

The Beauty 521

Chapter 521 Capturing Jiang Xinwu

After Hu Fei finished explaining the situation in detail, Xia Mutong looked at Ling Chen irritably and said, "Since you already knew the suspect's information, why didn't you inform me?"

Ling Chen replied helplessly, "I wasn't sure if it was him, so I dared not tell you."

Xia Mutong said incredulously, "I don't believe you." Then pointing at Hu Fei, she said, "You, come with me."

"Me?" Hu Fei was stunned.

"Hurry up, I don't have time to waste here." As she finished speaking, Xia Mutong grabbed Hu Fei and dragged him out of the hospital room.

After they left, Ling Chen asked Nanrong Hao to bring a cell phone and then called He Ziyun. Xia Mutong was going to arrest Jiang Xinwu, and he was worried. He asked He Ziyun to secretly follow her to prevent any mishaps.

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen lay back with his hands behind his head, staring at the ceiling, lost in thought.

The encounters tonight with Huang He, He Chen, and Jiang Xinwu, who were all missing persons from years ago, now choosing to pledge allegiance to the God Organization, seemed unbelievable. Does the God Organization really have such allure?

Besides, one thing was certain: Jiang Xinwu and the others had successfully completed the Lucifer experiment.

For now, he hoped that Xia Mutong could successfully capture Jiang Xinwu and extract some valuable information from him.

While pondering, Ling Chen felt sleepy and soon his head was foggy, and not long after, he fell into a deep sleep.

...

"Chen."

Hearing Nanrong Hao's voice, Ling Chen opened his eyes and rubbed them, questioning the figure beside his bed, "What's up?"

Nanrong Hao handed the phone to Ling Chen and said, "It's Hu's call."

Hu?

A thought struck Ling Chen's mind, and he quickly took the phone and greeted, "Ling Chen, we've settled things here."

"Did you catch him?"

"Thanks to Mr. He for helping, otherwise we might have lost even more men."

"Were there many casualties?"

"Two seriously injured, three lightly injured, but fortunately, no fatalities."

"That's good." Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief and asked, "Where is he being held?"

"At the police station, I'm here with Officer Xia. They're preparing to interrogate Jiang Xinwu, and I wanted to stay but Officer Xia kicked me out."

"Stay there, I'll have someone contact you immediately. And don't let them interrogate Jiang Xinwu."

"Okay, I'll try to stall them, hurry up."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen immediately dialed General Qiao Zhen's number. Jiang Xinwu was a member of the God Organization, and he didn't want Jiang Xinwu to reveal any information about the God Organization to the local police. The existence of the God Organization has always been a secret, not to be disclosed to unauthorized personnel.

After finishing his conversation with Qiao Zhen, Ling Chen struggled to sit up in bed and then directed Nanrong Hao, "Get my clothes."

"Chen, what are you..."

"Stop talking, just go."

Unable to argue with Ling Chen, Nanrong Hao obediently followed his instructions. Taking advantage of the time Ling Chen was dressing, he ran to the hospital front desk to handle the discharge procedures for Ling Chen, to avoid wasting time later.

Leaving the hospital, Ling Chen got into the car and said, "Head to the police station immediately."

Nanrong Hao started the car and asked with concern, "Chen, are your injuries okay?"

"It's fine."

The wounds had been stitched up, and although there was still some pain, he could endure it. The most important thing right now was Jiang Xinwu; everything else could be ignored.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen smoothly arrived at the entrance of the police station.

"Wait for me outside." Dropping these words, Ling Chen hurriedly pushed open the door, got out of the car, and rushed to the police station's office building alone.

It wasn't Ling Chen's first time at the police station, and before long, he deftly found the interrogation room located on the third floor. Before he even entered, he saw two policemen locking Hu Fei's arms and dragging him out of the interrogation room.

"Stop!"

Ling Chen shouted loudly, rushing to stop the actions of the two policemen.

Seeing Ling Chen appear, Hu Fei seemed to see a savior, urgently crying out, "Ling Chen, save me quickly, these guys are bastards, the orders have been issued from above, yet they dare to defy them."

Hearing this, Ling Chen quickly stepped to the front of the interrogation room, pushed on the door, but found it locked and unable to open. Seeing this, Ling Chen frowned, directly kicked the door open with his foot, and then rushed in.

Inside the interrogation room, Jiang Xinwu was handcuffed to a chair, his hands and feet bound by chains. Nearby, Xia Mutong and another male police officer were taking notes, preparing for the interrogation.

"Ling Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen break in, Xia Mutong was slightly startled, her face immediately fell, and she asked with a furrowed brow, "What are you doing?"

"I should be asking you that. What are you doing? Don't tell me you haven't received the orders from above, you have no right to interrogate this person. Officer Xia, what you are doing now is an abuse of power, and you should know the consequences if this gets escalated."

Xia Mutong tossed her head, her expression coldly said, "I don't know any orders, I only know this guy has injured several of my colleagues. No matter what, he must confess here."

"No, I must take him away." Ling Chen said gravely, "Officer Xia, considering our friendship, I'm giving you a heads-up, you better stay away from some matters, it's for your own good."

Saying this, Ling Chen walked straight to the desk, extending his hand towards Xia Mutong and said, "Give me the handcuff keys."

"No," Xia Mutong defiantly said, "Not unless you let me participate in his interrogation."

"No."

"You..."

Xia Mutong was furious, her face turning red. When she had received the orders from above earlier, she became interested in Jiang Xinwu's identity. Since he was of such importance to the higher-ups, surely uncovering something significant was possible, and she also wanted to seek justice for her injured colleagues.

But she hadn't expected Ling Chen to show up at this moment and be so uncompromising.

Seeing that Xia Mutong was reluctant to release him, Ling Chen simply shifted his gaze to the other male police officer.

