

The Beauty 1591

Chapter 1591 Qiang (3)

The next day.

Ling Chen packed his luggage, preparing to fly back to East Sea City with Hu Fei. After staying in Beijing for quite some time, he began to miss the leisurely life in East Sea City.

However, just as they were leaving the branch of Dragon Tiger Hall by car, they received a call from Nanrong Hao. After a brief chat, Ling Chen put down his phone and gestured for the driver to turn back.

"What's up, is there something else?" Hu Fei asked.

"Haozi just called, saying they've encountered a small issue over there and asked us to go check it out. Since it's still early, if we miss the flight, we'll just reschedule."

Soon, the cab took them to the City People's Hospital. As soon as they got out of the car, Nanrong Hao, who was already waiting at the entrance, immediately came over to greet them.

"Haozi, what's the urgent matter that made you call us here?"

"Chen, here's the thing..." Right then, Nanrong Hao recounted yesterday's encounter with Qiang in full detail. After hearing it, Ling Chen was immediately intrigued.

"You're saying even Xia Mutong wasn't a match for that guy?"

Nanrong Hao nodded and said, "That's right, I saw it clearly at the scene, that guy was incredibly strong, might be a master on the list. But that's not the most important thing; following my elder sister's instructions, I brought Qiang to the hospital for a check. The doctor told me he doesn't have any mental illness; he might have stayed in a closed environment for too long, received too little information, and had no one to communicate with, so he lost his verbal skills, and isn't good at expressing himself. Besides this, he has undergone several surgeries, and several nerves have been removed."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen was shocked, "Removed?"

"Yes. Simply put, this person has no sense of pain, taste, or smell. Other than his ears and eyes being normal, the other bodily functions are lost."

Ling Chen pondered for a moment, then turned to look at Hu Fei beside him, "Fatty, doesn't this feel familiar to you?"

"There used to be some brutal assassin training camps, where they'd nurture top assassins by surgically removing their nerves so they have no sense of pain. This way, when executing missions, they'd achieve twice the result with half the effort. But the method was too cruel, so it hasn't been used in many years."

"Exactly," Ling Chen agreed. "That guy named Qiang likely comes from an assassin organization. Haozi, take us to see him."

Before long, the three arrived at the hospital's special care ward. Upon entering, they saw a middle-aged man sitting on the bed, voraciously eating a box meal. On the table next to him, there were already four or five empty meal boxes.

"This guy sure has quite an appetite," Hu Fei joked.

Nanrong Hao chimed in, "It's not just something; it's downright terrifying; he eats a meal equivalent to two days' worth of food for others. I really don't know where he popped out from; it's as if he hasn't eaten for decades."

"Didn't you say he has no taste? To him, everything tastes the same, and the purpose is just to fill his stomach." With that said, Ling Chen walked straight to the window, observing the man in front of him.

Seemingly sensing Ling Chen's presence, Qiang gradually lifted his head and locked eyes with Ling Chen. As their eyes met, Qiang's eyes squinted slightly, and a cold glint flashed across them.

Seeing the change in Qiang's expression, Ling Chen nodded to himself.

"Chen, look at him..." Just then, Nanrong Hao opened his mouth, ready to speak. However, before he could finish, Ling Chen suddenly struck, hurling a punch toward the other's body. In an instant, Qiang swiftly tossed aside the meal box in his hand, leaped from the hospital bed, and dodged Ling Chen's attack. Immediately following, he lunged forward, his body resembling a towering mountain, pressing toward Ling Chen.

As he approached, a gust of wind came forth, with Qiang's fist speeding towards Ling Chen's throat. His attack was fierce, but Ling Chen wasn't someone to be trifled with. As a renowned master on the Heavenly List, how could he fear such an assault?

With a slip of his foot, the Nine Yang Qiankun Step was instantly deployed, and Ling Chen's body immediately transformed into a blurred shadow, shifting from Qiang's front to his side.

Seeing the target vanish, Qiang didn't even glance, he merely made a turning move, accurately locating Ling Chen's position and punching again, directly targeting the vulnerabilities.

In the blink of an eye, the two continued their offensive and defensive maneuvers, having already exchanged more than ten strikes. Using the agility of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen constantly shifted positions, dodging Qiang's attacks. After several failed attempts, Qiang seemed somewhat impatient and abruptly shouted, his body leaping into the air, resembling an eagle spreading its wings, quickly swooping towards Ling Chen.

At that moment, the ward door was pushed open from outside; accompanied by Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui, Nanrong Wanqing walked in.

Seeing the fight in the ward, Nanrong Wanqing's expression changed slightly, and she hurriedly exclaimed, "Stop!"

Upon hearing the familiar voice, Ling Chen didn't hesitate to step back quickly, distancing himself from Qiang. Meanwhile, Qiang also stopped his punches, standing quietly to the side. Though he had paused, his gaze towards Ling Chen remained sharp.

"Why did you guys start fighting?" Nanrong Wanqing glanced reproachfully at Ling Chen, but her beautiful eyes couldn't hide a hint of concern, "Are you unharmed?"

Ling Chen smiled faintly and shook his head, "I'm fine, just wanted to test his skills."

"Chen, how was it, is his strength very strong?" Nanrong Hao asked curiously.

"His strength has already reached the Earthly List, no wonder none of you were his match." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Through the earlier exchange, some of my suspicions have been confirmed."

"What suspicions?"

"He's without a doubt an assassin," Ling Chen stated with certainty.

"Why?"

"An assassin's intuition is extremely sharp; just now, when I approached, I didn't say anything, nor did I do anything, but he managed to sense the threat I posed purely through instinct and experience. Such reactions only come from someone lingering on the edge of life and death for long periods. Moreover, during the confrontation, all his moves were lethal, each strike intending to kill. Assassins excel at killing targets in the shortest possible time, so the techniques they learn are purely lethal moves. Just from these two points, his identity can be inferred."

After listening to Ling Chen's analysis, Nanrong Hao asked worriedly, "Chen, what should we do then? We can't keep someone like that around; if he decides to target us, we're doomed."

Ling Chen nodded, "This person is indeed a ticking time bomb, capable of causing danger at any moment. Wanqing, I suggest you all better minimize any contact with him."

"I'd like to, but as you've seen, he only listens to me, and others can't even touch him. If we leave him unattended, he might end up harming others."

Chapter 1592 - Jiang Yue'e's Name

"Apart from his name, did you find out anything else?" Ling Chen asked.

Nanrong Wanqing shook her head and said, "I've tried everything, but couldn't get anything out of him. Also, Officer Xia helped us check his identity, but found nothing."

"He doesn't have any new wounds on his body, and there have been no mysterious murders in the news reports these days. This suggests that he didn't come to Beijing to carry out a mission. Perhaps... the assassin organization behind him is in Beijing, and he might have escaped."

After hearing Ling Chen's words, Nanrong Hao said curiously, "Chen, such a person shouldn't easily flee, right? No matter what assassin organization he's behind, it's clear they've trained him well. Do you think someone like him would escape aimlessly?"

"That's true." Ling Chen glanced at Qiang beside him and said, "Why don't we... keep him by your side for now, after all, he's quite strong. Since he listens to you, he could be a good bodyguard."

"Chen, what if he goes crazy?" Nanrong Hao said worriedly, "We don't have the ability to stop him unless you're with us, otherwise, we won't feel safe."

