

The Beauty 231

Chapter 231 The Blood Spider's Trade

But misunderstandings aside, even though Ling Chen didn't mean to take advantage of her, it was still the first time that her body had been violated by someone. And, just by thinking about the embarrassing things Ling Chen had done to her, Wanqing's face immediately turned bright red, filled with immense shame and annoyance.

Even if Nanrong Wanqing didn't pursue it, she couldn't easily let go of that hooligan. She wasn't someone whose advantage could be taken so easily.

Achoo!

On the way home, Ling Chen sneezed several times in a row. Touching his nose and thinking about what had just happened, there was a restlessness stirring in his heart. Su Lin's figure was seriously impressive, with curves in all the right places, especially her full chest—with an extremely good feel to the touch. He really wanted to touch it again.

Just as he was thinking this, a fiery red Ferrari sped up from the side of the road and then screeched to a stop in front of him.

The car window rolled down, revealing a beautiful face from the driver's seat.

"Miss Kaelina?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and exclaimed, "How did you know I was here?"

"I have my ways. Get in!"

Ling Chen didn't think too much and immediately sat in the passenger seat. Accompanied by a roar like a wild beast, the Ferrari once again hit the road.

"Did you want to see me about something?" he asked. Miss Kaelina looking for him in the dead of night was definitely not just for a joyride. He always felt that this woman was mysterious and didn't know what she was up to.

"You're very impressive."

Ling Chen grinned: "Of course, I'm impressive. If I weren't, you wouldn't come to me for a partnership."

Miss Kaelina turned her head to look at him: "I'm talking about what you did today. You actually stole Zhu Hong's secret safe from his office."

"You know every move I make, it seems you're more impressive than me."

"Cut the chatter, I want that safe. The last time I went to Zhu Hong's office, it was to look for it."

On to serious matters, Ling Chen's smile faded as he said, "What's inside that safe?"

"I'm not sure about the rest, but I believe there should be a document mentioning an address."

"What address?"

"I'm not obligated to answer that question."

Ling Chen shrugged nonchalantly and said with a slight smile, "If that's the case, then I'm not obligated to give you the safe. I put in a lot of effort to steal it from Zhu Hong. I can't just hand it over to you because of a few words."

"You really dislike being on the losing end," Miss Kaelina remarked with a cold look and a hint of dissatisfaction.

"Let's be clear about our relationship. We are partners, not friends. You do me a favor, and I'll do you a favor—that's what partnership means."

"I could be your friend."

Ling Chen replied indifferently with a smile, "Miss Kaelina, friendship isn't just spoken into existence. Considering our current relationship, we're far from being friends."

Miss Kaelina slightly furrowed her brows and asked, "So what do you want?"

"Back to what I said earlier, you want the safe, that's fine! But at the very least, give me something worthwhile, like valuable information."

"No way." Miss Kaelina didn't even think before directly rejecting his request, "The information I possess is my biggest bargaining chip in partnering with you all. Simply wanting to exchange it for a safe is too cheap for you. Besides, it's still uncertain whether the safe contains the information I need."

After a pause, she changed the subject: "How about this, you give me the safe, and I'll help you with something."

Ling Chen, intrigued, asked, "What is it?"

"You have a friend who's suspected of murder and was arrested by the police, right? I can help him clear his name."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up. He was worried about how to save Nanrong Hao; if Miss Kaelina could help with this, that would be more than great.

"Your friend was framed, and I know who's behind it. How's this for a deal?"

"OK!" Ling Chen agreed without hesitation, "As long as you can clear his name, the safe is all yours."

Hearing this, Kaelina gave a slight smile. Her right hand shifted gears, and she floored the gas pedal, instantly boosting the Ferrari's speed.

After three blocks, Kaelina didn't slow down but instead sped up even more, running several red lights. A few minutes later, a police car burst out from a crossroad, tailing the Ferrari closely.

Kaelina glanced at the rearview mirror, curled her seductive lips into a beautiful smile, full of charm.

Roar roar roar!

Amidst the roaring engine sound, within seconds, the Ferrari's speed had reached its peak, leaving the police car far behind.

Tsk tsk!

Ling Chen looked at the woman beside him and clicked his tongue inwardly. Worthy of being the third-ranked assassin, indeed she was crazy enough.

"Where are we going?"

"A place that can save your friend," Kaelina casually replied.

Ling Chen nodded, then sealed his lips and let Kaelina take him on a wild ride.

More than ten minutes later, the Ferrari gradually slowed down and stopped by the roadside.

"We're here."

Getting out of the car, Ling Chen followed Kaelina's steps as they turned into an alley. Following the alley to the end, there was a rusty iron gate. Through the gate, Ling Chen could faintly hear the sound of intense music.

Kaelina fished out two slender steel pins from her blonde hair, inserted them into the lock, and gently toggled them. Soon, the lock was opened.

Entering the gate, Ling Chen saw rooms piled with a large quantity of miscellaneous items and an odd smell lingering. Past the door, the intense music became clearer.

"What is this place?"

"A dance hall."

As they spoke, Kaelina pushed open a door, leading Ling Chen into an abandoned kitchen. Ling Chen surveyed the surroundings and noticed an iron door to the east of the kitchen, which had been welded shut and couldn't be opened—the intense music was coming from behind that door.

"This used to be a restaurant, but then it was turned into a dance hall."

"Why was the kitchen preserved?"

"Because someone bought it from the dance hall owner." After saying that, Kaelina walked straight to the door of the freezer and removed an iron plaque hanging on it, revealing a row of numeric keys.

Seeing Kaelina entering the password with familiarity, Ling Chen was somewhat surprised and asked, "You've been here before?"

"Once. Not only you were monitoring Zhu Hong, but I was also keeping an eye on him. However, my main target isn't him, it's someone else you're familiar with."

"Zhang Xueli?" Ling Chen's thought immediately went to this woman.

Kaelina nodded, reached out to grasp the freezer's doorknob, and gently twisted it.

Click!

With a soft sound, the freezer's door opened as expected.

Kaelina lifted her foot, ready to step in. But at that moment, as if she remembered something, she suddenly turned back and said to Ling Chen, "How's your psychological endurance?"

Ling Chen didn't understand why she would ask that, "The psychological quality of those in our line of work is never bad."

"That's good, because I'm afraid you'd be scared by the scene you're about to see."

Chapter 232 Secret Warehouse (Part 1)

Ling Chen shrugged indifferently. He had seen all there was to see in the world and was not easily frightened.

Following Kaelina into the ice storage, Ling Chen immediately felt a chill. The temperature inside was about ten degrees colder than outside. The two of them went straight to the center of the ice storage where there was a long table covered with a layer of frost.

Kaelina reached under the table, triggering a mechanism. Suddenly, Ling Chen felt the ground beneath him sink, and the floor of the ice storage slowly started descending.

After descending five meters, the floor finally stopped moving, and Kaelina gestured to Ling Chen: "Follow me."

Ling Chen followed close behind, looking at the surrounding environment with a peculiar expression, "Is there no one here?"

"This is the God Organization's secret warehouse and prison in East Sea City. The people they capture are all brought here for interrogation. Additionally, there is a special operations team stationed here, responsible for handling some unsightly matters."

"If there are people here, why aren't there guards?"

"From where we entered to here, there are more than a dozen full-range surveillance cameras. They can see even a fly. However, the last time I infiltrated, I had already secretly hacked into their system." As she spoke, she took out a small device from her pocket, "This is a signal jammer. Combined with the changes I made in their system, those cameras will automatically filter us out. Simply put, we are now invisible, they can't see us."

Ling Chen praised inwardly; Blood Spider truly lived up to her name, working flawlessly.

"I had one more question I didn't ask earlier, bringing me here, is Zhu Hong targeting the Nanrong family?"

