over to the institute."

"Alright."

The two rested briefly at the hotel. At midnight, Ling Chen got on Tang Yuan's motorcycle and headed straight toward the institute. Before long, a building standing darkly appeared in Ling Chen's sight. Although Ling Chen had visited once before, the institute wasn't yet established then. Looking around, the lab covered a vast area, three-stories high, situated right above the ancient tomb—the tomb's entrance is inside the institute.

Ling Chen observed from outside for a while. Throughout, there wasn't the slightest light from inside the institute. Strange! Ling Chen frowned slightly. Why is there not a hint of light inside the whole institute? Is there really not a soul inside?

"Old Tang, have you been monitoring for days without seeing a single person?"

"No one. Not a person, not even a light; the institute seems abandoned."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen turned his gaze to the rows of tents surrounding the institute. "Who lives there?"

"The troops responsible for security. Due to Yi Haisheng's requirement, they all reside here, prohibited from entering the institute."

"Let's go take a look together." With that, Ling Chen cautiously made his way toward the tents in the dark. Soon, the two arrived at one of the tents. As soon as they entered, a pungent smell immediately hit them from within. Ling Chen switched on his phone flashlight to inspect the situation inside the tent. On a central table sat several dishes, left for so long they were emitting a foul odor.

Ling Chen held his nose, glanced around, and said, "The people living here were about to eat, but the meal was left unfinished as they were forcibly taken away."

"Forcibly?" Tang Yuan asked puzzledly. "How did you discern that?"

Ling Chen pointed at the dropped bowls and scattered food on the ground. "As soldiers, they adhere to strict discipline, no matter what happens, they wouldn't casually throw bowls on the ground. This indicates they were forcefully pulled away. Look, there are trampled traces on these scattered food pieces, meaning there was a struggle."

"So, our judgment is correct."

Ling Chen nodded, saying, "I'm afraid Yi Haisheng isn't just a science fanatic; he's a lunatic, even daring to harm his own people. Come on, take me to see the institute."

Leaving the tent, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan went straight to the institute's main entrance.

"There's a surveillance camera there; be careful not to be spotted." Tang Yuan cautioned.

Gazing at the tightly shut door, Ling Chen asked, "Can't this door be opened?"

"No way! Because of the importance placed on this ancient tomb by the military, when constructing the institute, they used extremely sturdy materials. Not even bombs could certainly break it open, unless using a large amount of plastic explosives. But doing so won't be permitted from above. The mission's core is secrecy; too much commotion isn't allowed. I've carefully inspected over these past couple days and found no flaws. The institute is designed like a steel fortress, very hard to infiltrate. I've reported this to the higher-ups, but haven't received a reply yet."

"Tonight, we're merely assessing the situation. Before gathering enough intelligence, we should avoid rash actions; who knows what's hidden inside."

Chapter 1466 - 1774: North County Research Institute (3)

Inside the research facility, the pitch-black room was eerily quiet, without a single sound.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Suddenly, a series of muffled sounds came from underground. Following the sounds was a pit over two meters deep, beside which there was a large door. Two men in suits stood at the doorway, like two statues, standing quietly.

Behind the door where they stood, a faint light glimmered.

At this moment, a young man emerged from the dark room and walked straight to the pit, leaping down. Upon seeing him, the two men in suits said in unison, "Mr. Zhu."

The young man was none other than Zhu Hong.

Zhu Hong nodded and asked, "Where is Dean Yi? Is he inside?"

"Dean Yi is waiting for you."

Following the path inside the pit, Zhu Hong strode ahead. Soon, he arrived at a cave filled with various equipment. If Ling Chen were here, he would surely recognize this place as where He Zhishen's tomb was first discovered.

Upon entering the tomb, Zhu Hong looked around and saw a rectangular vessel placed not far away, with a middle-aged man standing beside it, around his fifties, dressed in a white lab coat. At the moment, the middle-aged man was examining data.

Zhu Hong walked straight up and asked, "Dean Yi, how is the situation?"

This middle-aged man was Yi Haisheng, the head of the research facility. He was holding a tablet, and without raising his head, he looked at the rectangular vessel and said, "See for yourself, these are all experimental data." Yi Haisheng handed the tablet to Zhu Hong.