"Alright!" Ling Chen smiled and nodded, "I'm free during this time, so I'll be your bodyguard and experience my old life."

"Fatty, looks like you'll have to go back alone today?"

"Um..." Hu Fei nudged Ling Chen's arm and whispered, "I need to talk to you."

"What's so secretive?" Ling Chen was curious. Ever since Hu Fei came to Beijing, Ling Chen had felt something off about him, always acting mysteriously.

Seeing Hu Fei not speak, Ling Chen said, "Wanqing, Fatty and I are going out for a while, I'll go straight to the company to find you later."

"Alright."

Upon leaving the hospital, Hu Fei dragged Ling Chen to a secluded corner, looking around cautiously. Seeing his careful demeanor, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "Fatty, what's so important that you had to drag me here?"

"It's just that with Miss Nanrong there, some things are inconvenient to say."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's heart moved, "Are you going to say something related to Wanqing?"

"A few days ago, while browsing the assassin intermediary website, I discovered a set of garbled codes. Out of curiosity, I downloaded them onto my computer and used decryption software to break them down. Later, I found that the codes were incredibly complex, definitely not something average people could make — the other party must be a computer expert."

Hu Fei said, "Generally, the information on assassin intermediary websites is encrypted, but the difficulty isn't too high. Anyone with a bit of technical know-how could easily decrypt it. However, this set of codes far surpassed that level. I spent days to barely decrypt a segment."

This piqued Ling Chen's interest. He asked curiously, "What did the decrypted content say?"

"Just three words, Jiang Yue'e."

"Jiang Yue'e?" Ling Chen's face changed dramatically, eyes wide open, "Are you sure the decrypted content is correct?"

"Absolutely correct." Hu Fei said with certainty, "I'm confident in this area. After decrypting this name, I've been wondering, could Jiang Yue'e be the target? But if she's just a simple target, the other party wouldn't use such difficult encryption. The strangest thing is, ten minutes after the codes were released, someone deleted them from the site without a trace. Luckily, I'd downloaded the codes onto my computer beforehand, allowing me to decrypt these three words."

Jiang Yue'e... Ling Chen frowned slightly. If it were someone else, he wouldn't be so concerned. But Jiang Yue'e is different; she's Nanrong Wanqing's mother. Shortly after Nanrong Wanqing and Nanrong Hao were born, Jiang Yue'e left the Nanrong Family and has been unheard of since. Back then, Nanrong

Wanqing's father, Nanrong Yuan, joined the God Organization to find Jiang Yue'e and rescue her so the family could reunite.

Unfortunately, Nanrong Yuan was killed before fulfilling his wish.

Now, all of a sudden, there's a lead on Jiang Yue'e. No matter what, he must investigate thoroughly. Thoughts racing, Ling Chen asked, "Fatty, when can the other codes be decrypted?"

"I'm not sure. But Jiang Yue'e's name appearing on the assassin intermediary website, this might not be good news."

"Since it's an intermediary website, there's definitely someone operating behind the scenes. Can you find that person and check who posted those codes?"

"That method won't work." Hu Fei said, "Assassin intermediary websites have their rules; we can't break them."

"Why worry? We're not assassins, why follow these rules? Alright! Do as I say, find the person running the website, I'll question him personally. If he's willing to cooperate, money isn't an issue. Also, decrypt the other codes quickly; I need to know all the information."

"Okay, I'll handle it right away when I get back."

"Wait!" Suddenly, Ling Chen remembered something and stopped Hu Fei, "There's one more thing, investigate the Jiang Family. Jiang Yue'e is part of the Jiang Family. When she left the Nanrong Family, it was the Jiang Family who caused problems. Maybe they know something about her."

"Understood."

After watching Hu Fei leave, Ling Chen headed to the hospital entrance where he saw Nanrong Wanqing and Nanrong Hao walking out with Qiang.

"Chen, where's Hu?"

"He went back to East Sea City first. Let's go, I'll take the car with you and head back."

Seeing Ling Chen, Qiang immediately became alert, his eyes constantly scanning Ling Chen. Every time Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing interacted, Qiang's eyes seemed to be suppressing a murderous intent. Fortunately, he listened to Nanrong Wanqing, otherwise, he might have already attacked Ling Chen.

Returning home, Nanrong Hao arranged a room for Ling Chen, right next to Nanrong Wanqing's.

"Chen, at night I'll stay on the third floor with Qiang, you stay on the second floor with Sister, don't worry, we won't disturb you." Saying this, Nanrong Hao gave an ambiguous smile.

"Go away, daring to joke about me, want me to beat you up?" Ling Chen glared at Nanrong Hao and then pushed the door to enter his room.

After resting for a while, Ling Chen suddenly heard the ringtone from his phone in his pocket. He answered the call, "Elder Tong, do you need something?"

"Just got contacted by Master Su, she agreed to our proposal."

Chapter 1593 - The Target Slipped Away

"Really?" Ling Chen smiled: "It seems my guess was right. Even if she disagrees, Elder Du will persuade her to accept it."

"However, she agreed but made a small request that both sides must act together. To put it simply, she wants to drag us, the Dragon Tiger Hall, into the water. If this matter gets exposed, not only will the reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion be affected, but the Dragon Tiger Hall won't be better off either."

"She's smart, so how did you reply to her?" Ling Chen asked.

"I just said I would consider it, and I haven't given her a direct answer. As soon as I hung up on her, I called you to ask for your opinion."

Ling Chen said with a smile, "I understand Su Mei's concern. She's afraid we might use this matter to blackmail the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in the future. Since she asked for this, let's agree to her request. Anyway, it's the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion taking action, and we just have to watch from the sidelines."

"Alright, I'll send her a message, and I'll inform you once there's a result."

After hanging up, Ling Chen sprawled out in a 'big' shape on the bed, preparing to take a nap. But just then, there was a 'knock knock knock' at the door.

"Come in!"

The door opened, and Nanrong Wanqing walked in from outside, dressed in loose home clothes.

"Why are you here?" Ling Chen smiled, sitting up from the bed and patting the spot next to him: "Sit here."

Nanrong Wanqing responded softly, walked straight to the bedside, and sat next to Ling Chen. Smelling the fragrance from Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen naturally put his arm around her fragrant shoulder and asked softly, "Did you come for something?"

"Can't I come without a reason?" Nanrong Wanqing rolled her eyes at Ling Chen, her charming demeanor making Ling Chen momentarily dazed, almost drooling.

Seeing the unusual gleam in Ling Chen's eyes, Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face blushed slightly, and she lowered her head involuntarily, complaining, "What are you looking at? It's not like you haven't seen it before."

Feeling the shyness in Nanrong Wanqing's tone, Ling Chen came to his senses and grinned, "I've seen it before, but it's a pity I haven't seen enough. A beauty like you should be appreciated over a lifetime."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing only felt sweetness in her heart, as if it was filled with honey.

"When I first met you, you weren't this eloquent. You never said a nice word except to annoy me, only stared at me with lustful eyes."

Ling Chen hurriedly explained, "It's a man's nature to be lustful, and besides, how was I being lustful? I was just admiring you; it's your misunderstanding."

"Hmph! Who believes your nonsense." After a pause, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Won't staying by my side delay your affairs?"