"Zhu Hong only handles things on the surface, and all the dirty work behind the scenes is completed by Zhang Xueli for him. Actually, I stumbled upon this accidentally. I was monitoring Zhang Xueli, hoping to obtain some valuable intelligence from her, and instead, I unexpectedly discovered her actions against the Nanrong family. From the smuggled goods at Dongling Pier to your friend being falsely accused of murder, everything was controlled by Zhang Xueli behind the scenes." Saying this, she turned her head to look at Ling Chen, "I have a question, why are they targeting the Nanrong family? Although the Nanrong family runs the affluent Hongyu Group, the God Organization has never been short of money, and they wouldn't spend so much effort just for money."

"Because their goal is not money, but a person." Ling Chen's lips curled slightly, his clearly defined and sharply contoured handsome face showed a hint of coldness.

Knowing that all of this was Zhu Hong's doing behind the scenes, their motive was crystal clear.

Zhu Hong expended so much effort, all for the sake of gaining Nanrong Wanqing's favor.

First, he created trouble for the Nanrong family, then offered help to Nanrong Wanqing when she felt most helpless, solving all her problems. In that case, anyone would feel grateful, not to mention, Nanrong Wanqing and Zhu Hong had a childhood friendship, a foundation of feelings. With just a little manipulation, it would be easy for Zhu Hong to make Nanrong Wanqing see him in a different light.

Hmph! For the sake of winning Nanrong Wanqing over, Zhu Hong really was willing to spend a fortune. Too bad, Cheng Yaojin came out of nowhere, and now that he's aware, he naturally wouldn't let Zhu Hong have his way.

While musing, Ling Chen and Kaelina arrived in front of a tube-like corridor, at the end of which was a metal door with a movable window at the top.

"We can't go any further this way," said Kaelina. "Someone is behind that door, and he can see anyone outside through the window."

"How do we get in then?"

Kaelina pointed towards the bottom corner of the wall: "There's an abandoned air vent over there that I used to get in last time."

Ling Chen glanced at the vent and saw that it was very narrow; his stature most likely wouldn't fit through.

"You stay out here, I'll go in and take care of the guard." As she spoke, Kaelina unbuttoned her shirt, took off her coat, and revealed a set of leather black clothing that clung to her skin, highlighting her slender figure. Particularly those rarely seen lofty peaks that protruded, catching Ling Chen's eye.

This woman sure dresses boldly!

Kaelina seemed entirely unconcerned with his gaze, she smoothed her golden hair, tied it with a band, and let it hang behind her. Then, she walked to the abandoned vent, removed the iron net covering it, and lay back, facing up, to squeeze in.

However, although her figure was slender, the two ample mounds caused her some trouble, getting stuck at the top of the vent. Ling Chen shook his head inwardly; sometimes being too large wasn't a good thing. Kaelina took a deep breath, trying to compress her chest, but due to their size, half was still exposed outside.

Ling Chen hesitated, approached, and squatted in front of her, chuckling awkwardly, "Uh... do you need some help?"

Kaelina gave him a glance and huffed, without speaking further, which clearly meant she agreed. Thereupon, Ling Chen swallowed and extended his hands, grabbing the sides of the wire and tugging hard, inevitably coming into contact with her skin.

Really big!

Ling Chen quietly marveled, but at the same time, he was cursing himself – what was he thinking at a time like this?

At that moment, Kaelina felt as if she had been electrified and quivered gently.

Seeing her reaction, Ling Chen felt a little embarrassed, not expecting the woman to be so sensitive. He cleared his throat and quickly pushed aside those improper thoughts, helping Kaelina's body into the vent.

Hearing her sounds fading away, Ling Chen stood up and sniffed his hands; the lingering fragrance instantly enveloped him.

Although this woman is a merciless killer and wanted in various countries, he had to admit, her figure was truly top-notch.

A minute or two passed, and the metal door at the end of the corridor opened from the inside. Then, Kaelina walked out, waving her hand at him.

Passing through the metal door, Ling Chen saw a person lying on the ground with a twisted neck, devoid of life. Kaelina stood nearby nonchalantly, her expression unaltered.

Ling Chen glanced at her impressive bosom, curiosity getting the better of him, and asked, "How did you get in by yourself last time?"

"I used cloth to wrap them up, and then it wasn't an issue," Kaelina stated matter-of-factly as if the question didn't bother her. If it were a young girl from within the nation, she would have probably already turned pink and would be calling out 'pervert.'

"Using cloth..."

Ling Chen couldn't help but chuckle naughtily!

Who would have thought, this woman really had her ways.

Chapter 233: Secret Warehouse (Part 2)

Cough!

Ling Chen cast aside his distracting thoughts and looked around the room, only to see a door on each of the left and right sides. Kaelina pointed to the door on the left and said: "Behind this is a secret warehouse of the God Organization. Do you want to take a look?"

Ling Chen nodded his head, having come all this way, of course, he wanted to clear up the situation here. After gathering the intelligence, he would report back to his organization.

Arriving at the doorway, Kaelina grasped the doorknob, giving him a meaningful look: "You'd better be mentally prepared," she said, and then pushed the door open and went in.

As soon as the door opened, Ling Chen immediately felt a wave of heat hit him from behind the door. Entering the secret warehouse, he followed closely behind Kaelina's footsteps, his gaze sweeping around. Kaelina's repeated reminders for him to be prepared made him even more curious about what kind of alarming things were kept inside this secret warehouse.

Not long after walking, Ling Chen frowned slightly. Not only was the temperature in the secret warehouse very high, but there was also a strong and odious stench that nearly suffocated him. At that moment, Kaelina, who was leading the way, suddenly stopped, turned aside, and pointed to something for Ling Chen. Following the direction of her finger, Ling Chen fixed his eyes on the sight, and his complexion drastically changed. Veins on his forehead bulged as he clenched his fists unconsciously, unable to utter a single word for quite some time.

In this moment, he finally understood Kaelina's repeated warnings. Any person would find it hard to accept the scene before their eyes.

In a corner of the warehouse, countless corpses were piled up, men and women, old and young, like a small hill, too numerous to count.

These bodies had been stored for God knows how long, all were decaying and swollen, ghastly pale. Moreover, under the high temperature of the warehouse, the bodies were covered with maggots, densely packed and countless, which was incredibly disgusting.

Even Ling Chen, who had seen much of the world, felt nauseous at this moment and almost threw up his dinner.

He turned his head and looked at Kaelina, asking in a deep voice, "What's the deal with these bodies?"

"They are all failed experiments from the laboratory, sent here for unified disposal." As they spoke, a small forklift came from not far away, and Ling Chen and Kaelina quickly hid aside to avoid being discovered.

The forklift drove straight up to the pile of corpses, then scooped up a pile of bodies and returned the way it had come.

"There is a cremation furnace inside the warehouse; all these bodies will be burned. What you're seeing is just a part of the failed subjects. I've looked through their files, and almost every week, bodies have to be dealt with."

Ling Chen's face was an ashen color, still unable to recover from the initial shock. After a while, he adjusted his mentality and asked, "Where do all these people come from?" He noticed that among those bodies, there were not only Asians but also Caucasians and Africans, almost every ethnicity was represented.

Kaelina explained, "The God Organization has many channels; they transport test subjects to Huaxia country by sea and air. They are very cautious, capturing mostly beggars, wanderers, or mentally unstable people, so if these people disappear, it would not raise suspicion."

"Some time ago, I destroyed a secret base of the God Organization, which also had a laboratory, however, every body there was intact, not like these bodies here which are all mangled."

"Do you think the God Organization only conducts human enhancement experiments?" Kaelina shook her head, "What you see is just the tip of the iceberg. The God Organization is involved in a wide variety of experiments, such as head transplants, you must have heard of this surgery. Four or five decades ago, someone proposed the concept of head transplantation and performed numerous experiments on animals, shocking all circles. Later, international humanitarian organizations deemed the nature of this surgery egregious, crossing the moral line of people, and thus strictly forbade it. However, the God Organization did not abide by the ban and has been secretly researching."