Zhu Hong glanced at it casually and said, "The data looks pretty good; the key is the final result." With that, Zhu Hong turned his gaze towards the rectangular vessel. Inside it lay a man, appearing to be in his twenties.

The man's eyes were closed, his skin was a faint green, looking quite eerie.

"I believe there won't be any issues. We've succeeded in thirteen experiments without a single failure. This one will be no exception," Yi Haisheng said confidently.

"By the way, there's one more thing," Zhu Hong said, "We've lost contact with the military for several days now. I'm worried they'll send someone to check on the situation. You'd better be careful; it's a critical time, and we can't afford any mistakes."

Yi Haisheng chuckled indifferently, "You don't need to worry about that at all. Our experiment has had a groundbreaking success. Once we submit this report, even if we've broken many regulations, I believe they won't care. Do you understand how much this research outcome will change the military power of the nation? Without any surprises, it could reshape the entire world's military landscape."

"Let's hope so. It's better to be cautious than regretful. Never underestimate the military—they're not fools," Zhu Hong said, and with that, he ignored Yi Haisheng and walked straight into the depths of the tomb.

At the far end of the tomb, it had been transformed into a fitness training room.

Inside the training room, there were over a dozen researchers in white coats conducting comprehensive tests on the personnel who had undergone enhancement experiments, including strength, reaction abilities, hearing, and various physical qualities.

Seeing Zhu Hong walk over, everyone greeted him one after another. Since Zhu Hong came to this research facility, he had brought about tremendous changes for the people here. Some didn't like these changes, but they appreciated the success these changes brought. They were all members of the military research institute, subordinates of Yi Haisheng.

Due to the long-term influence from Yi Haisheng, these people had become obsessively passionate about scientific research. Therefore, when faced with research that could change the world's power dynamics, they were willing to give up everything.

Zhu Hong wandered around the training room to see if the condition of those transformed through the experiments was as expected.

After passing through the training room, Zhu Hong arrived outside a sealed room. There were personnel guarding the door, and upon seeing Zhu Hong, the two men in suits stepped aside immediately. After they left, Zhu Hong pressed two buttons, and a small keypad gradually emerged from the wall next to him. After entering an eight-digit number, the door to the room slowly opened.

As the door opened, a satisfied smile appeared on Zhu Hong's face, and he strode inside. With his departure, the door quickly closed.

"That's the situation..." In the hotel, Ling Chen explained the general circumstances to the others.

"So how do we get in?" Qin Genglong asked, "Should I just smash the door down?"

"That's the last resort. Even if we ignore the fact that the door might not be breakable, the most crucial thing is that we don't know what the situation is inside the research facility. If there are traps set up inside, we could be in danger. So the best approach is to sneak in without them noticing."

"Isn't that a bit unrealistic?" Tang Yuan interjected, "You've seen the situation over there."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Actually, it's not that big of a problem. Remember when we discovered He Zhishen's tomb, and he suddenly disappeared from the coffin? We confirmed repeatedly that He Zhishen didn't leave through the tomb's main entrance. This indicates that there must be a hidden passage leading outside from the tomb."

Hearing this, Tang Yuan's eyes lit up.

"How did I not think of that? If we can find that hidden passage, we can avoid the research facility's surveillance and sneak in. Alright! Let's rest tonight and go look for it tomorrow."

Ling Chen nodded, "That's the plan."

The next morning.

Ling Chen, Tang Yuan, and the rest of the group drove to the vicinity of the research facility. To avoid detection by those at the research facility, they didn't drive directly in but parked the car at a distance and approached on foot.

Looking at the surroundings and relying on past memories, Ling Chen pointed to the research facility in the distance and said, "The research facility is positioned at the entrance to the tomb. We can start searching around the area. To increase efficiency, everyone will be responsible for a specific area. Remember! There are definitely people inside the research facility, so we must be cautious and not expose our whereabouts."

After a few reminders, Ling Chen divided the area into several sections and assigned them to everyone. If it weren't for the urgency and the desire not to waste time, Ling Chen could have gone to find He Zhishen to ask him directly about the location of the hidden passage.

In a matter of hours, despite diligently searching, the group found nothing, not uncovering any trace of the hidden passage. However, they weren't discouraged, as a hidden passage certainly wouldn't be easy to find.