"The Martial Arts Tournament is over, and I've finished almost everything I needed to do. I finally have some leisure time." Speaking of this, Ling Chen's lips curled up into a smile, "Even if there's something to be busy with, it's not as important as your safety. So, until I figure out Qiang's origins, I'll stay by your side to protect you."

...

In the blink of an eye, three days passed. Because no one from the Hongyu Group was stationed, Nanrong Hao returned to East Sea City early. Ling Chen accompanied Nanrong Wanqing in Beijing for a few days, taking care of everything, and prepared to fly back the next afternoon.

At night, Ling Chen went alone to the third floor of the villa and knocked on Qiang's door.

After a while, the door opened, and Qiang, wearing a suit, appeared in front of Ling Chen. In the past few days, whenever they went out, Qiang stayed close to Nanrong Wanqing. Therefore, Zhong Wei prepared a suit for him, so he could act as temporary security. Seeing Qiang inside, Ling Chen smiled slightly and asked, "Won't you invite me in to sit?"

Qiang hesitated a little, then moved aside to let Ling Chen in.

Sitting on a chair by the window, Ling Chen made himself a cup of tea and said, "I've been pondering a question these days. Since you can understand us, why can't you express yourself? Even deaf-mute people have ways to express themselves. Besides, there's another point I don't understand. You fainted in the alley behind Hongyu Investment Company and were coincidentally found by Nanrong Wanqing, and you only listen to her. Isn't all of this too coincidental? Isn't it a deliberate arrangement by you and the organization behind you?"

Feeling Ling Chen's gaze, Qiang still stood there expressionless, as if he hadn't heard a word Ling Chen said.

Seeing no response from the other party, Ling Chen took a sip of tea, shrugged, and said, "Whether you truly don't understand or are pretending, I just want to give you a word of advice: don't mess with Wanqing. If anything happens to her, no matter how powerful you or your forces are, I won't let you off."

After speaking, Ling Chen put down the teacup, got up, and said, "Thanks for the tea."

Watching Ling Chen's departing back, Qiang closed the door and then walked to the chair and sat down. After a while, he closed his eyes, as if falling into a deep sleep.

Back in his room, Ling Chen washed up and was about to go to bed when he received a call from Tong Zhentian.

"Hello! Elder Tong, is everything settled?" Ling Chen, of course, referred to the matter with Qi Yong. Three days had passed, and there should be a result by now.

"We encountered a bit of trouble."

"Trouble?" Ling Chen curiously asked, "What trouble?"

"Qi Yong has been staying in the hospital for treatment. We asked the doctor that day, and he needs to stay in the hospital for at least half a month. But just a couple of days ago, when the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was about to act, Qi Yong suddenly got discharged from the hospital. Moreover, he

left us a message saying he's not well enough to return to the Martial Arts Association at the moment, so he wants to take a month's leave to recover at the Dangyang Sect."

"Is there such a thing? Elder Tong, don't you think it's too coincidental?"

"Yes, it indeed is very coincidental. That's why I called to inform you. Do you think someone leaked the information, and that's why Qi Yong hurriedly left Beijing?"

"It's possible, but..." Ling Chen said puzzled, "Not many know about this. In the entire Dragon Tiger Hall, only Mr. He, you, and I are aware. Only Elder Du and Master Su from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion know. We five are the ones planning this, and it's impossible for us to leak the information to Qi Yong. If someone did leak it, who could it be?"

"I've considered this too, but there's no evidence to support our suspicions right now. So for now, we can only regard it as a coincidence."

"So, does that mean our action against Qi Yong has ended in failure?"

"There's nothing we can do; he's gone. What else can we do? We can't just send someone to the Dangyang Sect to assassinate Qi Yong. I just spoke with Master Su on the phone, and it looks like we'll have to put this matter aside for now and wait for another opportunity in the future."

Chapter 1594 - Intermediary Operator

"Alright then," Ling Chen said helplessly. "There's no other way right now."

The call ended, and Ling Chen sighed to himself. He had thought he could handle everything smoothly, but who knew things would turn out like this. A coincidence... Could it really be just a coincidence?

The next day.

Ling Chen accompanied Nanrong Wanqing as they flew directly back to East Sea City. Apart from Nanrong Wanqing's security detail and her secretary, there was another passenger on the plane, Ling Gengqiu.

Initially, Ling Chen hadn't planned to bring Ling Gengqiu along, but upon learning he was headed back to East Sea City, Ling Gengqiu insisted on tagging along. Left with no choice, Ling Chen brought him along.

After two hours of flight, the plane slowly landed at East Sea International Airport.

Upon exiting the airport, Hongyu Group's private car was already waiting by the roadside. As Ling Chen was about to board the vehicle with his luggage, he heard a series of honks from behind. Turning around, he saw a Range Rover slowly driving up, stopping behind them.

Seeing the stunning beauty inside the car, Ling Chen hesitated slightly, walked over, and asked, "Kaelina, what brings you here?"

"He insisted I drive him here," Kaelina pointed to the back seat, and Ling Chen glanced over to find Hu Fei sitting inside, wearing sunglasses.

This guy... What's he up to? Couldn't he just speak over the phone?

"Wait here," Ling Chen said before returning to Nanrong Wanqing's side, greeting her and asking Ling Gengqiu to keep an eye on Qiang, ensuring Nanrong Wanqing's safety.

After watching the convoy leave, Ling Chen opened the Range Rover's door, sat beside Hu Fei, and snatched the sunglasses off his face, annoyed, "Who are you trying to impress with this act?"

Hu Fei chuckled awkwardly, "It's for identity concealment."

"Cut the crap, no one's giving you trouble. Is it really necessary?" Just as Ling Chen finished speaking, Kaelina interjected from the driver's seat, "Things have been a bit unusual these days; it seems someone's been probing his identity."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen was surprised. If experienced assassin Kaelina is saying this, it must be true.

"Fatty, be honest, have you offended someone?"

With a bitter face, Hu Fei said, "Who could I possibly offend? Being in this mess is all because of you."

"Me?" Ling Chen asked confused, "What's it got to do with me?"

"See for yourself!" Hu Fei handed a prepared newspaper to Ling Chen, "Take a look."

Ling Chen took the newspaper, his gaze immediately drawn to the headline.

"Depressed Man Jumps to Suicide!"

Staring at the prominent title, Ling Chen carefully read through the content.

"Is this yesterday's paper?"

Hu Fei nodded and said, "When we were in Beijing, didn't you ask me to find the person behind that assassin brokerage website? It's him."

"You mean..." Ling Chen's heart skipped a beat, immediately understanding Hu Fei's implication, "By the time you found him, he was already dead?"

"Exactly! I used to be an assassin broker, and Kaelina is a top-tier assassin. Both of us tapped into some old connections and finally tracked down the operator of that brokerage website only to find that he lived in East Sea City. A few days ago, Kaelina and I confirmed his residence and planned to meet him. But when we arrived at his doorstep, nobody answered the door. Thinking he wasn't home, we decided to return another day. Just as we got downstairs, we saw him fall from above, instantly dying from the impact. According to police investigations, he jumped off his own balcony to commit suicide. But I don't believe the police verdict."

Hu Fei continued, "A guy like him would never easily commit suicide. Plus, when we visited his house, there wasn't the slightest sound inside. Later, we checked the community's security footage and found all cameras malfunctioned the previous day, which clearly isn't a coincidence. So we concluded someone got to him first and staged the scene as a suicide."