At this point, she paused, then continued: "Head transplantation is just one kind; there are also limb regeneration techniques, cellular repair, genetic modification, these are all types of experiments the God Organization is involved in. Decades ago, the God Organization focused solely on the research of strength-enhancing serums. However, to successfully create a strength-enhancing serum, one needs an in-depth understanding of the human body, including genetic genes and the fusion of blood cells. As they overcame more and more challenges, their field of study broadened. Simply put, all of the God Organization's techniques have derived from their strength-enhancing serums."

Ling Chen nodded: "You know a lot about the God Organization."

"This is all information left to me by Blood Wolf. Ling Chen, the God Organization is far more terrifying than you can imagine; their research is beyond what you dare to imagine."

Ling Chen's brows slightly furrowed, his observant nature noticing that when Kaelina uttered these words, a hint of fear flashed in her blue eyes.

That a top Assassin, unfazed by killing, felt fear, spoke volumes of the horror that was the God Organization.

He distinctly remembered that Liu Xiyao had also said similar words to him. The God Organization of today was like a bottomless lake; he was only standing at the shoreline, yet to get close to the center, hence unable to deeply experience the power of the God Organization.

"You said earlier this is a secret warehouse of the God Organization, why do I only see corpses?"

"You'll find out soon."

Bypassing the odorous pile of corpses, Ling Chen followed Kaelina to the left side of the warehouse, where there was a large door.

"This is the cold storage." Kaelina opened the large door and led Ling Chen inside.

Seeing the items stored in the cold storage, Ling Chen immediately understood why Kaelina said this was a secret warehouse. Inside this cold storage, various organs were stored, all well-preserved.

"These organs will be sold on the black market in various countries at high prices, and the funds are used for research and development in the laboratories. With just this income, each lab could basically be self-sufficient, with no need for additional funding from the organization."

"Who manages this secret warehouse?"

"It used to be Zhu Hong, now it's Zhang Xueli's responsibility. Why, do you want to catch her?"

Ling Chen said coldly: "People like her being alive only cause more innocents to suffer."

"It's useless. Kill one Zhang Xueli, and another will emerge. Even if you destroy this secret warehouse, the God Organization will just build another one. With strong financial support, the God Organization can start again anywhere, anytime. To completely take down the God Organization, the strength of you and your people alone is not enough."

"Then what do you suggest?"

Chapter 234 Secret Warehouse (Part 3)

"God Organization's influence spreads across various countries, and there are countless such warehouses and laboratories. Over the years, through bribery and infiltration, God Organization has controlled many foreign politicians. Without eliminating these people, no one will take God Organization seriously."

"At present, the battles between you and God Organization are all carried out secretly; no one knows what kind of organization God Organization is. Even those who collaborate with God Organization do not understand it; therefore, driven by interests, they choose to cooperate. I believe that if someone publicly exposes God Organization, bringing it into the light for everyone to clearly see its malfeasance, things would become much easier."

Ling Chen nodded; Kaelina's words made sense. Making God Organization an organisation everyone despises could indeed make solving them easier.

However, once this smokeless war is exposed, it will also cause many problems. Because one must not only look at superficial aspects but should consider the big picture. Whether it's the old General Qiao Zhen or the founder of the Ghosts, He Ziyun, there's no way Kaelina could think of something they hadn't. Their inaction must be due to reservations.

Seeing that he was hesitating to speak, Kaelina, as though seeing through his thoughts, spoke up: "In doing anything, one can't be overly cautious. Being overly cautious only results in missing many opportunities. As a leader, considering various aspects and taking care of the big picture is not wrong, but it also makes one timid. Over the years, one reason why God Organization has become so rampant is precisely this. Now that God Organization has matured, if we don't take severe action, no one will be able to stop it."

"It sounds strange hearing this from you," Ling Chen said.

If it were someone else, he could somewhat accept it, but this woman in front of him was a cold-blooded Assassin. An assassin notorious for killings suddenly becoming so benevolent likely isn't just out of righteous indignation.

Kaelina stroked her blonde hair and said indifferently, "I'm just discussing the matter as it stands. This is your country, the decision is in your hands. If you want to continue to watch your compatriots become experimental subjects for God Organization, then I have nothing more to say."

Ling Chen was somewhat speechless; although he admitted that Kaelina had a point, he was just a pawn and had no decision-making power. Moreover, he was currently only an unofficial member of the Ghosts; only Qiao Zhen had the authority to make decisions.

He decided to leave these issues to the higher-ups. Changing the subject, he said, "Don't forget the main mission; we came here to find evidence to clear my friend's name."

"Follow me."

Leaving the warehouse, Kaelina and Ling Chen returned to that room and then headed straight for the door on the right.

"This is for your self-protection."

Looking at the dagger Kaelina handed him, Ling Chen gave a slight smile and refused, saying, "Thanks, but I have brought my own weapon."

Kaelina didn't press further, flipping her wrist and making the dagger disappear. Ling Chen was secretly amazed; this woman was dressed in leather from head to toe, without a pocket, and he had no idea where she hid the dagger.

Upon opening the door, Kaelina walked ahead with Ling Chen closely following, watching both sides cautiously.

Both sides of the corridor were lined with individual cells, most of which were empty, with only a few holding prisoners. As there were no lights inside the cells, it was pitch dark, and though Ling Chen could hear voices, he couldn't see anyone.

Walking past the cells, a burst of noisy sounds suddenly reached Ling Chen's ears, sounding like many people. Besides voices, there was also the crisp sound of clinking bottles. Kaelina slowed down and gave Ling Chen a signal with her eyes.

Ling Chen nodded in understanding, sticking close behind Kaelina, standing at the corner of the corridor. In a moment, Kaelina stealthily scoped out the situation, then gestured that there were a total of eight enemies ahead, and none were armed.

"I'll take care of them, you should..."

Before Kaelina could finish her sentence, Ling Chen had already charged out swiftly, vanishing by her side. Before she could react, a series of clashing noises followed swiftly, accompanied by screams like those of slaughtered pigs.

"Ling Chen!"

Miss Kaelina rushed out from around the corner, prepared to lend a hand. However, before she could act, she was stunned.

She saw Ling Chen touching his nose, standing not far away, with eight men lying unconscious around him.

Seeing Miss Kaelina approaching, Ling Chen shrugged and said, "So these are the special operations team you were talking about? They're too easy to defeat."

"It's because they didn't use guns, otherwise you'd be riddled with holes," Miss Kaelina retorted, yet her gaze towards Ling Chen held a trace of peculiarity. This was her first time witnessing Ling Chen's capabilities; the eight special operation team members were taken down in a matter of seconds. Even she might not have been able to accomplish that in such a short time.

People who come out of the Ghost Organization are indeed extraordinary.

Hearing Miss Kaelina's teasing, Ling Chen smirked dismissively. However, he admitted there was a bit of luck in quick disposal of those men, because they were all happy and completely unaware of the impending danger when he burst in, which gave him the upper hand.

"You're looking for this person." Miss Kaelina pointed to a young man lying on the ground, "It was him who murdered someone that night, and then pinned the murder on your friend."

Ling Chen nodded, casually lifted the young man onto a chair, and patted his cheek.

Soon, the young man groggily regained consciousness.

Seeing Ling Chen in front of him, the youth's face changed, and he attempted to resist. However, Ling Chen's fist was faster than his reaction. After taking a punch in the stomach, it seemed like the youth's entire body lost strength, he slumped in the chair, his teeth clenched, and his expression pained.

"Friend, I have a few questions for you, I hope you can cooperate," Ling Chen spoke pleasantly.