Chapter 1467 - 1775: North County Research Institute (4)

As evening fell, Ling Chen instructed Chen Junfeng to take the team back first, while he and Tang Yuan stayed behind. All day, with everyone's concerted efforts, the area around the research institute had been thoroughly searched, but the location of the secret passage remained elusive.

Based on Ling Chen's judgement, the secret passage was likely located a considerable distance from the tomb chamber. Only in this way could He Zhishen secretly leave the tomb chamber without being noticed.

"Tang Yuan, if we keep searching like this, the area will get larger and the time will take longer. How about... I report to the higher-ups and have them send more personnel?"

"Alright, you'd better contact them soon and strive to redeploy people by tomorrow." After a pause, Ling Chen added, "Remember, we only need elites, no need to just add numbers."

"Don't worry, I know what to do."

However, just as Ling Chen and Tang Yuan were about to return to the hotel, a light suddenly appeared in the pitch-black research institute. But that light came and went in an instant and quickly disappeared. Noticing this, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan exchanged glances and immediately found a convenient spot to observe silently.

A few minutes later, the gate of the research institute slowly opened, and a Jeep drove out, heading straight for the direction of the North County town.

Seeing the opened gate, Ling Chen's first impulse was to rush over. However, he was several dozen meters away from the gate, and as the Jeep departed, the gate immediately closed. Even if he rushed over with all his strength, it would be impossible to get through.

"Tang Yuan, what now?"

"Follow that Jeep and see what they're up to." With that, the two quickly rushed to their parked car and drove in the direction the Jeep had disappeared.

To avoid being detected, Ling Chen was extremely cautious, not even turning on the headlights, maintaining a safe distance. As long as the Jeep remained in sight, it was enough not to lose it.

After about twenty minutes, the Jeep slowly came to a stop.

"Old Tang, what's that place?" Ling Chen asked, looking at a building beside the Jeep.

"Not sure, let me check." Tang Yuan pulled out his phone and quickly found the information on the building.

"That's the electrical company in North County; the entire county's electricity is supplied from there."

"Electrical company?" Ling Chen frowned, puzzled, "What on earth are they doing at an electrical company?"

"Tang Yuan, do you think... maybe we should just take out the people in that car and impersonate them to enter the research institute?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and shook his head, "No, that's too risky. I have a better idea." He parked the car and, with Tang Yuan, stealthily approached the Jeep.

At this time, the people in the Jeep had already entered the electrical company. Ling Chen and Tang Yuan came to the side of the Jeep and crawled under it, lying quietly in wait.

After more than ten minutes, two people jumped over the electrical company's wall and headed straight for the Jeep. Hearing the sound of car doors closing, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan immediately grabbed hold of the Jeep's chassis, placing their legs on it.

Fortunately, the Jeep's chassis was high, and although the road was bumpy, the two were quite safe. Twenty minutes later, the Jeep finally returned to the research institute.

A man in the car used a walkie-talkie, seemingly communicating with someone inside the research institute. After a while, the research institute's gate slowly opened, and the Jeep drove straight in.

Once inside the research institute, the Jeep quickly came to a stop. After the people in the car walked away, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan crawled out from underneath. Observing the surroundings, Ling Chen found himself in the garage of the research institute. Passing through the garage door, they truly entered the research institute.

"Old Tang, let's split up."

Tang Yuan nodded, "Alright, I'll find the control room and try to open the main gate. Be careful."

"Got it." Before entering the research institute, Ling Chen had contacted Chen Junfeng and others, asking them to come to the research institute immediately. Therefore, they must open the main gate before Chen Junfeng arrives.

After watching Tang Yuan leave, Ling Chen walked alone down the pitch-black corridor of the research institute. He was no different from an ordinary person now, with no special abilities. If he accidentally encountered an enemy, he would surely be doomed. Thus, he was cautiously prudent.

Ling Chen searched quickly from the first to the third floor of the institute, but found no one. The entire building seemed to be abandoned, without even a single computer.

Darn! What's going on?

Ling Chen cursed silently, then returned to the first floor of the research institute.

"Tang Yuan!"

Hearing a voice behind him, Ling Chen turned to see Tang Yuan approaching quickly. "How is it, did you find their control room?"

Tang Yuan shook his head, "No! There's not a single person in this building, I think they're all hiding in the tomb chamber. However, I just checked, there are guards at the entrance to the tomb chamber. It's practically impossible to sneak in unnoticed."