"Who did it?"

"I don't know, but these days, whenever Kaelina and I go outside, I feel like someone's tailing us. I'm beginning to suspect we might have been targeted just because we visited his house."

With Hu Fei's words, Ling Chen couldn't help but glance out of the car window to see if anyone was following.

"No need to look; I've already checked while coming out, and there's no tail," Kaelina said.

"Have you gone back to check his place?"

"The police have sealed the crime scene; we can't get in. Hey! Officer Xia may have been transferred to Beijing, but she still has connections in East Sea City. How about you call her and ask for help?"

"Alright." Ling Chen nodded, took out his phone, and dialed Xia Mutong's number.

After hanging up, Ling Chen said, "Officer Xia will contact the precinct; since we have some time, let's go check it out. Maybe we'll find some clues."

Kaelina acknowledged, and immediately drove towards their destination.

After over half an hour's drive, the trio finally arrived at the residential complex where their target lived. Taking the elevator to the seventeenth floor, Hu Fei led Ling Chen down a corridor to the man's residence.

At this moment, there were still seals on the door. Kaelina took a thin wire from her pocket, inserted it into the keyhole, and soon, the lock was opened.

As they entered, Ling Chen looked around and found the house neat and spotless, very clean. The owner of this place must have been very diligent.

"Fatty, have you checked his background?"

"I have. His name is Liang Guang, thirty-six years old, unemployed, orphaned young, grew up in an orphanage, with no relatives or friends around. I also checked his bank account, three days ago there was a five million overseas transaction transferred to his account."

"Five million?" Ling Chen looked at Hu Fei and said, "You used to be an assassin broker, is it really that lucrative to run a brokerage website?"

Hu Fei shook his head, "People like them mainly make money by taking commission cuts; even with excellent business, they might earn just a million annually. Five million in one go? I've never encountered such occurrences."

"So, the five million isn't from running the website but additional income. Aside from operating the assassin brokerage website, does he have any other businesses?"

"No, this guy typically stayed home, rarely going out."

"How do you know?"

"I checked his bills; every day, several deliveries would arrive at his house. These days, I've been pondering if it's due to that suddenly appearing glitch that Liang Guang's account received five million."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's heart skipped, asking, "Are you saying... the five million was hush money given to him?"

Chapter 1595 - 1900: Spy (1)

"No, if it were hush money, then Liang Guang couldn't have been killed."

After the three discussed for a while, Ling Chen seemed to have figured something out and said, "Perhaps I know the reason." Upon hearing this, Hu Fei and Kaelina simultaneously asked, "What reason?"

"This Liang Guang was the operator of the assassin intermediary website. Any information released would appear on the website's backend. I suspect Liang Guang might have cracked that string of gibberish and learned its contents. However, even if information is deleted from many websites, records still remain in the backend. So, someone contacted Liang Guang, hoping he could completely delete that string of gibberish. Liang Guang might have discovered some important information from the decrypted gibberish, so he took the opportunity to blackmail the other party. That's why Liang Guang's account had an extra five million. However, those people, although they paid Liang Guang five million, only did so to temporarily silence him, preventing him from spreading the information. During this time, those people rushed to East Sea City, found where Liang Guang lived, and then silenced him. Only the dead can keep secrets forever."

After listening to Ling Chen's analysis, Hu Fei and Kaelina both nodded in agreement.

"That's indeed possible," Hu Fei said. "Operating an assassin intermediary website isn't something ordinary people can do; only highly skilled hackers can keep such a website running securely. So, cracking that gibberish isn't impossible for Liang Guang. The other party originally thought Liang Guang didn't understand the gibberish's meaning, so they only asked him to delete the backend records. But who would have thought that Liang Guang was bold enough not only to decrypt the gibberish but also to use the information as a bargaining chip to extort the other party. Hmph! I think this guy was simply courting disaster."

Ling Chen looked at the computer and server placed in the corner of the living room and said, "Since Liang Guang decrypted that string of gibberish, there might still be a record in his computer. Fatty, you're the expert here. See if you can find any clues."

Hu Fei agreed, immediately turned on Liang Guang's computer, but quickly discovered that the entire hard drive had been wiped, and the server was also malfunctioning. All data had been destroyed.

"No good," Hu Fei shook his head and said. "Those guys were very professional and didn't leave a trace."

Ling Chen frowned slightly and said, "The police concluded Liang Guang committed suicide due to severe depression, but the computer data was destroyed, didn't they suspect anything?"

"There was no sign or evidence of foul play at the scene, so of course, they concluded it was suicide," Hu Fei said while fiddling with the desktop computer and server.

"Fatty, what are you doing?"

"I'm taking the main unit back to see if I can recover the data... huh?" As he spoke, Hu Fei seemed to have discovered something, with a hint of doubt in his tone.

"What's wrong?" Ling Chen and Kaelina quickly gathered around the computer desk.

"This wire is connected to the back of the main unit and seems a bit redundant," Hu Fei said, directly moving the main unit off the desk and unplugging the wire. Following the wire, Hu Fei quickly found a hidden cable on the floor under the computer desk, which passed through a hole in the wall corner.

"There's something wrong with this wall," Hu Fei knocked on the wall, finding that it didn't sound quite right.

"Let me," Ling Chen stepped forward and, without saying a word, punched directly at the wall. With a 'bang,' the seemingly solid wall was instantly punched out into a large hole by Ling Chen. It turned out this wall was hollow, with a space inside. In the space, there were several devices similar to computer main units.

"Fatty, what is this?"

Seeing the machines inside, Hu Fei's eyes couldn't help but brighten up, grinning as he said, "This is a backup server. Liang Guang was quite clever to have kept a backup like this. Generally, people who operate websites will prepare a backup server to store all data and files. This way, even if the main unit has problems and all data files are destroyed, the backup server can be used to retrieve all the information."

"So, does it have everything we're looking for?"

"Of course," Hu Fei nodded, twisting his bulky body, and moved the backup server out from the space in the wall.

"Alright, we've got what we need. Let's go back and study it slowly."

Leaving Liang Guang's house, the three took the elevator downstairs, ready to get in the car and leave. However, at this moment, three sedans suddenly rushed over from the surroundings, pinning the SUV they were about to drive in the middle.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen immediately stopped, glancing at the three sedans. It seemed that Hu Fei and Kaelina weren't wrong; indeed, someone had followed them. Moreover, these people were skilled enough not to be detected. As the car doors opened, a man wearing a suit and sunglasses stepped out from the front passenger seat.

The man glanced over Ling Chen, Hu Fei, and Kaelina, then pointed at the backup server in Hu Fei's arms, saying, "I want that thing. Give it to me, and I'll let you leave."

The man's tone was commanding, not allowing for any refusal.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, looking at the man, and said, "This thing was found by us, why should we give it to you?"

"Friend, don't refuse a toast only to be forced to drink a forfeit. I'm giving you a way out. Do you really want to experience what it's like to fly like Liang Guang did?"

"So, it was you who killed Liang Guang. Just as well, we've been wanting to find you, and here you are, saving us quite some effort. If you don't mind, could you tell us who you are?"

The man in the suit narrowed his eyes coldly and said, "Cut the crap and hand over the goods quickly." Then the man in the suit reached for his waist, pulled out a dagger, and toyed with it in his hand.