He took out a credential from his wallet, placed it on the table, and said seriously, "I now order you, in my capacity as a special military envoy, to release him immediately."

The male police officer took a look at the credential, his expression suddenly changed, and he quickly stood up saying, "Yes, sir."

A special military envoy?

Xia Mutong looked at Ling Chen in astonishment; she'd always thought Ling Chen was just an ordinary civilian, a retired soldier. She never knew he had such a status.

How much had this guy hidden from her?

In thought, the male officer had already unlocked Jiang Xinwu's handcuffs, and obediently handed the suspect over to Ling Chen.

"Officer Xia, I know you want to serve the people, but rules are rules, you must obey. I won't pursue this matter any further, but I hope it doesn't happen again."

After speaking, Ling Chen escorted Jiang Xinwu out of the interrogation room.

Chapter 522 Jiang Xinwu's Intelligence

From the police station, Ling Chen and Hu Fei took Jiang Xinwu to Nanrong Hao's car.

"Where to?" Hu Fei asked: "Shall we go to my place? I have plenty of torture tools there, anything you need."

"Forget it, what era are we in, still needing torture tools." Saying this, Ling Chen patted Nanrong Hao on the shoulder and said, "To Qingyun Martial Arts Hall."

Nanrong Hao nodded without a word, immediately started the car, and drove towards Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

On the way, Jiang Xinwu was sandwiched between Ling Chen and Hu Fei, silent and expressionless, staring straight ahead as if he didn't feel the impending crisis, not worried about his safety at all.

Upon arriving at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Ling Chen asked Nanrong Hao to go back first, to inform Nanrong Wanqing that he would be home late.

After sending Nanrong Hao away, the three of them entered the Martial Arts Hall.

Before coming, Ling Chen had specifically informed He Ziyun. Somehow, He Ziyun managed to keep Little Hua quietly in the room, not coming out to disturb them handling important matters.

The group went to the warehouse at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Ling Chen glanced around and picked out a dusty, worn chair from a pile of miscellaneous items for Jiang Xinwu to sit on.

"What do you want to know?"

Before Ling Chen could start the interrogation, Jiang Xinwu suddenly raised his head and took the initiative to speak.

Ling Chen gestured towards He Ziyun beside him and said, "Let me introduce you first, this is Ye Liangyong's master. I know you and Mr. Ye are friends, for the sake of past relationships, I hope you can confess honestly. As I know, you disappeared ten years ago, I want to know whether it was the God Organization people who kidnapped you, or you cooperated with them willingly."

"Kidnapped."

Ling Chen asked doubtfully, "Since you were kidnapped, why are you willingly working for the God Organization after ten years?"

Before Jiang Xinwu could reply, He Ziyun jumped in, "His willingness to work for the God Organization is driven by benefits. As a martial artist, everyone seeks stronger power, and the God Organization just happens to meet his needs."

"Pretty much." Jiang Xinwu didn't deny it.

"I have a question, hope you can answer truthfully, what do you know about the Lucifer experiment?"

"The Lucifer experiment is the top secret of the God Organization, it took over twenty years to successfully develop. Anyone who undergoes the Lucifer experiment can increase their strength multiple times. However, the experiment has high risks and uncertainties, out of five people, at most only one

succeeds, the mortality rate is extremely high. To my knowledge, within less than a year, the number of deaths has reached over a hundred."

"So it appears that you too have undergone the Lucifer experiment."

"That's correct." Jiang Xinwu nodded straightforwardly, "Not just me, but also Huang He and He Chen whom you encountered before, are those who undertook and survived the Lucifer experiment."

Ling Chen asked, "Is there any more detailed information?"

"I'm just an experiment subject, not a researcher, that's all I know."

After hearing Jiang Xinwu's words, He Ziyun spoke, "Your willingness to cooperate with us is a good start, I believe you must know more about the God Organization than this. Later, I will take you to a place where I hope you can cooperate well with our work."

"Cooperate?"

Jiang Xinwu sneered and said, "Who wants to cooperate with you?"

"So you..."

"Do you think I told you so much because I wanted to cooperate? Sorry, you might have misunderstood; I had no such intention. The reason I told you is because I am not afraid of letting you know. If the God Organization was worried about leaks, they would have taken measures long ago. Since you want to know about the Lucifer experiment insider information, I might as well tell you some secrets. People like us are merely the God Organization's pawns, easily replaceable by dozens, and not a pity if dead. The real masters are hidden in the dark, not making a move unless it is crucial. As far as I know, the people who undergo the Lucifer experiment are divided into three levels, people like us are at the lowest level. Being martial artists, you probably understand what I mean."

Three levels!

Jiang Xinwu's strength was enough to be listed on the Dragon List, yet he was ranked at the very bottom, could it be said that... the top two levels correspond to the Earthly List and Heavenly List? Thinking this, Ling Chen's face changed.

Not just him, even He Ziyun was shocked.

"How many people are there at the highest level?" He Ziyun asked.

"How would I know that? I haven't got the clearance to touch that kind of secret. However, I heard that there are more than five people at the highest level."

More than five people... Ling Chen and He Ziyun's faces suddenly looked quite grim.

They were well aware of what this implied; if what Jiang Xinwu said was true, they would face big trouble.

Ling Chen thought for a moment and then asked, "I heard that the God Organization wants to take action against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, how much do you know about this?"

Upon hearing this, Jiang Xinwu suddenly burst into a sinister smile.

Seeing his inexplicable smile, Ling Chen slightly frowned and asked unhappily, "What are you laughing at?"

"Nothing, I just think you asked this question too late. If I'm not wrong, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is currently facing a huge crisis."

That's bad!

A thought flashed through Ling Chen's mind, could it be... could it be that the God Organization has already made a move against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?