Ling Chen rubbed his nose. They were already inside the research institute, and getting out wasn't easy unless they could find a way to open the door.

If retreat wasn't an option, the only way was to advance.

"Let's go."

In a short while, the two reached the entrance of the tomb chamber. Finding a cover, they hid quietly. Seeing the two men in suits guarding the entrance, Ling Chen signaled to Tang Yuan. The latter understood, crawled forward stealthily.

Just as Tang Yuan was about to reach the two suited men, he suddenly leapt up, lunging directly at them.

The two men in suits had no time to react before Tang Yuan knocked them to the ground.

Whew!

Exhaling, Tang Yuan looked at the approaching Ling Chen and said, "Thankfully, these two guys aren't Enhanced People, otherwise, I wouldn't have been able to handle them alone."

Tang Yuan knew Ling Chen's condition; at the moment, he couldn't rely on anyone but himself.

Along the tomb passage, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan stuck close to the wall, slowly advancing. After moving several dozen meters, Ling Chen finally saw a light and heard footsteps ahead.

"Someone's there!" Ling Chen gestured to Tang Yuan, who immediately drew a dagger from his waist and quietly approached the light.

At the main tomb chamber, Ling Chen peeked inside and saw various pieces of equipment scattered throughout. In addition, there were over a dozen researchers in white coats, all busy and bustling around.

Where's Zhu Hong? Ling Chen looked around but found no trace of Zhu Hong, not even Chen Quan.

Chapter 1468 - 1776: North County Research Institute (5)

"Don't act rashly," Ling Chen signaled to Tang Yuan to hold back for now; they hadn't yet located Zhu Hong and Chen Quan, and acting hastily would be too risky.

Time passed second by second, and those research personnel seemed extremely busy, as if they were preparing something. Soon after, they all rushed towards the passage in the depths of the grave chamber. In the blink of an eye, the massive main tomb chamber was empty.

Entering the main chamber, Ling Chen looked around. Beside him, Tang Yuan asked quizzically, "What's going on? Where did all those people go?"

"No idea, let's find the control room first." Saying this, Ling Chen pointed to another passage, "Let's head over there."

Having spent a long time in the grave chamber before, the two were quite familiar with the surroundings here. There were only so many rooms inside the chamber, so finding their way wasn't difficult.

Before long, Ling Chen discovered the location of the control room. However, what troubled them was that there were surveillance cameras outside the control room, along with several men in suits guarding it. If they took action, it would certainly cause a big commotion and alert the others in the chamber.

If Chen Quan arrived, they'd be in trouble.

After some thought, Ling Chen pulled out his phone and sent a message to Zhu Qing.

Soon, there was a reply.

"Sir Chen and the others will arrive at the research institute in about ten minutes; we'll act in ten minutes," Ling Chen said. As long as Chen Junfeng and the rest arrived in time, they wouldn't need to worry about Chen Quan.

Ten minutes might not seem long, but for Ling Chen and Tang Yuan, it felt endless. Looking at his phone, Zhu Qing had just texted that they had arrived outside the research institute.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen nodded to Tang Yuan beside him, "It's time to move." As his words fell, Tang Yuan didn't hesitate, brandishing his dagger and charging straight ahead. Meanwhile, Ling Chen followed closely, swiftly entering the control room.

While Tang Yuan's skills were enough to deal with these people, it wasted too much time, and Ling Chen had to step in to help. Despite losing all his martial arts prowess, he still retained years of experience and skill, and handling one or two enemies was still manageable.

Inside the control room, there were three staff members in total. Ling Chen kicked the door open, sending one staff member flying to the ground. Before the other two could react, Ling Chen swiftly moved behind them, clapped his hands together from both sides, causing their heads to collide violently, and in an instant, they passed out.

Having taken care of the staff in the control room, Tang Yuan also finished the battle outside the door.

After regrouping, Tang Yuan glanced at the equipment in the control room and said, "You keep an eye on the outside. I'll look for the program to open the main door."

Ling Chen nodded, turning around to head outside. However, before he reached the door, all the lights in the grave chamber suddenly dimmed, even the equipment in the control room lost power. The surroundings were pitch black, like reaching out into darkness.

"What's going on?"

"No idea, seems like...a blackout?"