The youth spat out a mouthful of saliva and coldly stared at him without saying a word.

Seeing this, Ling Chen's mouth slightly raised, carrying a faint smile.

"Miss Kaelina, please step out for a bit, let me have a proper chat with our friend here."

Miss Kaelina glanced at him, and without a word, turned around and left the room.

...

Ten minutes later.

Ling Chen walked out, holding a cloth, wiping the fresh blood on the back of his hand.

"Where are they?"

"They're all dead." Ling Chen's tone was indifferent, as if discussing something unrelated to him.

Miss Kaelina was stunned, not expecting Ling Chen to be more ruthless than she had imagined.

"How can you clear your friend's name if you don't turn that man over to the police?"

Ling Chen smiled confidently: "I have my plans. Also, I have a scheme I hope you can help me with."

Chapter 235 Capturing Zhang Xueli

Leaving the secret warehouse, Ling Chen and Kaelina returned to the Ferrari parked by the roadside.

"Let's go, I'll take you to get the stuff."

Twenty minutes later, they drove to the residential area where Ling Chen lived. It was already midnight, and Hu Fei had already left. Upon entering the apartment, Ling Chen pointed to the safe placed in the corner of the wall, "The thing you want is in there. Don't blame me for not reminding you, there's a sensor installed inside this safe. If forced open, it will trigger a self-destruct device."

"Don't worry about that, I'll find a way to handle it."

"Don't forget our previous agreement, remember to copy the documents inside for me."

Kaelina nodded. Then, with Ling Chen's help, the two carried the safe downstairs and placed it in the passenger seat of the Ferrari.

"Thank you!" Once in the car, Kaelina did not forget to thank Ling Chen, who was outside the window.

"No need for politeness, we are in a cooperative relationship now; we should help each other."

The roaring sound began as the red Ferrari drove off. Watching it disappear into the distance, Ling Chen returned to his room upstairs and sat by the window sill, taking out his cell phone from his pocket and dialed a number. He had to report what he had seen and heard at the secret warehouse tonight. Additionally, his plan also needed the old General's support.

The next day.

An Audi sedan pulled out from the traffic and stopped by the roadside. Immediately, the car door opened, and a woman wearing sunglasses stepped out, followed by two suited bodyguards.

Turning into an unoccupied alley from the street, the woman in sunglasses quickened her pace and walked directly to an iron gate at the end of the alley.

"Open up!"

One of the bodyguards took out a key and unlocked the gate. However, as the gate opened and the woman in sunglasses was about to enter, her expression suddenly changed, a flash of coldness passing behind her sunglasses as she stepped back.

Following her move, the dark barrel of a gun protruded from the iron gate, pressing against her forehead.

Seeing this, the two suited bodyguards were shocked. Before they could act, several fully armed special forces soldiers swarmed out from behind the gate, quickly subduing them and pinning them to the ground.

Simultaneously, a Buick van drove from the street corner to the outside of the alley, blocking the entrance so that no one from outside could see inside.

"Miss Zhang, we meet again."

Hearing a familiar voice, Zhang Xueli's expression turned cold as she faced Ling Chen coming out from behind the door, "How did you find this place?"

"If you don't want people to know, you should never have done it. Miss Zhang, you are from Huaxia, you should have heard this saying."

Zhang Xueli sneered, "You think catching me will stop the forces behind me? That's too naive."

Ling Chen shook his head slightly, a small smile playing at the corner of his lips as he looked directly at her, "Miss Zhang, I never had any illusions about using you to breakdown the God Organization because I know very well, you're just a minor character."

"You think you could extract information from me and then use it to catch a big fish?" Zhang Xueli scoffed coldly, "That'll probably disappoint you."

"That may not necessarily be the case." As soon as he spoke, seeing Zhang Xueli's determined eyes, Ling Chen's heart sank, he moved quickly like lightning, locking her jaw and forcing her mouth open to prevent it from closing. He then signaled a special forces soldier beside him who understood and immediately took out a small pointed pliers and reached into Zhang Xueli's mouth.

In less than a minute, a false tooth containing a poison sac was extracted from Zhang Xueli's mouth.

"Miss Zhang, did you think I wouldn't be prepared?"

"You..." Zhang Xueli clenched her teeth, her face looking very ugly.

Ling Chen smiled indifferently; Zhang Xueli was not the first member of the God Organization he had encountered. He was well aware of their tactics; every minor leader had a poison tooth hidden in their mouth in case they were captured and tortured. Thus, the moment he noticed something off in Zhang Xueli's demeanor, he did not hesitate to act.

"Miss Zhang, have a good journey, we probably won't meet again." After speaking, he gestured, and several special forces soldiers immediately escorted her into the Buick van.

According to the plan, Zhang Xueli would be directly taken to Beijing, where the old General and Han Bing would personally handle her interrogation. With the methods of the Ghost Organization, they believed substantial intelligence could be extracted from Zhang Xueli, perhaps even revealing the extent of the God Organization's influence in Huaxia.

However, more than capturing Zhang Xueli, Ling Chen was more interested in dealing with Zhu Hong. Liu Xiyao had once told him that Zhu Hong was the head of the Asian region, with a potentially high rank within the God Organization. However, since his successful theft of Zhu Hong's safe, Zhu Hong had disappeared without a trace, likely having left East Sea City.

At that moment.

Outside a three-story villa on the outskirts of Beijing, a Mercedes sedan slowly approached and stopped at the gate, a young man in a crisp suit and handsome appearance stepped down. He adjusted his collar, his expression serious, and strode into the villa.

Reaching the second floor of the villa, the young man approached a room and gently knocked on the door.

"Come in!"

At the sound, the young man took a deep breath, calming his nervous heart, and pushed the door open.

Inside the study, with an ancient charm, there were tables and chairs made of valuable purple sandalwood, reflecting the owner's taste. The walls were adorned with ink paintings, several of which were authentic works by famous artists. At a window in the study, a man sat with his back to the door, his face obscured, diligently handling the tea set in front of him.

The young man stood up straight behind him, silent and barely daring to breathe.

A full ten minutes later, a pot of fragrant tea was ready, and the man finally spoke: "Say what you want to say."

"I'm sorry, I let you down." The young man bowed his head, his face full of shame.

"Zhu Hong, you are a smart man, capable too, that was why I initially recommended you to handle the affairs in the Asian region. Do you know where you went wrong?"

"I... I underestimated my opponent too much."

"No!" The other man shook his head slowly: "That's not the main issue; your mistake was investing too much emotionally in a woman. I once cautioned you, advised you to act cautiously, not to underestimate the Ghost Organization. Yet, because of a certain Nanrong Wanqing, you couldn't maintain your usual composure, and that's why you showed too many flaws."

"I'm sorry, I know I was wrong, please give me another chance."

"For someone else, I wouldn't give a second chance, but you are different, I personally cultivated you, consider this a lesson; you need to reflect on yourself."

Zhu Hong secretly breathed a sigh of relief, nodding, "Yes, thank you!"

Chapter 236: The Mysterious Man

"You don't need to thank me, because your operation this time is bound to fail."

Hearing this, Zhu Hong showed a puzzled expression and asked, "Why?"

"You've been around me long enough to understand my character; I always strive for stability. You have the ability and courage, but you lack experience. Do you really think I'd casually let you manage such a big operation? The task assigned to you, aside from being a training exercise, was also meant to create a smoke bomb to draw the attention of the Ghost Base, facilitating other plans. Even if you hadn't exposed yourself, I would have taken measures to make the Ghost Base suspect you. However, even though the outcome is predetermined, it doesn't change my disappointment in you. According to my initial plan, you should have been able to hold off the Ghost Base for at least half a year, but now only two months have passed, far from meeting my expectations."

"I'm sorry!"