His thoughts racing, Ling Chen quickly pulled out his phone and dialed Zhou Jun's number.

However, the call ended with a notification that the phone was switched off.

When he contacted Zhou Jun last night, the call went through, and moreover, Zhou Jun didn't sound like something was happening; could it be that the God Organization planned to strike against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion today?

"Ling Chen, if the God Organization targets the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they will definitely use all their strength, and the probability for Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is more likely to be dire," He Ziyun couldn't hide the worry in his eyes.

"Mr. He, what do you think?"

"If what he just said is all true, then the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is a powerful ally against the God Organization, and they must not be allowed to fall into trouble. We must do our best and think of a way to stop the God Organization."

"Mr. He, didn't you say you had previously visited the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, then you should know the exact location of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"I do."

"We should hurry there, and see if we can prevent the God Organization's actions."

"Alright." He Ziyun nodded, "I will immediately contact people in Beijing to dispatch support." After saying this, He Ziyun quickly left the warehouse.

"Fatty, this person is left to you, keep a good eye on him, don't let him escape," Ling Chen instructed.

"Don't worry, he won't get away. Hey! You all be careful, especially you, your wounds haven't healed yet, don't push yourself."

"I've got it."

Chapter 523 Heading to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion

An hour later, Ling Chen and He Ziyun had already boarded a temporarily arranged private jet, rushing towards the headquarters of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

They left at 8:30 AM and only arrived at the airport at 10:00 AM.

After getting off the plane, Ling Chen and his companion left the exit without stopping. Outside the airport, two SUVs were already parked at the entrance, waiting for their arrival.

Just as Ling Chen was about to get into the car, his phone suddenly rang in his pocket.

He took out the phone, glanced at the number on the caller ID, and quickly answered the call.

After the call, Ling Chen said to He Ziyun beside him, "Mr. He, let's wait, someone else is coming."

In less than five minutes, seven people came out of the airport exit one after another, including men, women, and children.

Seeing them, Ling Chen quickly walked up to greet, waving his hand, "Big Brother."

"Ling Cheng."

The seven people who came out of the airport were none other than the eight eccentrics led by Qiu Yong.

Ling Chen was aware of the urgency of the situation, knowing that he and He Ziyun alone were not enough to handle this crisis. Therefore, he had made a last-minute call to Qiu Yong to explain the situation and hoped for their assistance.

Without hesitation, upon his brother's request, Qiu Yong agreed immediately.

"Big Brother, time is pressing, let's talk in the car."

"Okay."

Once everyone was in the car, Ling Chen and He Ziyun made brief introductions. In fact, introductions were unnecessary as He Ziyun was already familiar with the reputation of the eight eccentrics. Moreover, they had encountered them in a fight before and knew each other.

"Ling Cheng, is there no news from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?" Yuan Yun spoke up.

He Ziyun continued, "Since God Organization has launched an attack on Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they would have certainly prepared in advance. All messages and signals will be blocked, not allowing Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion any chance to contact the outside."

Qiu Yong frowned and said, "That sounds like the situation could be very bad."

"No matter what, we should prepare for the worst," Ling Chen replied helplessly. At this point, there wasn't much they could do except worry. If it weren't for Jiang Xinwu passing on the information, they wouldn't have been aware of the situation at all.

Ling Chen blamed himself internally. From the information left by Blood Wolf, this matter was mentioned, but he hadn't expected the God Organization to act so swiftly, leaving no time to inform Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

In the heavy atmosphere, the two SUVs left the city area and headed towards the suburbs.

According to He Ziyun, on the outskirts of the city, there was a dense forest. Someone had bought the forest privately, and without permission, no one was allowed to enter the mountains.

It was obvious that the mysterious buyer had to be Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Only a rich and influential organization like Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion could afford to buy an entire forest.

When the two SUVs reached the edge of the forest, they couldn't continue any further. The road ahead was winding and rugged, full of stones and bushes, making it impossible for vehicles to pass, so everyone had to get out and walk.

Entering the forest, the group followed He Ziyun for several hundred meters. Suddenly, He Ziyun, who was leading the way, stopped in his tracks, looking around with a hesitant gaze.

Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "Mr. He, what's wrong?"

He Ziyun gave a bitter smile, "I forgot the way. The last time I came to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was many years ago. Times have changed, and the surroundings have changed significantly, I can't recognize it."

Hearing this, Ling Chen felt even more depressed. If they couldn't find the way, how could they assist Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen turned to Qiu Yong and the others and asked, "Big Brother, does anyone know the location of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"This..."

Qiu Yong and the others looked at each other and shook their heads: "We've never been to this place."

"Let's go deeper." He Ziyun paused briefly and said, "If I remember correctly, the base of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion seems to be deep in the forest."

"Let's go." Ling Chen took the lead, running swiftly through the dense foliage, racing against time.

It was uncertain how far they had gone when Yang Chen, who was following behind, spoke up: "There's a noise."

"Where?" Ling Chen knew Yang Chen's keen hearing would not be mistaken.

Yang Chen stretched out his hand towards the east and whispered, "Footsteps, about six or seven people." He paused, then added, "Their steps are light; they must all be experts."

"Let's go check it out, Ling Cheng, you and the seventh brother stay here." With that, Qiu Yong took big steps and quickly ran towards the east. He Ziyun and Yuan Yun followed closely behind.

Watching the group disappear from sight, Ling Chen clenched his fists and waited for news.

If it weren't for his injuries, he would have already followed them.

Not long after, a sharp whistle came from not far away.

Yang Chen looked up and said, "It's third brother's whistle."

"Let's go, let's have a look."

When Ling Chen and Qiu Yong and the others regrouped, they saw six bodies lying in the bushes, all killed with a single strike. Besides that, they left one survivor, a man in his thirties, dressed in a tight suit with more than ten hidden weapons attached to his waist. Between his two fingers, he was holding a flying knife. Unfortunately, before he could throw the knife, he was knocked unconscious.