Tang Yuan spoke in a deep voice, "Why would there suddenly be a power outage? Those people just went to the power company; could it be related to their earlier actions?"

"Don't panic, let's wait and see, maybe the power will be restored soon." As his words fell, emergency lights on the walls of the control room suddenly lit up, including the emergency lights in the chamber and passage.

Tang Yuan couldn't help but curse, "How could such an important research institute not have a backup power supply?"

Ling Chen glanced outside the control room and said, "Old Tang, I think we better leave quickly, the noise just now definitely caught their attention."

"What about the door? It's not open yet."

"Forget it, saving our lives is the most important thing now."

Leaving the control room, Tang Yuan followed Ling Chen, quickly heading towards the outside of the chamber.

As they were about to reach the chamber exit, Ling Chen suddenly stopped abruptly in front, looking solemnly ahead.

At the chamber exit stood ten men, lined up shoulder to shoulder, forming a wall.

Damn! Still a step too slow.

Ling Chen furrowed his brows, slowly backing away.

"Old Tang, you head back to the control room. If the power comes back on, open the institute's main door immediately."

"What about you?"

"I'll stay and hold these people off for you."

"No way! Your body's in such a poor state, let me stay instead."

Ling Chen shook his head, "Stop arguing with me, you know more about computers than I do, you better go. I'm afraid I can't open that door. Don't worry, I'm still young and don't want to die. Now go!"

Upon hearing this, Tang Yuan felt helpless and reluctantly headed back.

"Tsk tsk! Never thought I'd see you here," said a familiar, teasing voice. Ling Chen looked closely, seeing Zhu Hong approaching accompanied by a middle-aged man.

"Dean Yi, let me introduce you to Ling Chen; I don't know if you've heard of him, but he's quite a well-known figure in Beijing."

Dean Yi? Hearing this title, Ling Chen sized up the middle-aged man and asked, "You're Yi Haisheng?"

"You know me?"

"Not personally, but I've heard of you."

"Ling Chen, where's your partner? Call them out; I'm sure you're not alone." Zhu Hong said coldly.

Ling Chen shrugged and replied lightly, "He left me to save himself. Zhu Hong, it's been a while, you've really changed a lot." Back when he saw Zhu Hong at the secret prison, his body had undergone a bizarre transformation, making him unlike any normal person. In such a short time, Zhu Hong's body seemed to have returned to normal.

"Curious, aren't you? If you're interested, I can explain slowly, we have enough time after all."

"Since that's the case, why don't you tell me about the cell culture liquid? Back in Beijing, you risked danger trying to get your hands on it, so it must be very important to you."

"You're right!" Zhu Hong nodded, "It is indeed very important to me. Through Ling Gengqiu's severed limb, we made great discoveries in our research. Afterwards, I decided to personally participate in the experiment. Fortunately, my luck was good; the experiment was successful. However, I discovered the experiment brought side effects to my body, causing changes over time. To suppress this change, I must take the cell culture liquid to maintain my body. I'm sure you've seen what I look like without taking it for a long time."

Squinting slightly, Ling Chen said, "You just mentioned the experiment was successful. If you don't mind, can you tell me more about it? For example... your body's changes, it mustn't just be about strengthening, right?"

Zhu Hong laughed heartily and pointed to his face, "Don't you think I've gotten younger?"

Chapter 1469 - 1777: Fierce Battle in the Burial Chamber (1)

Young? Ling Chen carefully examined Zhu Hong's face, but besides being youthful, although Zhu Hong's mouth was smiling, his face was very stiff, and there was no smile at all.

Seeing Ling Chen standing there silently, Zhu Hong said to himself, "Honestly, I didn't expect you to come here. I was planning to give you a surprise, but you ended up surprising me."

"What happened with the sudden power outage just now?" Ling Chen asked.

"You mean earlier?" Zhu Hong seemed very excited and said with a smile, "I conducted an experiment, to be precise, it should be the greatest experiment of this century. Ling Chen, over these years, I've been

hiding and struggling to survive, enduring all sorts of hardships. I used to wonder if heaven had abandoned me. But today I realize all the suffering was worth it because heaven did not desert me."

Speaking of which, Zhu Hong turned to look at Yi Haisheng beside him and said, "Dean Yi, today is not only a memorable day for you and me, but also a monumental day for the world. What do you think?"