"In front of me, you don't need to say sorry. You are young, and it's normal to make mistakes."

"But, that safe inside..."

The man waved his hand and said, "All the information you have was given by me. Knowing that you would be targeted by the Ghost Base, do you think I would give you truly important intelligence? Like I said, those were just smoke bombs, meant to attract the attention of the Ghost Base; we had to sacrifice something. Those labs being destroyed doesn't impact us significantly. Also, I just received the news that Zhang Xueli has been captured by the people from the Ghost Base."

"What?" Zhu Hong looked startled. "What should we do?"

The man said with some dissatisfaction, "How many times have I taught you? Don't panic when things happen, maintain a calm demeanor. As someone in a higher position, you must learn to keep your composure and not let others guess your thoughts. Zhang Xueli is just a pawn, her fate isn't important. Moreover, if she can disclose our secret bases in East Sea City, that would also be beneficial."

"How could that be beneficial?" Zhu Hong asked, confused.

"The plan I'm currently preparing will take another month to complete. I had hoped you could stall for some time. Since you've been exposed, we can only pin our hopes on Zhang Xueli now, using those secret bases to hold off the Ghost Base, keeping them too busy to focus on other matters."

"Those secret bases have hundreds of members, don't their lives matter?"

"To achieve great things, one must not be soft-hearted. You need to learn to look at issues from a different angle. They are sacrificing themselves for the organization's greater cause, not because we aren't rescuing them. Alright, let's not discuss this further, go abroad for a while to avoid trouble. Once this blows over, come back; I still have many things I need your help with."

"Yes, take care. I'll be leaving now." After saying this, Zhu Hong turned and walked toward the exit of the study.

At the doorway, the man suddenly spoke up to stop him, "There is one thing I think it's necessary to tell you."

"What is it?"

"That young man named Ling Chen is actually not dead. Not only is he not dead, but he is also alive and well, still lurking in East Sea City. The troubles you've encountered these days are probably all related to him."

Zhu Hong abruptly turned his head, his eyes filled with hatred and his face turning ashen, "He... really isn't dead?"

"Believe me, I wouldn't lie to you; this is information I obtained from inside the Ghost Base."

"I see." Zhu Hong gritted his teeth, furious. The last time he stayed with the Nanrong family, he wanted to help Nanrong Wanqing resolve the troubles of the Nanrong family. Initially, everything was going well, but suddenly overnight, Nanrong Wanqing's attitude towards him changed drastically. He had always been puzzled by the reason, now it seems, it must be because of Ling Chen.

"Don't let hatred blind you," the man said indifferently. "He is just a minor character, not worth your hatred. Once you have grown stronger, people like him can be easily dealt with by you at any time."

Zhu Hong nodded, suppressed the anger in his heart, and forced a smile, "I will certainly bear your teachings in mind."

"Good. Besides, there is another matter, the most important thing, without my permission, you are not allowed to touch Nanrong Wanqing. If you don't heed my warning, even though I have personally mentored you, I won't give you any more chances. Did you hear me clearly?"

"This..." Zhu Hong hesitated.

"Hmm?"

Feeling the man's coldening tone, Zhu Hong grit his teeth and nodded, "Yes, I understand."

"Alright, you can go now."

After Zhu Hong had left the study, the man picked up a cup of tea, leaned back in his chair, and muttered to himself, "Don't blame me for being too harsh on you. You're not yet qualified to marry my daughter."

...

Two days passed.

News came from Ghost Base. Zhang Xueli disclosed four secret bases located in East Sea City. Tang Yuan was leading a team to apprehend them all in one fell swoop.

With the threat in East Sea City temporarily mitigated and Zhu Hong gone missing again, Ling Chen suddenly found himself at a loose end, not knowing what to do.

"Old bachelor."

Returning to East Sea City, the first thing Tang Yuan did was excitedly rush to Ling Chen's residence.

Ling Chen pushed away Tang Yuan's approaching arms and said gruffly, "Enough, what's there to hug between two grown men?"

"I'm just happy to see you," Tang Yuan said with a broad, cheerful smile. "Last time, I really thought you were dead. I bought many paper dolls to burn for you, so you could enjoy your next life."

"Get lost! I'm definitely tougher than you. Hey, you don't need my help for this operation?"

"No need, I have enough manpower. The General said you've worked hard recently, so he's giving you some time off to rest properly."

"Really?"

"Of course, it's true. I wouldn't lie to you. If you want, you can return to Nanrong Family anytime. The General wants you to continue staying by Miss Nanrong's side to protect her. The military's collaboration with Nanrong Family has just begun, and he doesn't want any mishaps with Miss Nanrong. You know what I mean."

"I understand." Ling Chen nodded. There was still one enemy of the Nanrong Family left to deal with — the Snake King. Given that he now knew the true identity of the Snake King, he naturally couldn't let his guard down.

"Right!" He switched topics, asking, "Has there been any resolution regarding Nanrong Hao's issue?"

"He will be released in a couple of days. Zhang Xueli has already confessed that it was Zhu Hong who instructed her to covertly transport contraband and frame it on Hongyu Group, including the set-up against Nanrong Hao. The General has already issued an order that will soon be communicated to the city police."

"That's good."

Checking the time, Tang Yuan said, "I've got other things to handle, I'll catch up with you some other time."

"Mm, take care."

After seeing Tang Yuan off, Ling Chen stretched lazily and then went back to his room to pack his bags. Since everything had been settled, there was no need for him to stay any longer.

Closing the door, Ling Chen carried his luggage and sighed quietly to himself. Although this case had concluded in the way he had anticipated, he still felt a twinge of disappointment. He had secretly infiltrated East Sea City to gather evidence and intelligence to confront Zhu Hong, but Zhu Hong had left prematurely, rendering his efforts futile.

However, thinking of Nanrong Wanqing immediately brightened his mood. Regardless, the endeavor wasn't entirely fruitless, at least it had clarified the relationship between him and Nanrong Wanqing.

Before leaving, he made a phone call to Hu Fei. He owed much to Hu Fei's help during this period and naturally wanted to express his gratitude properly.

Chapter 237 Future Husband Cultivation Plan

Hongyu Group.

Secretary Wang Lan pushed open the door of the Chairman's office, a smile on her face as she looked at Nanrong Wanqing, who was busily working at her desk.

"Chairman, someone is looking for you."

"I'm really busy right now, I don't have time..."

"Not even time for me?" A familiar voice came, and Nanrong Wanqing immediately looked up at the door, only to see Ling Chen standing behind Wang Lan with a cheeky grin, winking at her.

"Lan, you go ahead with your work; I have something to discuss with the Chairman."

"Mhm." Wang Lan, very understanding, didn't say anything unnecessary and turned to leave the office.

Nanrong Wanqing wheeled away from her desk and looked curiously at Ling Chen, who was sitting on the sofa with his legs crossed. "Didn't you say that you don't want others to know that you're back?"

"It's okay now." Ling Chen flashed a wide grin, "Old Tang helped me resign last time, and I'm here to be reinstated today. It's up to you, the Chairman, to agree or not."

"Reinstate?" Nanrong Wanqing pondered for a moment, then gently shook her head: "I cannot agree."

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, puzzled: "Why not?" As he spoke, he 'oh'ed, with a sudden look of realization, his smile playful: "Are you refusing to let me return to the company because you want to propel me directly to the pinnacle of life?"

"What pinnacle of life?"

"Become a general manager, marry a rich and beautiful woman... Nope, that should be marry the Chairman, and also..."

Hearing his nonsense, Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face blushed, two streaks of crimson rose involuntarily, and she retorted with annoyance: "You're thinking too much."

"Then what would you have me do?"

"Security doesn't have much career prospect; I think you should try other fields, like management."