He Ziyun looked at the bodies on the ground and said in a solemn voice, "It seems that Jiang Xinwu's information was correct. God Organization has indeed made a move and used considerable force. Judging from the earlier skirmish, these men are all no weaker than those on the Dragon List."

Qiu Yong concurred, "Luckily He was here, otherwise, just us alone would take much longer to deal with them."

The implication was clear: it was praise for He Ziyun's strength.

Ling Chen glanced at the unconscious man, then walked over and kicked him twice.

Soon, the unconscious man woke up.

Before he could make any other move, Yuan Yun swiftly swung his arm, and a cold flash of the blade instantly crippled the man's limbs without any mercy.

Looking at the man, who was now showing a face full of pain, Ling Chen squatted down and asked, "Tell me, how many people did God Organization send to siege Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion this time?"

The man clenched his teeth enduring the pain, his voice trembling as he said, "I... I don't know..."

"It seems you don't want your life anymore." Ling Chen's tone grew colder.

"You... killing me is useless, no one can save Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion now. Going there would only mean collecting their corpses for them."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's expression subtly changed.

Has Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion already been breached?

Thinking this, Ling Chen's heart sank, he suddenly grabbed the man by the collar and said coldly, "I'll ask again, how many men did God Organization dispatch. If you don't tell me, do you believe I can make you endure the agony of being cut by a thousand knives?"

Feeling the chilling aura emanating from Ling Chen's eyes, the man shivered uncontrollably.

"There are more than a hundred people."

More than a hundred people... Ling Chen was secretly shocked; he hadn't expected God Organization would send so many people, showing they were determined to succeed this time.

Chapter 524 Crisis at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion (1)

"They are all skilled, why didn't you participate in the operation?" He Ziyun asked.

The man honestly replied, "We are in charge of patrolling the surrounding area to prevent any unexpected situations."

"Who is commanding the operation for the God Organization this time?" Ling Chen asked. For such a crucial matter concerning the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the God Organization would definitely send senior executives to oversee the operation on site.

"I... I'm not sure, we have always been receiving orders via radio, never seen him in person. However, based on the accent, it should be a southern person."

A southern person... Ling Chen's mind stirred, suggesting that the leader in charge of the operation was from Huaxia. If that was the case, it could mean serious trouble for them. Judging from the people killed, nearly all members of this operation were from Huaxia, which would make identifying the mysterious leader not an easy task.

While mulling over this, a heavily accented male voice suddenly came from the man's radio: "Team three, how is everything on your end?"

"That's him, we all follow his commands," the man said.

Ling Chen pointed to the radio and commanded, "Tell him everything is normal here."

The man dared not disobey, quickly picked up the radio, and responded to the other side.

"Continue patrolling, and alert me immediately if anything happens." After that, the voice from the radio disappeared.

Taking the radio, Ling Chen grabbed the man's collar, hoisted him off the ground, and said, "Take us to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Seeing his comrades' corpses, the man remained silent, obediently leading Ling Chen and his group deep into the forest. Before long, Yang Chen could hear a lot of noisy sounds coming from not far ahead.

Ling Chen made a gesture for silence, signaling everyone to be quiet. Then, he crept forward alone, pushing aside some branches and leaves. Suddenly, he saw an ancient building standing majestically at the edge of a cliff.

The interconnected buildings stretched as far as the eye could see, with dozens of buildings, large enough to house a thousand people. Among these buildings, a tower several dozen meters tall stood out in the center, most conspicuous, with an ancient plaque hanging at the top, inscribed with the words "Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion" in bold, strong calligraphy that carried the remnants of history.

This place was the historical headquarters of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

However, at this moment, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was surrounded by nearly a hundred people, with barbed wire set up around the perimeter, enclosing all the buildings.

The range covered by the barbed wire revealed all buildings with their doors and windows shut tightly, no people in sight.

That's good!

Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief. They hadn't arrived too late; the Pavilion might have been surrounded by followers of the God Organization, but it hadn't been breached yet.

It made sense; the centuries-old Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion wasn't easily conquered.

Observing the scene, Ling Chen noticed more than a dozen members of the God Organization moving bodies. They dragged the corpses to the cliff's edge and then threw them over.

It seemed both sides had undergone several battles, but the God Organization had not breached the Pavilion's defenses, even losing quite a few operatives.

After gathering the information, Ling Chen relaxed slightly. It seemed the situation wasn't as dire as they had imagined. Moreover, the God Organization hadn't brought any heavy weapons, using only cold weapons instead.

After all, this was Huaxia, and even the audacious God Organization wouldn't dare to brazenly use military equipment. Gunfire could attract the government's attention, jeopardizing their plan to besiege the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

"Ling Cheng, what should we do now?"

Hearing Qiu Yong's voice, Ling Chen composed his thoughts and said, "From the current situation, it seems the God Organization will unlikely take down the Pavilion anytime soon. Moreover, they've just lost quite a few men; they probably won't continue the assault immediately. If I were commanding this operation, I would surely try to secure a significant advantage."

Xia Yue seemed to understand the deeper meaning of Ling Chen's words and added, "You mean... the God Organization will send reinforcements?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "They brought so many people but still couldn't take down the Pavilion; they will definitely send more forces. Also, I'm concerned about whether the God Organization will deploy their mysterious top fighters."

He Ziyun's pupils narrowed as he said in a deep voice, "Experts from the Heavenly List?"

"According to Jiang Xinwu's statement, after Lucifer's experiment succeeded, the God Organization divided their members into three levels. Jiang Xinwu's strength is sufficient for the Dragon List, yet he is at the bottom, indicating that the God Organization likely has experts from the Heavenly List. Furthermore, Jiang Xinwu mentioned that there are more than five people qualified for the highest level, so we must bear this in mind."