Yi Haisheng responded with a smile, "Mr. Zhu is right, soon we will rewrite history."

Looking at their faces full of pride and excitement, Ling Chen's heart was filled with curiosity. What kind of experiment gave them such confidence?

Enhanced Experiment? Ling Chen secretly shook his head. The God Organization had already succeeded in this. Even if Zhu Hong and Yi Haisheng replicated the success of the God Organization, it wasn't something to be proud of. Moreover, from their tone, this experiment seemed unprecedented and unmatched.

As thoughts raced through his mind, Ling Chen glanced at the emergency light on the wall. So much time had passed, but the power in the entire tomb hadn't been restored. If Zhu Hong decided to act against him, he would be helplessly killed. Thinking of this, Ling Chen's anxiety grew.

"You talk it up so much; let me see it for myself."

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Zhu Hong shook his head with a smile: "There's no need for that. A dead man doesn't need to know so much." After finishing, Zhu Hong pointed to Ling Chen and made a throat-slashing gesture.

Suddenly, ten men blocking the tomb entrance strode towards Ling Chen.

As the enemy approached, Ling Chen's face turned, and he retreated continuously. However, the tomb's space was ultimately limited. Before long, Ling Chen retreated to the wall.

Facing a situation where there was no room to escape, Ling Chen gritted his teeth, his gaze gradually becoming firm. Since there was no way out, it would be better to make a last-ditch effort, at least to stall these people and buy Tang Yuan enough time to escape.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen hesitated no longer, exerted force with his legs, and charged towards the enemies. As the distance between them decreased, a man raised his fist, hitting it hard towards Ling Chen's head.

At this moment, as Ling Chen advanced, he suddenly rolled on the ground, avoiding the man's attack. Ling Chen's goal was clear—to delay time as much as possible. Moreover, with his current strength, he couldn't fight these people, going head-to-head was purely suicidal.

Seeing Ling Chen continually using ground rolls to avoid attacks, Zhu Hong sneered, "Ling Chen, aren't you very strong? Why have you become so pathetic now?"

Ignoring Zhu Hong's taunts, Ling Chen focused entirely on evading the attacks from the Enhanced People. Although his skills had forsaken him, he had learned the Nine Yang Qiankun Step. Relying on agile movements, he could consistently turn peril into safety.

However, what concerned Ling Chen most was not this, but his stamina. Dealing with ten Enhanced People alone was a huge test of his endurance.

In less than two minutes, Ling Chen was panting heavily, every move incredibly straining.

"A group of incompetents, so many of you can't even handle him?" Zhu Hong coldly shouted.

Hearing Zhu Hong's scolding, those Enhanced People seemed pumped up, and their attacks became frenzied, speeding up. Multiple times, Ling Chen barely managed to dodge.

Luck is a good thing, but it eventually runs out. Several times narrowly escaping death, Ling Chen finally lost the favor of the goddess of luck. In a moment of carelessness, an Enhanced Person rushed behind him, delivering a fierce kick to his back. Suddenly, only the sound of 'poof' was heard as a stream of fresh blood flowed from Ling Chen's mouth. Simultaneously, his body was sent flying, crashing heavily against the wall, head broke and blood streamed, incredibly battered.

As his body hit the ground, Ling Chen felt an unbearable pain, as if his internal organs had shifted, and there wasn't a single part of his body that didn't hurt, as though it would fall apart.

Taking a few deep breaths, Ling Chen lay on the ground, turning his head to look at the advancing Enhanced People, a sense of despair welled up in his heart.

At this point, he had done his best, but unfortunately, nothing had changed.

With a sigh, Ling Chen silently closed his eyes, waiting for death to arrive.

However, at this moment, the tomb suddenly lit up. Feeling the bright light, Ling Chen opened his eyes sharply, looking at the large light installed in the tomb, a glimmer of hope flashed in his eyes.

Power is back!

Yet Ling Chen's excitement didn't last long, as an Enhanced Person had already rushed to him, swinging a fist directly at his head.

Feeling the mighty force, Ling Chen's breath was choked at this moment.

In this critical moment, a burst of blood suddenly spurted from the body of the Enhanced Person, splashing onto Ling Chen. Looking closely, a silver gun tip had appeared on the Enhanced Person's chest, penetrating his back through the chest.