"Management?" Ling Chen's eyes rolled, and he immediately laughed. He looked at Nanrong Wanqing with meaningful amusement. Feeling his gaze, Nanrong Wanqing couldn't help but turn her head away, her face reddening, her beautiful eyes flickering, she stammered: "What are you looking at me for?"

Ling Chen chuckled: "Chairman, are you undertaking a future husband training program?"

"Who says that, I just... just think your abilities are wasted on being security." By the end of her sentence, her voice had become a faint whisper, with a hint of shyness, not daring to look directly into his eyes.

Seeing her bashful, demure appearance, Ling Chen smiled to himself. The old Nanrong Wanqing used to be stern with an icy face, authoritative and nobody dared to defy her. But the current Nanrong Wanqing appeared like a fairy descending from the heavens, tasting the mortal world for the first time, with a completely different charm that unwittingly attracted him.

"Really not a future husband training program?"

Seeing him bringing up that topic again, Nanrong Wanqing became both shy and annoyed: "If you ask again, then you can go back to the security department."

"Alright, alright, I won't ask anymore. You're the Chairman; whatever you say goes. So what position are you planning to arrange for me?" Knowing she was thin-skinned, Ling Chen no longer teased her.

"Start by getting familiar with the Human Resources Department. If you perform well, then I will arrange other tasks for you." When it came to work, Nanrong Wanqing immediately became serious, "The

Human Resources Department is a vital part of the company and is involved in the overall operation. You can't take it lightly."

"No problem, don't you know my abilities." Ling Chen was full of confidence.

"Right, how's Nanrong Hao doing?" Bringing up her own brother, a trace of concealed worry crossed Nanrong Wanqing's brows.

"Don't worry, if his issue wasn't resolved, could I have come back to find you? By tomorrow at the latest, you'll be able to see him."

Upon hearing that, Nanrong Wanqing's brows immediately smoothed out, as if she relaxed completely, "Thank you."

Ling Chen waved his hand dismissively: "Do we still need to thank each other? If you really want to thank me, why not make it up to me tonight." While saying this, he let out a sly chuckle.

Thinking of the passionate night, Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face blushed, her hands gripping the hem of her clothes as she scolded angrily: "Without my permission, you're not allowed in my room ever again. Also, when you go back, you need to apologize to Lin yourself."

Su Lin?

Ling Chen scratched his head; that girl was a bit of trouble. With her tigress-like personality, he wasn't sure if she would forgive him.

Nanrong Wanqing seemed to sense his worries and said, "I've explained it to Lin. It was just a misunderstanding; she probably won't blame you."

"That's good then." Ling Chen nodded, but still felt somewhat unsure, since he had taken such a big advantage of someone, "Did she say anything?"

"Say anything about what?"

"About our relationship, didn't she show any reaction at all?"

"Not for now. I'll find an opportunity to have a good talk with her later. Oh, and one more thing," Nanrong Wanqing quickly changed the subject, reminding him, "You're not allowed to mention our relationship to anyone else at the company."

"Relationship, Wanqing, what are you referring to?"

"Get lost." Nanrong Wanqing was so irritated that she uttered a curse, which was rare for her.

Ling Chen laughed heartily. He had wanted to spend more time with Nanrong Wanqing, but seeing that she was busy with a lot of work, he tactfully didn't disturb her and went down to the security department alone.

Seeing him return, Zhong Wei, Wei Jun, and the others were naturally overjoyed.

"Ling, welcome back to the company. To celebrate your return, you're treating us to a meal tonight," Wei Jun said with a laugh, patting his shoulder.

"I don't mind a dinner, but not tonight. I'm busy; let's do it another day."

Thinking of facing Su Lin later in the evening, he really wasn't in the mood to go out and enjoy himself.

At six o'clock in the evening.

Ling Chen sat in his Rolls-Royce, accompanying Nanrong Wanqing back to Wealthy Manor. When they reached the doorstep, and he saw the white Maserati parked outside, Ling Chen cleared his throat and glanced at Nanrong Wanqing beside him.

It seemed like she didn't notice his gaze and said indifferently, "I'm going back to my room. You go find Lin."

Ling Chen touched his nose and shook his head, resigned. After Nanrong Wanqing returned to her room, he headed alone to Su Lin's bedroom door. Peeking through the door gap, the light was on inside; Su Lin should be in there.

Taking a deep breath, he raised his hand and gently knocked on the door.

"Come in."

Getting her permission, Ling Chen grasped the doorknob, pushed the door, and walked in.

However, the moment he entered, his expression froze, and he stood there dumbfounded with his foot hovered midair, staring open-mouthed at Su Lin inside the room.

Apparently, the young lady had just finished showering, her body wrapped in a towel, exposing soft, fragrant shoulders. As he entered, Su Lin was about to remove her towel, holding a lace-trimmed sexy bra in her hand, and turned her head to ask, "Wanqing, you..."

Before she could finish her sentence, seeing Ling Chen standing at the doorway with his mouth agape, Su Lin was momentarily stunned, her mind went blank, and it took her a long time to snap back to reality.

Chapter 238 Letting You See It Again

Eye to eye, Ling Chen's attention was largely focused on Su Lin's bare and delicate body.

Watching Su Lin's alluring figure, Ling Chen felt a dry throat and couldn't help but swallow, feeling a slight swelling in his lower body, stirred by primitive desires.

A few seconds of eye contact later, Su Lin finally came to her senses. Instinctively, her first reaction was to scream. However, noticing her action, Ling Chen panicked, took a quick step forward, and covered her mouth before she could make a sound.

"Don't... don't scream!"

Ling Chen urged anxiously. Nanrong Wanqing was next door, and if Su Lin screamed, Nanrong Wanqing would definitely hear, and if she saw the situation, it would be awkward for all three of them.

"Mmm..." Su Lin tried to speak, but Ling Chen was covering her mouth, and she couldn't utter a word.

"Lady Su, I just misunderstood; I didn't mean to peep on you," Ling Chen explained, then added, "Wanqing is next door, do you want her to see this?"

Su Lin glared at him, still thinking it was Nanrong Wanqing knocking on the door earlier, hence her guard was down. Since no man ever came to the second floor, and since Zhu Hong and Ling Chen weren't residing at home, she never anticipated the coincidence that Ling Chen would appear.

When did this rascal come back?

Realizing she was still unclothed in front of Ling Chen, Su Lin felt unbearable embarrassment, her fair skin blushing faintly.

"Mmm... Mmm..."

Seeing the color of embarrassment in Su Lin's eyes, Ling Chen reacted and couldn't help but lower his head, glancing at Su Lin's full bosom. This act turned Su Lin's face as red as an apple, appearing charmingly shy.

Rascal, you're still looking! She cursed in her heart.

"Umm... you should get dressed first." Feeling Su Lin's anger, Ling Chen forced a smile, quickly let go of her, and turned his back. However, as soon as he turned, his expression became strange. On the wall opposite him, there was a full-length mirror, perfectly reflecting Su Lin's voluptuous body.

Su Lin seemed not to notice this detail; by the time Ling Chen turned around, she had already grabbed a nightgown and draped it over herself, covering the exposed view.

Once she had put on her nightgown, Su Lin's face gradually returned to normal. Then, she turned her head, wanting to call him to turn around. But at that moment, she finally noticed the full-length mirror on the wall, her face turning red again, indignantly saying, "Ling Chen, you..."

"I didn't see anything," Ling Chen quickly denied.

"Pah! Who would believe your nonsense?" Su Lin sniffed, still blushing and glaring at Ling Chen, internally cursing the rascal thousands of times. Last time he had taken such advantage of her, and she hadn't settled accounts with him yet, and now she suffered another huge loss. Thinking of this, she felt like a jar of mixed emotions was knocked over, very uncomfortable.

Though she had a boyfriend before, it was only limited to holding hands, never crossing the boundary. She always held her body in high regard. Now, this rascal had touched where he shouldn't, seen what he shouldn't have; how could she face anyone after this?