With that, Ling Chen paused, looked around at his companions, and continued, "Although these are only our speculations, what we need to consider is that the God Organization dares to wage open war against the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion because they must have some reliance."

After hearing Ling Chen's analysis, everyone's expressions grew serious.

Experts from the Heavenly List!

This illustrious title had always been mentioned in conversations, but very few had actually seen an expert from the Heavenly List.

If it were as Ling Chen suspected, the appearance of an expert from the Heavenly List would be a disaster for both them and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

He Ziyun pondered for a moment and said, "We must find a way to establish contact with the people of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Yuan Yun shook his head and said, "The perimeter of the Pavilion is guarded by people from the God Organization; we can't get past the barbed wire. Unless we wait until night to see if there's a chance to sneak in."

"Mr. He, when will the reinforcements you contacted arrive?" Ling Chen asked.

"They should be here soon, I told Qiao Zhen the address, and he will send people directly."

"In that case, why don't we wait until everyone is here before taking action?"

"That makes sense."

However, less than half an hour had passed before Qiao Zhen's reinforcements could arrive, when Ling Chen noticed the God Organization beginning to prepare for a new offensive.

Under the cover of dense jungle, Ling Chen observed the enemies nearby, his sharp gaze scanning over each individual, searching for the target person.

The high-ranking official from the God Organization responsible for the operation was certainly hidden among the crowd, but the man was deeply concealed, and no suspicious targets had been identified yet.

"Ling Cheng, look over there."

At that moment, Yuan Yun's exclamatory voice rang out.

Ling Chen looked where he indicated and saw more than a dozen fully armed men carrying bulging backpacks, preparing to descend the cliff using ropes.

Qiu Yong frowned slightly, puzzled, and said, "What are they up to?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment, and his expression suddenly changed. Oh no, could it be... that's bad!

Chapter 525 Crisis at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion (2)

"No, we must stop them."

Upon hearing the urgency in Ling Chen's voice, He Ziyun asked, "What happened?"

"They want to use explosives to destroy the rocks beneath the cliff," Ling Chen said anxiously. The high-rise buildings of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion are established on top of the cliff, and blowing up the foundation stones below would cause the entire cluster of buildings to collapse. By then, the God Organization could easily destroy the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion without lifting a finger.

Qiu Yong said in a deep voice, "They are forcing the people of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion into a do-or-die battle."

During the conversation, the door of a nearby high-rise suddenly opened. Following that, led by Zhou Qi, more than ten men appeared in everyone's view.

Standing under the plaque of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Zhou Qi coldly surveyed the surrounding enemies, his steel blade emitting a fierce chill.

"Those who offend the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion shall be killed without mercy!"

With a light exhale, Zhou Qi lightly tapped with his foot and, covered by more than ten men, he quickly ran toward the cliff, apparently trying to stop those who were placing the bombs.

"Stop them at all costs, don't let them get near."

At this moment, a voice from the crowd commanded the members of the God Organization to quickly act, and a squad of more than twenty people rapidly assembled and headed toward the path where Zhou Qi and his men were moving.

However, before the two groups could clash, from the cluster of high-rise buildings belonging to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, suddenly, seventy to eighty people burst out, including men, women, elderly, and children, who furiously charged toward the enemies outside the wire fence.

In the dense forest, Ling Chen hid in an inconspicuous spot, covertly observing the battlefield. Suddenly, a familiar figure caught his attention.

Song Ge!

Song Ge, wielding a sharp sword, moved like a dragon through the enemy's ranks, weaving in and out, and with every attack, he claimed one to two lives.

Under the frenzied counterattack by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the members of the God Organization kept retreating, powerless to resist, their formation gradually becoming disordered and momentarily losing control.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen couldn't help but curl his lips in disdain, thinking these people were so formidable earlier, yet now they seem mediocre, wondering how they had managed to push the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to such an extent before.

Just then, a buzzing noise suddenly came from overhead.

Ling Chen looked up to see several helicopters swiftly passing overhead towards the direction of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Reinforcements had arrived!

Ling Chen's eyes brightened, as the old general's reinforcements had arrived quite timely.

"Not right!"

Seeing those helicopters, He Ziyun's brows furrowed slightly.

"That doesn't look like military aircraft."

As soon as his words fell, the door of a helicopter hovering low opened. Following that, a middle-aged man appeared at the door, and without any hesitation, he jumped down.

A nearly ten-meter drop was effortless for the middle-aged man, who landed steadily in the midst of the crowd. Looking at the chaotic scene before him, the middle-aged man's face was slightly cold as he stepped towards the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

However, the appearance of the middle-aged man had already attracted the attention of the disciples of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Before he could approach the high-rise of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, several youths quickly jumped out from the crowd, blocking the middle-aged man's path.

"Kill!"

With a light shout, several youths wielding weapons charged forward and slashed towards the middle-aged man.

Facing the attack from the disciples of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the middle-aged man's expression remained unchanged, and he didn't stop his footsteps, continuing to move in a straight line.

As the two sides were about to collide, the middle-aged man's speed suddenly increased, moving like a blur, and he slipped through the gaps between the bodies of the several youths.

Along with his movement, the bodies of those young men seemed to be fixed in place, standing stiffly on the spot without moving, their faces pale and ashen.

Suddenly, a stream of blood burst from the bodies of those young men, with their heads and bodies instantaneously separated.

Seeing this shocking scene, Ling Chen's expression froze, and it took him a while to react.

Is this... is this still a human?

He didn't even see the middle-aged man's movements clearly, only a blur, and those young men were beheaded. Moreover, the middle-aged man's hands were empty the whole time, not using any weapons.