Seeing the Enhanced Person slowly fall to the ground, Ling Chen immediately turned his gaze to the entrance of the tomb. At this moment, Chen Junfeng, Qin Genglong, Kaelina, and Zhu Qing had arrived, and it was Chen Junfeng who had just thrown the silver spear.

Fortunately, Chen Junfeng acted in time to save Ling Chen's life.

"Ling Chen!" Kaelina hurried to Ling Chen, helped him up from the ground, "Are you okay, are you alright?"

Ling Chen furrowed his brow, enduring the pain, and with Kaelina's assistance, slowly stood up.

"Kill them!" Zhu Hong pointed to Chen Junfeng and others, his face rigidly commanding.

Upon receiving the order, more than ten Enhanced People rushed out of the tomb corridor behind Zhu Hong. Ling Chen glanced and noticed these people were different from the previous Enhanced People.

The Enhanced People who had just fought with him had no distinct characteristics; besides powerful strength, they had no other highlights. But the newly arrived Enhanced People were neatly dressed, each wearing a set of steel armor, their heads equipped with steel helmets, fully protected.

Chapter 1470 - 1778: Fierce Battle in the Tomb Chamber (2)

Not to mention the defensive power of those suits of steel armor, each one weighed at least a hundred jin. Yet the movements of these Enhanced People weren't affected in the slightest; they moved at a rapid, ground-eating pace.

Seeing the appearance of those armored Enhanced People, Chen Junfeng was the first to react. He charged straight up and blasted out a punch.

Bang!

With a crisp crack, Chen Junfeng's fist slammed directly into the other guy's body. But under the protection of the steel armor, that Enhanced Person was completely fine. Not only that, with Chen Junfeng's strength he only left a faint dent on the armor. That alone showed just how terrifying the armor's defensive power was.

"You guys deal with the others, leave these ones to me," Chen Junfeng said, face solemn.

Qin Genglong and Zhu Qing responded and locked onto the ordinary Enhanced People as their targets. Seeing one Enhanced Person charge him, Qin Genglong gave a cold snort, neither dodging nor avoiding, and rushed straight forward with his fist raised.

With a dull thud, their fists smashed together. At the same time a series of crisp bone-cracking sounds rang out, and that Enhanced Person's arm snapped in an instant.

Landing his blow, Qin Genglong didn't hesitate. He blasted out another punch, directly blowing that Enhanced Person's head apart.

"Nothing special," Qin Genglong curled his lip in disdain.

These Enhanced People were indeed strong, but Qin Genglong was an Earthly List expert, and he cultivated Cross Training, focusing on strength and defense. In his eyes, these ordinary Enhanced People had no challenge at all.

Unlike Qin Genglong's head-on clashes, the assassin-born Zhu Qing prized agility. Relying on her nimble movement technique and the two sharp daggers in her hands, in no time at all three Enhanced People had already had their throats slit by her.

Ling Chen swept his gaze over the battlefield. Qin Genglong and Zhu Qing needed no worrying about; their strength was more than enough to handle those ordinary Enhanced People. The one Ling Chen was most worried about was still Chen Junfeng!

Although Chen Junfeng was a Heavenly List expert, facing those Enhanced People in steel armor with absurdly high defense, he was clearly at a disadvantage. No matter how strong his attacks were, he couldn't kill those Enhanced People. On the contrary, using their powerful defenses, those Enhanced People pressed in step by step, and the space Chen Junfeng had to maneuver in shrank smaller and smaller.

Seeing this, Ling Chen pulled the silver spear from the Enhanced Person in front of him and shouted, "Sir Chen, catch!"

Taking the silver spear, Chen Junfeng's whole body shook as his aura exploded, instantly forcing back several Enhanced People. With the silver spear in hand, it was as if he'd become a different person. For a moment, those Enhanced People couldn't even get half a step close to him.

"Tang Yuan!"

Just then, Tang Yuan rushed over from the main control room. Seeing Ling Chen safe and sound, Tang Yuan finally let out a small breath of relief.

"Kaelina, go help Qin Genglong and the others. With Old Tang watching my back I'll be fine."

Kaelina nodded, pulled a dagger from her waist, and joined the fight.