"Sorry, I can give you anything else, but not this. If you really want it, you'll have to take it yourself."

"Hmph! I see you want to die, brothers, kill them and get the stuff back," the man in the suit ordered.

Following the suit man's command, seven or eight people jumped out of the three sedans, each armed with a dagger, their gleaming blades directed towards Ling Chen and his group as they slowly approached.

"Fatty, get in the car first, Kaelina, make sure he stays safe," Ling Chen instructed.

Hu Fei and Kaelina responded immediately, quickly opened the car door, got into the Range Rover SUV, and locked the doors to prevent those people from charging in.

Soon, a group of men fanned out and surrounded Ling Chen, pinning him next to the SUV. Looking at the enemies in front of him, the corners of Ling Chen's mouth lifted slightly, and he suddenly asked an unrelated question, "Friends, don't you watch TV?"

Hearing this, the group of men looked at each other, not knowing what he meant.

Chapter 1596 - 1901: Spy (2)

Ling Chen pointed to his own face and asked, "Do none of you recognize me? Wasn't there a news broadcast on TV just a few days ago?"

A group of men in suits stared coldly at Ling Chen, as if looking at a fool. Seeing the others slowly approaching, Ling Chen shrugged helplessly and said, "Alright, since none of you recognize me, don't blame me for being rude."

As soon as he finished speaking, Ling Chen's feet slid, and the Nine Yang Qiankun Step instantly unfolded like a series of afterimages, disappearing from the spot. Sensing the flickering figures before them, several men in suits were stunned, their eyes constantly moving in an attempt to lock onto their target. However, Ling Chen moved too quickly for them to catch.

Suddenly, a fierce gust of wind struck, and the men in suits felt as if their bodies had been hit by a heavy object, collapsing to the ground instantly, limbs weak and unable to stand.

In the blink of an eye, all the men in suits were dealt with. Looking at the people on the ground, Ling Chen clapped his hands and shook his head, saying, "You should have watched TV, otherwise, you wouldn't have gotten yourselves into trouble." He then turned his head towards Hu Fei in the car and said, "Fatty, call someone here, and take these guys back for me."

"Got it!" Hu Fei responded and immediately took out his phone to make contact.

Over ten minutes later, several vans drove into the neighborhood, capturing all the suited men and sending them directly to the base.

Sitting in a Range Rover, Hu Fei grinned and said, "These guys really don't know what's good for them, daring to mess with you. I don't think they know what it's like to write the word 'death'."

"Alright, cut the chatter and hurry back to the base," Ling Chen urged. Having found Liang Guang's backup server and captured so many people, perhaps they could find some news about Jiang Yue'e.

Not long after, the convoy returned directly to the base. Once there, Ling Chen immediately had the suited men sent to the interrogation room, while he followed Hu Fei to the base's main control room to check the backup server's data.

Under Hu Fei's expert handling, after about twenty minutes, the backup server's data was fully imported into the computer. Looking at the backup folders, Hu Fei browsed quickly. Each day's website releases were automatically archived into folders.

Soon, Hu Fei found the folder with the garbled message they had been looking for.

"Look, this is the garbled text," Hu Fei opened a file showing densely packed, irregular characters.

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Liang Guang must have decoded this garbled text, see if there might be a backup."

Hu Fei stared at the computer screen, his hands poised over the keyboard, fingers flying. After a few minutes, Hu Fei's eyes suddenly lit up as he pointed at the hidden folder on the screen, saying, "Found it, it's this one." He opened the folder, revealing a short message of over ten characters.

"SOS, 173, 369, Jiang Yue'e."

Apart from the signature being Jiang Yue'e, the rest were numbers and English, with no specific content. However, Ling Chen knew the meaning of SOS, which is a distress signal. Jiang Yue'e sending such a message indicated she was likely in danger.

Nevertheless... Ling Chen frowned slightly and asked, "Fatty, what do these numbers mean?"

Hu Fei shook his head and replied, "I'm not too sure either, why don't I check it out? Jiang Yue'e must have left these numbers for a reason."

"Alright, I'll go interrogate those people; maybe I can extract some useful intel from them." Ling Chen said, turning to leave the main control room and heading straight to the interrogation room. Upon entering, he saw several men in suits, their hands bound, neatly seated in a row. "Gentlemen, my apologies for the inconvenience," Ling Chen said with a smile, pulling up a chair and placing it in front of them. "Let's keep it brief; I just want to know who sent you to kill Liang Guang. Whoever tells me first, I'll give a chance for freedom. How about that? It's a pretty good deal."

As soon as he finished speaking, the man sitting furthest to the left opened his mouth without hesitation, "I'll tell..."

"No, don't listen to him, listen to me, I know the most," someone quickly interjected before the man could finish.

"Listen to me, I'm their leader; I organized the whole operation."

But no one listened to him, and the group continued to argue noisily. This situation left Ling Chen speechless; he thought they were a group of tough guys who wouldn't easily spill, yet they hadn't even needed coaxing to clamor for attention. Amid their chaotic noise, Ling Chen quickly spoke, "Everyone, shut up! You, speak up." He casually pointed at one of them.

The man in the suit looked as if he had won the lottery, his face alight with excitement, and he hurriedly said, "We are an outer organization responsible for tracking, assassination, and intelligence gathering. A few days ago, we received a mission from above to come to East Sea City for a target elimination. The mission was smooth, but when cleaning up traces at Liang Guang's house, we heard knocking outside. The higher-ups ordered that anyone who knew about the garbled message must not be left alive. We

were worried the person coming to find Liang Guang was also after that message, so we followed secretly, and when you found that backup server at Liang Guang's house, we decided to act."

After listening to the narrative, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Since you're an outer organization, then you must have people above you. Who are they?"

The people looked at each other and shook their heads, saying, "We don't know. The organizers contacted us by phone, and we communicated through website messages for any issues. Once they saw the information, they would contact us directly. Plus, we each have an independent account, and after each successful mission, they would deposit money into our accounts as payment."

Ling Chen found it hard to believe, "You've never met any of them face to face?"

"No."

Then one of the suited men seemed to recall something and said, "Although we haven't met anyone from above, I suspect they've placed someone within us to secretly monitor everything."

"Are you sure?" Ling Chen's eyes brightened; this might be a breakthrough.

"It's just a suspicion; the people above seem to be intimately aware of our situation," the suited man recalled another incident, "because something happened half a year ago, which made me suspect."

Chapter 1597 - 1902: The Mole (3)

Ling Chen asked with interest: "What happened? Tell me."

"Our outer organization has more than ten people. Once, a colleague in the team complained about the higher-ups while drinking, saying he didn't want to continue and was planning to find another way out. The next day, that person mysteriously had an accident, crashed into a utility pole, and died instantly. Later, we discovered that someone tampered with his car, which led to his death. However, the attitude from above was very indifferent, with no intention to investigate. I think perhaps the people above felt he was unreliable and might leak the organization's secrets, so they staged an accident to kill him."

"Everyone drinking that day were colleagues from the team, no outsiders, so I suspect someone among us must have tipped off the higher-ups, which is why they acted. The people above value this kind of thing greatly and do not allow anyone to have second thoughts."

Ling Chen nodded, looked at all the men in suits, and said, "You were all there when the drinking happened, right?"