This terrifying strength, Ling Chen had never seen before.

"Mr. He... Could he be..."

"No, he isn't. It's rumored that masters from the Heavenly List kill invisibly, but that man was traceable, so his martial arts realm has not yet reached the Heavenly List. However, judging from his techniques just now, even if his strength is not at the level of the Heavenly List, it should not be far off. If I were to guess, that man's strength might be among the top three on the Earthly List."

Top three of the Earthly List, that's no small matter.

Ling Chen thought to himself. As far as he knew, He Ziyun's strength was ranked seventh on the Earthly List. Although both ranks belong to the Earthly List, each level is a significant divide, and the gap is huge. If He Ziyun's guess is correct, with the middle-aged man's martial arts realm, even three He Ziyuns together may not be a match for him.

During these thoughts, the middle-aged man had already crossed multiple obstacles and smoothly entered the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

At the same time, more than ten men successively jumped from the other two helicopters and joined the melee.

With their addition, the originally one-sided battle gradually tilted, and the offensive of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples began to be comprehensively suppressed, retreating step by step.

Ling Chen secretly marveled, those who had just joined the battle were all Earthly List experts, no wonder the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion couldn't hold them off.

"Mr. He, Song, we probably can't wait any longer, that man has already entered the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I am afraid something might happen."

Qiu Yong nodded and said, "Ling Cheng, you go directly to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion with Mr. He and the second brother, I and the others will stay to help deal with the outsiders."

"Okay, everyone, be careful."

At this time, in front of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Song Ge and dozens of disciples were forcefully resisting the enemy's attack. After continuous combat, the blade of the sword Song Ge held had already been stained with fresh blood.

"Song, we can't hold on much longer," a disciple of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion urgently said.

"We must hold on, no one is allowed to retreat."

With a light shout, Song Ge flicked his wrist, and the blade of his sword instantly pierced through an enemy's body.

Pulling out the steel sword, Song Ge looked at the enemies madly attacking in front of him, eyebrows slightly raised, ready to continue into the fight. But at that moment, a sharp sense of crisis suddenly surged in his heart, as if targeted by a venomous snake.

This is bad!

Song's face slightly changed, and he quickly shifted his gaze. Instantly, he saw a man lunging from the crowd, wielding two steel blades, chopping directly towards his head.

An Earthly List expert!

Feeling the aura emitted by the opponent, Song's pupils constricted, and he involuntarily stepped back.

"Die!"

The opponent coldly smiled, the two blades carrying immense power, the sword force fierce and unstoppable, instantly transformed into a sky full of blade lights, enveloping over Song's head.

Under immense pressure, Song clenched his teeth, his eyes devoid of any fear, and bravely met the attack head-on.

Chapter 526 Crisis at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion (3)

However, just as the sword and blade were about to collide, a stream of blood suddenly burst forth from the forehead of the Earthly List expert. Witnessing the arrow piercing through the adversary's forehead, Song Ge was slightly taken aback, his heart overwhelmed with shock.

He originally thought he would meet his demise, yet such an unexpected turn of events occurred.

Arrows...

Under the heavens, there is perhaps only one person capable of killing an Earthly List expert with a single arrow.

The God of Archery, Zhang Zhongfeng.

Could it be them?

Song Ge looked up to see, not far away on a hill, Zhang Zhongfeng holding a bow in his left hand and placing an arrow with his right, aiming directly at those Earthly List experts.

Next to him, Yuan Yun was wielding his steel blade, joining Qiu Yong and others in the fray, valiantly cutting down the enemy.

Seeing this scene, Song Ge's face relaxed. With the Eight Eccentrics showing up, Ling Chen must have arrived as well. With this thought, Song Ge's gaze shifted, quickly locating Ling Chen.

Perhaps sensing Song Ge's gaze, Ling Chen turned his head and greeted Song Ge's look with a smile.

"Ling Chen, keep up."

At the urging of his second brother, Xu Ming, Ling Chen hastened his footsteps and quickly arrived at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's entrance.

Entering the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Ling Chen glanced around to see several corpses on the ground, their heads separated from their bodies and blood flowing everywhere - clearly the work of the middle-aged man just now.

This was Ling Chen's first visit to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; the architecture here had been preserved in its state from hundreds of years ago, which was apparent even inside the building. It was imbued with ancient charm, filled with an aura of antiquity everywhere.

It's just a pity that this ancient place had been defiled by blood.

Under the guidance of He Ziyun, the trio kept moving deeper inside. Before long, they faintly heard screams echoing ahead.

Without a word, He Ziyun immediately sped up, rushing towards the source of the sounds.

Along the way, they discovered several grisly corpses. Ling Chen frowned silently at the cruelty of the assailant's methods. As he was contemplating, Ling Chen suddenly felt a gust of wind approaching from behind. Without time to think, he twisted his waist and swiftly turned to face the attacker.

When the assailant entered his field of vision, Ling Chen was startled for a moment, then said with a look of surprise, "You?"

The ambush had not been carried out by a stranger, but by Dongfang Yu, whom the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had previously rescued. Strange, Dongfang Yu was a dignified Earthly List expert; instead of confronting external enemies, what was he doing here?

"Ling Chen?"

Recognizing the newcomer, Dongfang Yu immediately withdrew and asked coldly, "What are you doing here?"

"Spare me the nonsense, with things as they are, do you really think we're here for sightseeing?"

Dongfang Yu replied coldly, "How am I supposed to know whether you are in league with those outside?"

"You..."

"Ling Chen?"

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Zhou Jun emerged from a side door. Astonished at first sight of Ling Chen, Zhou Jun's handsome face soon broke into a smile as he patted Ling Chen's shoulder, saying, "Good lad, what brings you here?"