The more she thought, the more aggrieved she felt, her eyes involuntarily reddening, on the verge of tears.

Seeing her sudden tears, Ling Chen was dumbfounded. Who knew this girl had such fragile mental resilience, unable to even withstand this small setback. If it were about killing someone, he could do it without blinking an eye. However, faced with a saddened, crying woman, he felt utterly helpless and unsure of how to console her.

"Look, don't cry, I didn't do it on purpose, how about... I let you see in return? That way, no one loses out."

Hearing this, Su Lin became furious. She had already suffered a loss, and he was still trying to take advantage of her, this rascal, pervert, scoundrel... couldn't he just comfort her for once.

"Hey, I said it was a misunderstanding, isn't my apology enough?"

Su Lin retorted indignantly: "Is an apology enough?"

Ling Chen spread his hands helplessly: "Then what do you want? You're not expecting me to take responsibility, are you?"

"Who's asking you to take responsibility." Su Lin blushed, wiped the tears from the corner of her eye, and huffed: "I might accept your apology, but it depends on your sincerity."

"What counts as sincere enough?"

Su Lin rolled her eyes, sniffing: "Depends on your future behavior. If you can satisfy me, I might pretend that both today and last time never happened."

"Alright, I'll do my best." Ling Chen sighed, after all, he should compensate since he took such advantage of her.

Having barely escaped from Su Lin's room, Ling Chen knocked on the door across, waiting for a response before he pushed the door and entered.

Entering the bedroom, he saw Nanrong Wanqing struggling to move from the wheelchair to the bed. Upon seeing this, he quickly stepped forward, lifted her delicate body, and gently placed her on the bed.

"Have you seen Lin? How did it go?"

"It was fine," Ling Chen replied nonchalantly, his eyes thoughtful on Nanrong Wanqing's legs.

"What do you mean 'fine'? Clarify, did she forgive you?" Nanrong Wanqing was a bit unsatisfied with his casualness and pressed for details.

"I'm on good terms with her, nothing happened, you should be satisfied with that," Ling Chen said, shifting the topic: "Wasn't that exoskeleton armor successfully developed? Why not have them deliver a set here?"

"My set of exoskeleton armor needs to be customized, their power reduced. It's still being rushed; it will take some time to complete," Nanrong Wanqing said, her expression somewhat melancholic, "Doctor Stephen said he had a way to cure my legs, but there has been no news, and even he's nowhere to be found."

"You don't have to look any more, he's not reliable." Ling Chen pointed out. Unknown to Nanrong Wanqing, Stephen was a member of the God Organization. Even if Stephen truly had a way to cure Nanrong Wanqing's legs, Ling Chen wouldn't hand her over to him; that would be far too dangerous.

"The exoskeleton armor will be here soon, use it for now. I will find a way to make you truly stand up."

"Really?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly: "Trust me, I won't disappoint you."

Chapter 239 Human Resources Department

The next day.

Ling Chen woke up early and did an hour of morning exercise. When it was about time, he returned to his room for a quick shower and then joined Nanrong Wanqing and Su Lin for breakfast.

Sitting at the dining table, Su Lin absentmindedly nibbled on bread, her gaze constantly shifting back and forth between Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing.

Feeling uncomfortable under her stare, Ling Chen couldn't help but look up and say, "Lady Su, is there something on my face that you keep staring at me? I know I'm handsome, but I'm taken. I'd appreciate it if you don't harbor any intentions towards me."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face flushed slightly red, and she gave him an annoyed glare. Su Lin was even less polite, lightly spitting in contempt, "Don't flatter yourself. There are plenty of guys handsomer than you. I'm not interested in a face like yours."

Ling Chen chuckled, "No worries, if you're not interested, someone else will be. Right, Wanqing?"

Su Lin looked at him with irritation and muttered, "I don't see what Wanqing sees in you."

"It's because Wanqing has good taste and discernment."

"You..." Su Lin huffed, "Wanqing, did you hear that? He's bullying me! He dares to say I lack taste and discernment."

Nanrong Wanqing rubbed her temples, helplessly saying, "Can't you both give it a rest? Early in the morning, all I hear is you two bickering. I'm tired just listening to you."

"Hmph, I can't be bothered with you." Su Lin pursed her lips and picked up her handbag from the chair, "I'm off to class." Walking a few steps, she turned her head back, reminding, "Ling Chen, don't forget what you promised me last night."

Watching Su Lin leave, Nanrong Wanqing asked curiously, "What did you promise her?"

"Nothing much." Ling Chen chuckled, standing up, "I'm full. You take your time. I'm going to find Captain Zhong and check if the car is ready." Having said that, he dashed out.

Eight o'clock in the morning.

Ling Chen accompanied Nanrong Wanqing to the office on time.

"Today is your first day at the department; remember to follow the rules and avoid trouble," Nanrong Wanqing advised before parting.

"Don't worry, I will be prudent and humbly learn from my colleagues."

After watching Nanrong Wanqing enter her private elevator, Ling Chen took another elevator to the tenth floor of Hongyu Group, the Human Resources Department.

Inside the department, a cacophony of keyboard clacking filled the air as everyone intently worked at their computers without uttering a word. Upon his arrival, they only glanced at him briefly, uninterested in a second look, and continued with their work.

Ling Chen touched his nose, feeling that this place was completely different from life in the security department; it was like night and day. Keeping in mind Nanrong Wanqing's instructions, he went straight to the department manager's office and knocked on the door.

"Come in!"

A woman?

Ling Chen opened the glass door to see a woman in her thirties come into view.

The woman before him was dressed in a white business suit, wearing glasses, her expression stern and seemingly with rigid facial muscles; she was very serious.

"Manager Jiang, hello." Ling Chen greeted her warmly, "I'm Ling Chen, the new employee. I look forward to working with and learning from you."

This woman was named Jiang Ying, the manager of the Human Resources Department. He had done his homework in advance.

Jiang Ying looked up at him, said nothing, but pointed to the clock on the wall. Ling Chen glanced at the clock, then back at Jiang Ying, his face full of confusion, not understanding her point.

"The company's working hours start at eight o'clock. It's already five past eight. As a new employee, you can't even keep the most basic punctuality. How can I trust you with work?"

Ling Chen was momentarily stunned. This woman's sense of time was too strong. Besides, it wasn't like he had intentionally been late; did she need to look at him with such disapproval?

Seeing him with a nonchalant expression, Jiang Ying frowned slightly, "HR told me you were transferred from the security department. People from the security department tend to be lax and undisciplined. Here, you'd better change your old habits. Three strikes and you're out; I don't care what connections you have in the company, you'll be dismissed after three violations. Do you understand?"

"Crystal clear." Ling Chen nodded his head. Nanrong Wanqing had arranged for him to learn in the Human Resources Department; he couldn't let her down. Although he didn't take a liking to this manager, for Nanrong Wanqing's sake, he had to accept it reluctantly.

"Good. I will observe your performance over the next few days. If you fail to satisfy me, I suggest you return to the security department. We have no need for useless people here," Jiang Ying said, and then pressed the intercom button. Shortly after, a pretty girl in her twenties entered the room.

"Xiao Han, this is Ling Chen, the department's new employee. Please arrange his work for him."

"Understood, Manager."

After leaving the office, Ling Chen spoke with the girl for a moment and learned that her name was Yang Han, Jiang Ying's secretary.

"Ling Chen, this is where you'll be working."

Yang Han led him to an empty desk, then placed a stack of files on it, "This is your work for today. You need to enter the new employee information from various departments into the company's records."

Ling Chen snapped his fingers and flashed a grin, "No problem."

"Then get busy. If there's anything you don't understand, just call me. I sit in the cubicle across from you."