"Yes."

"I'm curious, since the punishment from above for traitors is so severe, why would you so easily choose to betray?"

The crowd hesitated for a moment, then said, "Everyone doesn't really want to serve those people anymore. After so many years, we don't even know who our boss is. If something happens one day, they will definitely abandon us without mercy. Although we're desperados, we don't want to be killed mysteriously. However, those people are too ruthless; even if we have this idea, we dare not show it. Otherwise, they will certainly kill us. On the contrary, if they know something has happened to us, they will abandon us immediately. This way, we might save our lives."

"I see." Ling Chen said with a smile: "I understand. So, one of you is likely a spy sent by them. How about this, since everyone has spoken openly, I promise that if that person steps forward, I guarantee no retribution, and will not only let you leave but also ensure you're free from their disturbance in the future. How about that?"

Ling Chen glanced at the crowd's reaction, seeing them whispering among themselves, seemingly discussing something. Ling Chen didn't interrupt them, letting them deliberate. After a while, he cleared his throat, signaling for everyone to quiet down, "I've already made things clear. Confess leniency; if one among you doesn't willingly come forward, once I find out, don't blame me for being rude." After speaking, he stood up, walked to the door of the interrogation room, and looked back: "I'll give you a few more minutes to consider, hoping you'll make the right decision."

As Ling Chen left the interrogation room, the men in suits suddenly erupted, the room became chaotic. After leaving the interrogation room, Ling Chen came to the adjacent monitoring room. The interrogation room was equipped with surveillance, everything happening inside could be seen and heard here.

"Zhu Qing, bring up the previous surveillance footage, I want to take a look."

Zhu Qing, who had been in the monitoring room all this time, nodded, immediately bringing up the surveillance. Ling Chen leaned toward the computer screen, watching the actions of those suited men through slow-motion footage. Seeing Ling Chen's serious look, Zhu Qing asked puzzled, "What can you tell from this? I just watched, and there wasn't anything wrong."

Ling Chen smiled slightly but did not explain. After a few minutes, Ling Chen returned to the interrogation room. Seeing him come in, everyone quieted down, focusing their eyes on him.

"Everyone, how is it? Have you thought it over?"

Upon finishing his words, a suited man spoke up, "Brothers, we've shared joys and woes for so many years, we're almost like family. If anyone among us is a traitor, please come forward, don't bring disaster upon us all."

After hearing the man in the suit's words, everyone's reaction was strong, yet no one stepped forward. Ling Chen folded his arms and narrowed his eyes slightly, observing everyone's facial expressions. At this moment, all were looking at the people next to them, speculating among each other.

After a while, Ling Chen said, "I've given you a chance. Since that person doesn't want to come forward, I can only..."

"It's me." Before Ling Chen finished his sentence, the man sitting in the middle suddenly stood up and said, "The traitor you're looking for is me; I secretly contacted the people above and informed them about everyone's situation."

Hearing this, Ling Chen scrutinized the man and asked with a smile, "Then tell me, how did you contact them?"

"They contacted me every day, asking about the status of the team members."

"How much do you know about those people?"

"I'm just like them, I've never met those people. I became an undercover because they promised me extra money. Birds die for food, people die for wealth—who wouldn't want to earn more money?" The suited man paused and looked at Ling Chen, "You promised earlier that if I confessed, you'd let us go. I've confessed; you won't renege, right?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Rest assured, I never renege on my words, but... I can't let you go now."

"Why?" The crowd asked in unison.

"Because you are not the traitor." Ling Chen said with a smile: "I must admit, your courage is commendable. You deliberately took the blame for the traitor to save everyone. But do you really think I'm that easy to fool?"

After speaking, Ling Chen shifted his gaze from one person to another, finally settling on a thin man.

"Friend, at this point, don't you plan to say something? Are you really willing to let everyone die with you?"

Upon hearing this, the man's face slightly changed, quickly shaking his head: "No, it's not me, I'm not the traitor."

"When I offered the deal earlier, your reaction was the slowest, and you looked troubled, only speaking a few perfunctory words after everyone else hurriedly spoke. However, from your various expressions, you don't show a strong desire to survive. So I guess, either you're someone who's not afraid of death, or... you know you won't die." Ling Chen smiled; earlier he went out to watch the surveillance footage, wanting to see the reactions of these people. Often, a person's first reaction best reflects their psychological state.

"No one in this world isn't afraid of death unless they've reached absolute despair. But you obviously aren't that kind of person, so I suspect you belong to the latter. I'm curious, why are you so certain you won't die? Could it be... you know someone will rescue you?"

Chapter 1598 - 1903: Spy (4)

As Ling Chen's words fell, the man's face finally showed signs of unrest. Ling Chen took a few steps forward to face him, staring into his eyes and asked, "Tell me, how do you contact those people?"

The man shook his head and said, "I don't know what you're talking about, I'm not some mole, you must have made a mistake."

Ignoring the man's explanation, Ling Chen directly ripped off his suit. The people were searched when they were caught, and things like phones were confiscated. However, Ling Chen believed the guy must have hidden something else.

To Ling Chen's surprise, there were no other electronic devices on the man's body. Could he really have made a mistake? As his mind raced, the man loudly exclaimed, "I've already told you I'm not the mole, now you should believe me."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen looked at the man with suspicion, pondered for a moment, then grabbed the man's collar and lifted him from the chair. Scanning him up and down, Ling Chen gestured for the man to take off his leather shoes. After inspection, there was nothing special about the shoes. Thinking for a moment, Ling Chen pointed at the man's belt and said, "Take it off too."

"What exactly do you want?" the man said indignantly, "I'm not a mole, why won't you believe me?"

"Whether you're a mole or not, I decide. Hurry up, stop dawdling." Faced with Ling Chen's urging, the man showed great reluctance. Seeing this, Ling Chen was weary of arguing; he swiftly whipped the belt from the man's waist. It was a very ordinary leather belt, but as soon as Ling Chen held it, he noticed an issue: it felt heavy. For a belt, the weight seemed off. After a quick scan, Ling Chen's gaze soon locked onto the metal buckle at the belt's end.

He weighed it in his hand, and as expected, the metal buckle was very heavy, much more than typical belt buckles.

"Hmph!" Ling Chen's lips slightly curved upward as he glanced at the man, whose face instantly turned pale, body seemingly losing strength, slumping back into his chair. Ling Chen ignored him and pried open the metal buckle, revealing a microcircuit board inside with a flashing green light.

"Do you have anything to say now?" Ling Chen played with the metal buckle, coldly eyeing the man. Feeling the chill in Ling Chen's gaze, the man's body involuntarily trembled.

"I..." The man stammered, "I can explain..."

"First, tell me what this device does."

"Tracking."

As soon as the man finished speaking, Ling Chen rushed out of the interrogation room, quickly heading to the base's control room. "Fatty." Finding Hu Fei, who was busy, Ling Chen directly tossed the tracker into his hand, "Among the people we just captured, one of them had a tracker. Immediately issue orders to strengthen the base's defenses, monitor the surroundings for any infiltration."

Hu Fei understood the gravity of the situation, and without a word, picked up the intercom to relay the orders. Meanwhile, the control room's technicians were all in place, watching the surveillance footage outside the base. Shortly, a technician suddenly stood up and reported, "Report, malfunction detected in Zone Three's surveillance; sensor actions in zones eleven and twelve have failed."