"Heard there was danger at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, so we came to have a look and lend a hand." After finishing, Ling Chen shifted his tone and pointed behind him, "Someone just went that way. The person is quite formidable. We better find him and prevent any harm coming to the Pavilion Master."

Zhou Jun looked in the direction Ling Chen was pointing to and asked with a meaningful expression, "Are you sure that person went that way?"

Ling Chen nodded and replied, "I saw it with my own eyes."

"Then... let him be, don't bother with him."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked in confusion, "Why?"

"That path only leads to one place, and heading there would be signing his own death warrant. We don't need to worry about him."

"That person's strength..."

Zhou Jun waved his hand, interrupting Ling Chen, and said, "No matter how formidable he is, it's a dead end for him there. Come on, I'll take you to see the Pavilion Master first." As he spoke, Zhou Jun turned to Dongfang Yu, "Old Master, go on with your business."

With Zhou Jun leading, Ling Chen and the two others quickly arrived at the tall tower standing at the center of the building complex.

Following the stone stairs, Ling Chen trailed behind Zhou Jun, asking, "When did you get back? I was going to call you, but I couldn't get through."

"Last night we received news that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was under attack; all personnel were ordered to return immediately. By the time we arrived, we realized the signals nearby were jammed and couldn't contact the outside world."

"How significant are the Pavilion's losses?"

"It's manageable; not many lives were lost, which isn't crippling for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. The God Organization came prepared this time, but sadly, they still underestimated the Pavilion. Hmph! Those self-important fools think we're easy to bully? At most, we're just playing with them now; if we really wanted to fight back, we would've struck back long ago and not given them the chance to jump around. It's a rare occasion that people are delivered right to your doorstep to be killed."

"So that's how it is!"

Ling Chen immediately understood; no wonder Dongfang Yu wasn't sent out. Thinking about the battle outside, he asked, "Isn't the Pavilion Master worried about their safety?"

"This world is about survival of the fittest; the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion doesn't keep useless people. If they die, it's their fault for not mastering their skills. However, if they truly have talent, even in peril, someone will secretly help them; they won't be in life-threatening danger."

As he spoke, Zhou Jun looked at Ling Chen and said, "Don't blame the Pavilion Master for being harsh. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has lasted all these years not just because of its heritage. For a power to last, it must discard the dross and preserve the essence."

Ling Chen nodded; he understood the rationale but felt some resistance deep down. The reality was always cruel.

As they talked, they reached the top floor of the high tower.

Zhou Jun approached the door and knocked. Shortly after, the door opened, revealing an elegant woman who instantly appeared before Ling Chen's eyes.

Is it her?

Ling Chen recognized her at first glance, the woman he had seen several times on the luxury cruise; she must be the close guard of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master.

"Qin, could you please inform the Pavilion Master that Ling Chen has arrived?"

"Just a moment!"

The elegant woman returned after a short while and said, "The Pavilion Master's order: only Ling Chen is to enter, others wait outside."

"This..." Ling Chen glanced at He Ziyun and Xu Ming, hesitant.

Xu Ming spoke up, "Little brother, go ahead, we'll wait for you."

"Alright."

Chapter 527 Meeting the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master Again

Upon entering the room, Ling Chen's gaze was immediately captured by the white gauze hanging within.

The spacious and bright room was adorned with white gauze, embroidered with various exquisite patterns, splendid and breathtaking, intertwined into a beautiful scroll. Through layers of gauze, indistinctly, one could see a person seated in the center of the room, precisely the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master.

Ling Chen couldn't help but smile wryly, this Pavilion Master was still as mysterious as before, unwilling to show their true face.

"We meet again," Ling Chen took the initiative to greet.

"Thank you for traveling from afar to aid Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion," came a clear, pleasant voice, making Ling Chen feel refreshed and extremely comfortable.

"Don't mention it, we share common goals and should assist each other." Saying this, Ling Chen sat down in the chair and asked, "Last time on the boat, why didn't you tell me directly that you are the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master?"

"What difference would knowing make? Sometimes, it's better to remain ignorant about certain things."

"True, but I still want to sincerely thank you. The two pieces of information you provided were of great help to me." As he spoke, Ling Chen's tone shifted, meaningfully asking, "I've closely studied the information about Ling Gengqiu, and it seems there is a part omitted intentionally. Are you afraid I'll discover something?"

"Ling Gengqiu has some grievances with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. There's no need for an outsider like you to know these things."

Hearing this, Ling Chen shrugged his shoulders, suppressing his curiosity and not pursuing the topic further.

At this moment, an elegantly dressed woman entered from outside, saying respectfully, "Pavilion Master, the enemy's offensive has been repelled."

"Let everyone rest. God Organization will not give up easily."

"Yes, Pavilion Master."

Once the person left the room, Ling Chen spoke, "Pavilion Master, I've come here not only to help solve the crisis at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion but also to discuss potential future cooperation. I wonder if you're interested?"

"Let's hear it."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has always secluded itself in the mountains, never getting involved in external conflicts. However, based on the intelligence I've gathered, God Organization now sees Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion as a thorn in its side, determined to eliminate it. Once you are destroyed, God Organization can clear the path and continue expanding its power. Therefore, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion cannot remain uninvolved."

"You want Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to join in the fight against God Organization?"

"Exactly. You must be well aware of the situation outside. Over the years, God Organization has recruited numerous masters and, with their unique methods, they can quickly assemble an army with formidable martial power. In the whole of Huaxia, apart from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there's no other force that can match them."

The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master thought for a moment, then said, "Things are not as simple as you think. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has always maintained neutrality, never participating in any power struggles. It is because of this that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has preserved its legacy for so many years. Many choose Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion because it provides them a peaceful environment. Once we declare war, not only will it break the long-standing rules of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but I believe many people will also choose to leave."