"Okay, thanks."

After Yang Han left, Ling Chen sat at the desk, powered on the computer, and began to sort through the files, entering them into the computer one by one. After working non-stop at the screen for two hours, Ling Chen felt his back stiffening and his eyes straining. Damn, this workload is massive.

Despite the hard work, he understood the motive behind Nanrong Wanqing arranging for him to work here. The Human Resources Department is crucial for understanding the company's employees, managing the operations of all departments, and arranging personnel movement. Putting the right effort into the most effective areas – that's what the Human Resources Department is supposed to do.

Checking the time, it was ten o'clock, an hour and a half away from lunch. Ling Chen stood up, filled his mug with coffee, then stood by the window, twisting his waist and stretching his sore body.

"Ling Chen, what are you doing?"

Just then, Jiang Ying's voice came from behind him.

Ling Chen turned around and smiled, "Manager, I'm just taking a brief break."

"Have you finished your work?"

"Not yet."

"It's working hours now. There's plenty of time to rest after work. Also, don't wander around the department, you're distracting the other colleagues."

Ling Chen suddenly felt displeased, "Manager, don't you think you're being a bit too impersonal? People aren't machines; everyone gets tired. Taking a short break allows us to work better."

Jiang Ying, her face expressionless, responded, "This is my department; I make the rules. If you have a problem, you can leave. I won't hold you back. Including your tardiness today, you've already breached two rules. Make sure there isn't a third."

""

Chapter 240: Aunt

"Manager, it's not that I'm targeting anyone, but there's a big problem with the way you handle things. I'm here to work, not to sell my life away. On what grounds do you deny me rest? Moreover, this is Hongyu Group; I only need to follow the company's rules. You're not the chairman, so why should I abide by your inhumane rules?" Ling Chen expressed his dissatisfaction. This woman was just too damn unreasonable; she was just a manager, yet she acted as if she was the emperor, expecting everyone to listen to her commands.

Jiang Ying's face turned slightly cold as she frowned and said, "You—a new employee—dare to challenge my work and talk back to me?"

"Why wouldn't I dare? I guess the other employees in your department are holding back their anger for the sake of their livelihoods, but I don't have those concerns. At worst, you just fire me."

He wasn't a pushover, and with his personality, even if he reluctantly stayed today, he would inevitably protest tomorrow. So why not leave sooner?

"Fine, you said it yourself." Jiang Ying nodded her head and, pointing to the main door, said, "You can roll out from here right now."

Ling Chen had been about to leave, but when he heard the word 'roll,' he immediately halted, narrowed his eyes at Jiang Ying, and said enunciating each word, "Who are you telling to roll? As a manager, your vocabulary lacks any class. It's a wonder how someone like you became a manager. Even the chairman of Hongyu Group must be blind to promote someone like you."

Upon hearing these words, everyone in the office was suddenly shocked and looked at Ling Chen with their mouths agape. This guy had such a nerve; he even dared to insult the chairman. Didn't he know about the relationship between the manager and the chairman?

Alas, this guy is done for! Everyone silently mourned for Ling Chen for a second.

"You dare disrespect the chairman?" Jiang Ying's face fell, with anger blazing in her eyes.

Ling Chen shrugged his shoulders: "I'm just speaking the truth."

"Good, I see you don't want to stay in this company any longer."

"It doesn't matter to me; I can just go back to the security department," Ling Chen said unconcernedly. Working under such people, no amount of money would be worth it to him.

"You won't be returning to the security department either, just pack up and leave." Jiang Ying coldly threw out a sentence and turned to walk back into her office.

Ling Chen just smiled dismissively, waved his hand to his colleagues, and said, "Folks, continue to enjoy your suffering in the sea of bitterness. I'm breaking free from it first."

After leaving the Human Resources Department, Ling Chen thought about going to the security department to clear his head. However, just as he entered the elevator, he received a phone call from Nanrong Wanqing asking him to come to her office.

Tsk tsk! He'd just left, and Nanrong Wanqing already knew—Jiang Ying was quick to tattle.

Arriving at the top-floor office, Ling Chen greeted Wang Lan and then pushed the door open and walked in.

"Chairman, did you want to see me?"

Nanrong Wanqing looked at him with a displeased expression and reproached, "I warned you this morning not to cause any trouble, yet just two hours later, Manager Jiang calls the HR department demanding your dismissal."

Ling Chen spread his hands and said, "You can't blame me for that; who asked that woman to be so unreasonable. I wanted to do my work quietly, but she kept provoking me."

"You... Manager Jiang may be a bit strict, and I've advised her too, but that's just her personality, and it's hard to change; you just have to adapt. Moreover, over the years, she's put a lot of effort into the company. Hongyu Group's success today is partly her achievement," Nanrong Wanqing patiently explained, "with others, a little backtalk is fine, but not with her."

"Why not?"

Nanrong Wanqing bit her lip, looking somewhat embarrassed as she said, "She's my aunt."

"Aunt?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, not expecting Jiang Ying and Nanrong Wanqing to have this connection. Aunt, that would be Nanrong Wanqing's mother's sister.

Thinking back to the unpleasant exchange he had with Jiang Ying, his expression immediately turned sour.

This was awkward.

"Why didn't you give me a heads-up before?" he complained.

"How was I supposed to know you'd anger her so quickly?" Nanrong Wanqing said helplessly. She had specifically arranged for Ling Chen to be in the HR department out of personal interest, because her own mother had left home when she was very young, and her aunt had taken great care of her ever since. Later, Jiang Ying told her that in the absence of her mother, she would like to vet any boyfriends she might have, which is why she transferred Ling Chen to the HR department to let them get to know each other first.

She initially wanted to observe Ling Chen's performance and tell him about her aunt after a while, but who knew that just in two hours, he would anger her aunt, which left her not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

Ling Chen grimaced and said, "Why didn't you ever mention your aunt before?"

"At that time, you were still an outsider. Why would I tell you about my family matters?"

"So what should I do now? I've already made a bad impression on your aunt. Maybe... maybe you could explain it to her?"

"My aunt's personality is a bit eccentric," Nanrong Wanqing said and couldn't help but sigh lightly. "Actually, my aunt wasn't like this before. It's just that she went through too much when she was young, which caused her to become what she is today."

"What happened?" Ling Chen asked with a curious expression. "Could it be that she was abandoned by a man? Yeah, turning to hatred from love could certainly change someone's personality. I understand."

"Don't talk nonsense," Nanrong Wanqing glared at him, and said with annoyance, "If it weren't for my mother, my aunt wouldn't have ended up like this."

Hearing this, Ling Chen felt a stir in his heart, walked over to her, and said solemnly, "Actually, I've always had a question that I didn't feel it was appropriate to ask. But now that we are in this kind of relationship, shouldn't you tell me about your parents' affairs?"

He had noticed during his last visit to the Nanrong Family that neither Nanrong Wanqing nor Nanrong Hao had any photos of their parents in their rooms, which obviously was unusual. Moreover, Nanrong Wanqing's parents seemed to be a taboo topic in the Nanrong family, with no one daring to mention them. Therefore, he was very curious. Now that it was brought up, he wanted to take this opportunity to ask for clarity.

"My parents..." Nanrong Wanqing's face turned somber, and a trace of sadness shimmered in her eyes. Seeing this, Ling Chen walked behind her, placed his hands on her fragile shoulders, and said softly, "If you don't want to talk about it, then I won't ask."

He could feel that when it came to her parents, she was greatly troubled. Considering she had lost her parents shortly after she was born and they had never returned for decades, it must have been hard for her as their child.

Nanrong Wanqing shook her head, managing a faint smile, "Actually, I also want to confide in someone. Let's sit over there and talk."

Ling Chen agreed, pushed the wheelchair over to the sofa, and sat down next to her, listening attentively to her story.