Just as he finished, another technician spoke: "Surveillance in zones seven and eight are malfunctioning."

Hearing this, Ling Chen and Hu Fei exchanged a glance, realizing the enemy was already at the door. There was no time for further thinking; Ling Chen turned to leave the control room. As he stepped out, the base was filled with the sharp sound of an alarm—a warning that always sounded during external attacks, alerting everyone to get ready for battle.

The base has only one main entrance, along with a hidden escape tunnel. However, only a few knew about the escape tunnel's existence, so Ling Chen wasn't concerned about the enemies entering through it. Soon, Ling Chen quickly arrived at the base's entrance. By this time, security personnel had gathered at the entrance as notified, all elite forces trained by the base, each equipped with exoskeleton armor, with formidable overall strength.

"Hey! Ling Chen, do you copy?" Hearing Hu Fei's voice through the earpiece, Ling Chen responded immediately.

"All the surveillance around the base has been disabled; all sensor actions are triggered. Currently, the number of enemies is still undetermined."

"Got it."

After finishing the call, Ling Chen lifted his head, staring at the entrance's heavy doors. At the moment, the doors closed off the entrance, and time passed with no stirrings. Nonetheless, no one dared to lower their guard, as the enemy was already outside, ready to breach any moment.

As seconds ticked by, suddenly, the center of the iron door began to glow red. Even from several meters away, Ling Chen could feel the heat emanating from the door. Seeing this, Ling Chen's expression shifted.

The guys outside were actually using high temperatures to melt the door. As the thought arose, the center of the door was already melted into a fist-sized hole. Subsequently, something was thrown in, landing right by Ling Chen's feet.

Squinting at it, he heard a soft "pop," and thick smoke instantly billowed out, permeating the entire entrance passage.

Bang!

At once, a loud explosion sounded, as if something heavy had fallen to the ground. Ling Chen raised an eyebrow and turned his gaze toward the entrance. Unfortunately, due to the surrounding smoke, nothing became visible. However, using his keen hearing, Ling Chen knew the entrance door had been blasted open, and a sequence of footsteps echoed in, totaling over ten individuals.

"Fall back!" Ling Chen ordered sharply. The smoke was too dense around, obstructing vision and execution. Once a fight breaks out, chaos is inevitable. Hence, the best course was to withdraw from the smoke-covered area and re-establish a defense line.

Quickly, security personnel moved back upon receiving the order, but Ling Chen remained motionless, still lodged within the smoke. With allies retreating, whoever left were foes, allowing him to attack without reservations.

As the enemies flooded in, Ling Chen stood unmoving in the smoke without making a sound. As a series of footsteps slowly approached, Ling Chen struck like lightning, punching towards an opponent. Though he expected the punch would surely land, as the steel fist shot out, Ling Chen realized his wrist had been locked.

What a quick reaction!

Chapter 1599 - 1904: Intruders (1)

Ling Chen was taken aback. Although he had only thrown a casual punch without even using half his strength, he was still an expert on the Heavenly List. Even without going all out, this punch was not to be underestimated. The fact that the opponent easily and accurately blocked his attack indicated that this person was also a skilled expert—though it was unclear to what extent his abilities reached.

In a split second, the person had already sensed Ling Chen's presence. In an instant, a fierce gust of energy rushed toward Ling Chen's body. Sensing the incoming attack, Ling Chen retracted his arm, unleashing his Inner Strength, and instantly freed his wrist from the opponent's grip. At the same time, he slightly shifted his step to evade the oncoming attack.

Despite the failed strike, the person showed no sign of giving up, continuing to launch attacks and following the direction of Ling Chen's movement. By this time, the effects of the smoke bomb had begun to dissipate, and Ling Chen could faintly see the vague silhouette of his opponent.

No doubt about it, this person attacked with incredible speed, delivering five ferocious punches within a second. Not bad! Ling Chen nodded to himself in approval; this person's strength was formidable enough to be ranked on the Earthly List, possibly within its top five.

How interesting! Who would have thought an assassin organization could recruit an expert of this caliber.

As he pondered, Ling Chen casually reached out, quickly and precisely locking onto the opponent's fist. Without giving the other a chance to withdraw, Ling Chen swung his arm powerfully, sending the person's body flying into a nearby wall.

As the smoke cleared, all the enemies who had infiltrated the base came into Ling Chen's view. A quick glance revealed at least fifteen people, each wearing bulletproof vests and holding various weapons. As Ling Chen spotted the enemies, their gazes simultaneously locked onto him. Their reactions were extremely fast, clearly well-trained, as they surrounded Ling Chen almost instantaneously, all weapons aimed at him.

Seeing this, Ling Chen curled his lips into a smile, showing no intention of evasion. He charged directly into the attack.

With Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen moved as swiftly as an eel, nimbly weaving through the crowd. Even though the enemies were numerous, not one could touch the hem of his garment. In the blink of an eye, four enemies had already been struck down by Ling Chen.

Hmph! Ling Chen shook his head slightly; he had thought these opponents were formidable, but from the exchange just now, apart from the first Earthly List expert he encountered, the rest were no match. With his current abilities, even experts from the Tiger List and Dragon List would be like children before him, posing no pressure at all.

Noticing their comrades falling one by one, the remaining opponents finally realized something was wrong.

"Retreat!" The Earthly List expert shouted, making the first dash toward the exit. However, Ling Chen had already taken notice of him and wouldn't allow him to leave so easily. With a swift slide, Ling Chen turned into a blur, appearing behind the person, placing a hand on his shoulder. When the man turned his head, he was met with a smiling face: "Friend, a guest is a guest. Since you're here, why be in such a rush to leave? Why not sit down and have a cup of tea?"

Upon hearing Ling Chen's teasing words, the man's expression changed, and he spun around with a punch, attempting to drive Ling Chen away. Ling Chen remained unfazed, deploying the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, instantly vanishing from in front of the man and appearing behind him the next second.

"Friend, don't waste your effort."

The voice startled the man, causing him to quickly flee a few steps, avoiding any close encounter with Ling Chen.

"Who are you?" the man asked coldly, staring at Ling Chen.

Ling Chen paused slightly, looking at the man with interest, "Friend, you don't even know who I am, yet you dare to cause trouble on my turf. Do you think everyone else in the world is an idiot compared to you? Enough! No more nonsense, order your men to surrender, don't force me to take action, or you'll all face dire consequences."

Just as Ling Chen finished speaking, Hu Fei's voice suddenly came through his earpiece, "Ling Chen, things aren't looking good, the base's security system has been hacked.

"Can you fix it?"

"It's a bit tricky, they've already breached the system. Damn! I've never encountered such an awesome hacker, breaking through the base's firewall in just a few minutes."

"Can you maintain normal system operation?"

"Currently, the monitoring system is under their control, but everything else is fine. We're trying to regain control of the monitoring system."

"Alright, the situation here is under control, just focus on resolving your issues. Don't worry about anything else." With that, Ling Chen directed his gaze toward the monitoring equipment in the corner. Although the external monitoring had been damaged, the internal systems were still intact. Since hackers had taken control of the base's monitoring system, they could see everything happening inside. At this moment, someone might be watching him through those monitors.

"Who exactly are you?" Ling Chen shifted his gaze from the monitoring equipment to the man and asked.