"Old Tang, let's get out of here first." Looking at Zhu Hong not far away, Ling Chen frowned slightly. He didn't know why, but there was a faint unease in his heart. Chen Junfeng and the others had already revealed themselves; under these circumstances Chen Quan still hadn't shown up. Ling Chen had no choice but to be cautious to avoid getting ambushed by Chen Quan. So it was better to leave the burial chamber early, in case Chen Quan grabbed him as a hostage.

However, though Zhu Hong's gaze was fixed on the battlefield, he'd been paying attention to Ling Chen's movements the whole time. Seeing Ling Chen and Tang Yuan moving toward the exit of the chamber, Zhu Hong let out a cold laugh and strode over, cutting off their path.

"Ling Chen, isn't it a little too late to think about leaving now?"

Ling Chen narrowed his eyes, but before he could speak, Tang Yuan at his side already shouted, "Zhu Hong, don't you act all high and mighty in front of me. Believe it or not, I'll carve you up?"

"Just you?" Zhu Hong smiled disdainfully and crooked a finger at Tang Yuan, his face full of contempt. "Come on then, if you've got the guts. I'll even give you one hand."

Faced with Zhu Hong's provocation, Tang Yuan drew his dagger. Ignoring Ling Chen's attempt to stop him, he charged straight at Zhu Hong. In the blink of an eye he was right in front of Zhu Hong, the sharp dagger stabbing straight toward the spot between Zhu Hong's brows.

Watching the rapidly incoming dagger, Zhu Hong's lips curled up and his gaze lifted, as if he didn't take Tang Yuan's attack seriously at all. When the dagger was less than two centimeters from the space

between his brows, Zhu Hong, who had been standing still, not only didn't dodge, he actually took a step forward, directly meeting the dagger head-on.

Seeing Zhu Hong's move, a flash of joy crossed Tang Yuan's heart. Got him!

But just as that thought surfaced, Tang Yuan's expression changed. Zhu Hong... actually vanished from his line of sight. Before he could react, a sharp wave of pain exploded through him. Looking down, he saw Zhu Hong's body leaning slightly forward, his fist buried right in Tang Yuan's lower abdomen.

So fast!

Ling Chen was taken aback, staring at Zhu Hong in astonishment. This guy... no wonder he dared to look down on Tang Yuan. Judging from the power Zhu Hong had just displayed, he was at least on par with a Dragon List expert. In just this short a time, Zhu Hong had actually grown to this level.

At this moment, Tang Yuan, having taken the hit, quickly retreated, pulling some distance between them.

"Old Tang." Ling Chen strode up, placed a hand on Tang Yuan's shoulder, and shook his head. "You're not his match."

"Hmph!" Zhu Hong lifted his lips in a smile. "Ling Chen, I originally wanted to cross hands with you, but you've really disappointed me. Everyone else is improving, but you, not only haven't improved, you've regressed this much. All that effort I put in, wanting to surpass you, completely wasted. Well? How about it, want to trade a couple moves with me?"

"No need," Ling Chen said calmly. "I'm not your opponent." He knew very well that fighting Zhu Hong would just be asking to get abused. He had no intention of giving Zhu Hong that kind of opportunity.

"Ling Chen, you go first. Leave this guy to me."

The voice came, and Ling Chen turned his head to see Qin Genglong striding over.

With Kaelina's joining in, the battle on their side had quickly drawn to a close. Now there were only two or three ordinary Enhanced People left, and Zhu Qing and Kaelina were more than enough to handle them.

Qin Genglong's arrival finally let Ling Chen relax. Luckily he'd been cautious enough to bring an extra one or two people to North County; otherwise this time they might really have been done for.

"Aren't you supposed to be real impressive? Then let me see just how much you've got," Qin Genglong said as he strode toward Zhu Hong. Without any fancy moves, he simply smashed a fist straight out.

Bang!

To Ling Chen's surprise, Zhu Hong didn't dodge or counterattack. He actually took Qin Genglong's punch head-on. Under Qin Genglong's immense power, Zhu Hong's body was blown straight back, crashing heavily to the ground.

"Dead?" Ling Chen couldn't help asking as he looked at Zhu Hong lying face-down and motionless on the ground.

Qin Genglong shook his head and started to walk over to check. But just then, Zhu Hong suddenly pushed himself up from the floor. He patted the dust off his clothes, looked at Qin Genglong expressionlessly, and said, "That's all you've got?"