The man didn't respond; instead, he kept staring at Ling Chen. Suddenly, he accelerated fiercely, charging straight at Ling Chen at a breakneck speed, reaching Ling Chen in the blink of an eye. Seeing he was still unwilling to give up, Ling Chen decided to stop holding back. With a shift of his foot, his body charged directly forward, thrusting his right shoulder. In an instant, the opponent's attack was dismantled, and his body was sent flying once again.

"Friend, give up trying. You are no match for me. Cooperate, and maybe I'll spare your life."

Slowly, the man got up from the ground, his mouth opening slightly as if he wanted to say something. However, before he could utter a word, he suddenly let out a miserable scream. Then, he clutched his head with both hands, groaning in agony. Not only him but all the intruders were the same, rolling on the ground in torment.

Seeing this, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, unsure of what had happened. They were fine just moments ago; how did they end up like this suddenly? Just as he pondered, a soft 'bang' was heard, and an intruder's head exploded gruesomely.

Observing the intruders' heads exploding one after another, Ling Chen's face turned grim. Though he had witnessed many storms, he had never seen such a bloody scene. Soon, all the intruders had become headless corpses, including the Earthly List expert.

Stunned for a moment, Ling Chen finally snapped back to reality, somewhat at a loss as he looked at the corpses scattered everywhere.

"Fatty..."

"Hey! Ling Chen, we've regained control of the monitoring system; it seems they left voluntarily."

Chapter 1600 - 1905: Intruders (2)

Upon hearing Hu Fei's words, Ling Chen couldn't help but glance at the surveillance equipment in the corner. Was it such a coincidence? These people died inexplicably, and then the hacker left. After pondering for a while, Ling Chen composed himself and began to order people to move all the bodies away.

Before long, Hu Fei rushed over from the main control room and was startled by the sight of headless bodies all over the floor.

"Did you do this?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Not me, I'm not sure what happened either. Later, have a look at the bodies to see if there's anything unusual." After speaking, he went straight to the interrogation room.

As he pushed the door open, the suited men inside were all sitting on chairs, looking at Ling Chen in confusion. They were unaware of what had just occurred outside, only knowing that Ling Chen had been gone for a long time, which worried them. If Ling Chen had a change of heart, none of them would survive.

Glancing at the people in the interrogation room, Ling Chen said, "You can all leave."

"Really?" Upon hearing this, the suited men's faces relaxed immediately.

Leaving the interrogation room, Ling Chen looked at Zhu Qing standing by the door and instructed, "Have someone keep an eye on them, I want to know their every move."

Zhu Qing acknowledged with a sound, indicating understanding.

Back in the main control room, the technicians were busy patching system vulnerabilities to prevent another hacker intrusion. After a while, Hu Fei walked in from outside.

"So, did you find anything?"

"They all had micro-bombs implanted in their heads, probably someone remotely detonated them, which is why their heads were blown off."

After hearing Hu Fei's explanation, Ling Chen suddenly understood. Previously, when the security system was breached, the opponent only controlled the surveillance system, aiming to check the inside of the base and grasp the situation of those intruders. When they saw the failure of the intruders' actions, the opponent immediately detonated the bombs, directly killing that group of intruders to prevent them from leaking information after capture.

Therefore, when all those intruders died, the opponent exited the system right away.

With this realization, Ling Chen's expression grew solemn. Regardless of the background of these intruders, they definitely belonged to an extraordinary organization. Even the former God Organization had never used such a brutal way to control members.

"Great, now not only have we exposed the location of our base, but also our identity," Hu Fei scratched his head, speaking with concern, "What should we do now? Being targeted by an unknown organization is not a pleasant feeling."

"No need to worry, they are not clear about our strength and won't act rashly." After pausing for a moment, Ling Chen asked, "By the way! Have you decoded the information left by Jiang Yue'e?"

Hu Fei shook his head and said, "Not yet, I haven't figured out the meaning of those numbers." Speaking of this, Hu Fei seemed to remember something and said, "I forgot to tell you, didn't you ask me to investigate the Jiang Family last time."

"So, did you get any results?"

"All of the Jiang Family members have disappeared."

"Disappeared?" Ling Chen was taken aback and asked in confusion, "How could they disappear, did they all move away?"

"No, as far as I know, the Jiang Family didn't move, they're all dead," Hu Fei said. "I had people ask around those near the Jiang Family, and they told us that they still saw the Jiang Family coming and going at night, but the next day, it was as if they had all disappeared, no one came out for several consecutive days. Later, when someone got worried something happened to the Jiang Family, they

reported it to the police. When the police entered the Jiang Family house, they discovered a large amount of blood in the yard. Due to the passage of time, the blood had already dried. However, one strange point is that though bloodstains were found, no bodies were discovered. Over ten people from the Jiang Family were all gone."

"Were those bloodstains left by the Jiang Family?"

"According to the test report, they indeed belonged to the Jiang Family. The police suspect that the Jiang Family may have been massacred, with not a single survivor left."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen frowned and said, "How could this happen? Did the Jiang Family provoke someone they shouldn't have?"

"Maybe, the Jiang Family was slightly influential, and yet they were massacred, indicating that those who killed them aren't small-time players. In any case, the case has turned into a cold case, with almost half a year passed and not a single breakthrough."

Ling Chen thought for a while and asked, "Fatty, do you think the Jiang Family massacre could be related to Jiang Yue'e?"

"I can't say for sure, before finding Jiang Yue'e, all of this is speculation." Hu Fei had barely finished speaking when a tech personnel in the main control room suddenly said, "Boss, I figured out the meaning of those numbers."

Ling Chen and Hu Fei exchanged a glance, and they immediately rushed to the side of that technician and asked, "What do these numbers represent?"

"These are latitudes and longitudes. After I entered the two groups of numbers, they immediately yielded a coordinate location," the technician pointed at the map displayed on the computer screen.

"Isn't this Beijing?" Hu Fei said in surprise.

"That's right, Jiang Yue'e intended to convey her location by leaving these numbers. It seems we have to make another trip to Beijing," said Ling Chen, rubbing his nose. Having just returned from Beijing today, he has to set out for Beijing again. He truly has a tiring life.

"Do you want me to go with you?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "No need, the others are still in Beijing, having them with me is enough. Later, help me book a ticket, the fastest one."

"So urgent?"

"This information was sent by Jiang Yue'e a few days ago. Who knows what might happen in between, so the sooner the better."

"Alright then, these people are ruthless. Be careful."

After some preparations, Ling Chen left the base alone and went straight to the airport. Along the way, he called Nanrong Wanqing, simply saying he had something to handle in Beijing and would be back as soon as it was done. Nanrong Wanqing was very understanding and didn't say much, just reminded him to stay safe outside.

When Ling Chen arrived at Capital International Airport, it was already evening. Coming out from the airport passage, a ten-seater business vehicle was waiting by the roadside. Onboard, there were seven people, led by Qiu Yong.

"Big brother, thank you for your hard work today."

"No need to be polite, shall we go eat first or...?"

"Let's take care of business first, I'm afraid something might change." Saying this, Ling Chen took out his phone and handed Hu Fei's sent location to Yuan Yun, who was driving.

As the car started, the group headed straight into the city. After spending more than forty minutes on the road, the car finally arrived at their destination.