Ling Chen frowned and said, "Are you just going to watch as Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is oppressed by others?"

"For Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the most beneficial approach is to negotiate, to try and end the conflict."

Ling Chen, displeased, said, "I always thought Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was a spirited organization, but it seems I've overestimated you."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion follows the middle path. Especially in these times, surviving is the most crucial thing. Ling Chen, no matter how dissatisfied you are with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there's nothing that can be done about it. If you were in my position, I believe you would also make a cautious decision. After all, I have to consider not just myself, but also the future of tens of thousands."

After hearing this, Ling Chen sneered and stood up, saying, "If that's what you think, then there's nothing left for us to discuss. However, I want to remind you, having fought against God Organization for so many years, I know very well what they are like. If Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion chooses to negotiate with an unscrupulous force like God Organization, I just want to say, from now on, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion should stay out of the Martial Arts world and should also refrain from talking about 'justice.' It's not that you aren't qualified, but that you don't deserve to."

After saying these words, Ling Chen turned around and left the room, unwilling to stay even a moment longer.

The attitude displayed by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master not only disappointed him, but was utterly disheartening.

Upon exiting the room, He Ziyun and Xu Ming, who had been waiting outside, came up and asked, "How did your talk go?"

"Don't even mention it." Ling Chen spoke with obvious dissatisfaction. "We shouldn't have come here."

"Why?"

Ling Chen relayed the intentions expressed by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, and after hearing it, He Ziyun's aged face immediately fell.

"The grand Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is truly unworthy of its position and reputation in the Martial Arts world."

"Forget it," Xu Ming interjected, "What they want to do is their business, we can't force them. Since we can't count on Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we can only rely on ourselves."

Zhou Jun quickly added, "Gentlemen, don't get angry just yet. I believe the Pavilion Master will make the right choice. Besides, she only mentioned negotiation; we don't know yet if God Organization is willing to negotiate. It might be that talks fail and we end up crossing swords after all."

Ling Chen indifferently said, "Who knows what the future holds. Let's head back."

"Wait!" Zhou Jun stopped Ling Chen's steps, saying, "It's a rare visit for you all to come to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and you've given us great help, so please rest awhile."

"No..."

As Ling Chen was about to refuse, he saw Zhou Qi coming over with a few people.

"Ling Chen, don't decline the offer. Stay with us for a couple of days. You've provided great help this time, and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will show proper hospitality."

"Elder Zhou, I..."

Zhou Qi interrupted Ling Chen, saying, "Come on! No more words. You, Zhou Jun, and Song Ge are friends. For the sake of friendship, can't you stay a bit longer?"

Ling Chen was about to politely decline but heard He Ziyun whisper in his ear, "Stay for now. Later on, you can find another opportunity to talk with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master and see if you can change her mind."

Hearing this, Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then nodded and said, "Alright then. Since Elder Zhou insists, I shall graciously accept."

"That's more like it." Zhou Qi smiled, patted Ling Chen on the shoulder, and turned to Zhou Jun, "Arrange a room for Ling Chen and his companions, and make sure they are well taken care of. Don't neglect our honored guests."

"Understood," Zhou Jun replied cheerily.

Chapter 528 Zhu Hong in the Cell

Arriving at the room arranged by Zhou Jun, Ling Chen pulled open the window and looked outside, directly at the front gate of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. At that moment, dozens of corpses were lying outside the pavilion; members of the God Organization were in the midst of cleanup.

The forceful attack launched by the God Organization moments ago had not achieved its intended effect, but instead had resulted in substantial losses.

Ling Chen was somewhat puzzled by this. The God Organization came prepared and should have been fully ready. And yet, a whole day had passed with no progress. Was it that Lucifer from the God Organization wasn't as fearsome as imagined, or did they underestimate the strength of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?

However, given the God Organization's intelligence capabilities, they should have had a good estimate of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's strength and not be entirely in the dark. The current situation was truly perplexing.

Just as Ling Chen was lost in thought, the room's door was pushed open. Soon after, Song Ge, having changed his attire, walked in.

"Big Brother Song." Ling Chen broke into a smile and stepped forward to greet him.

"Ling, we meet again."

"You two chat; I'll have someone prepare some drinks and dishes," Zhou Jun said.

After Zhou Jun left, Ling Chen and Song Ge sat down and talked about recent happenings.

"Big Brother Song, you've been at Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for quite some time now, how do you feel?"

"It's barely passable," Song Ge replied. "Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has many rules. Usually, I have to stay here for specialized training and almost never have time to go out."

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Then you must be progressing quickly."

"It's not bad. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion indeed has a system for nurturing and advancing martial arts, but it's just too restrictive on freedom. With your personality, if you were to stay here for a month, I bet you wouldn't be able to stand it."

"That's why I wisely chose not to join." Saying this, Ling Chen seemed to recall something and asked curiously, "Someone broke into Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion just now, and Zhou Jun told us not to interfere; why? Aren't they afraid something will happen?"

"Are you referring to that Earthly List expert?" Song Ge smiled slightly: "I've heard about it. Just when I was coming to find you, I happened to see his body being carried out."

A body?

Ling Chen was startled.

"The place he went to is off-limits within Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, an area we are generally prohibited from entering."

Ling Chen pressed on, "What place is that?"

"Those who live there are elders of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; I've heard it said that their average age is over a hundred years. They joined Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion when they were young and contributed much to it. When they got older, they remained in the pavilion to live out their days. Besides the Pavilion Master, they wouldn't meet anyone else. Not only are these elders Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's most precious asset, but they are also its last line of defense. Of course, unless Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion faces a critical life-or-death situation, these elders would not easily intervene. It is said among these elders exist experts from the Heavenly List, so for an Earthly List expert to venture there is simply seeking death."

Experts from the Heavenly List!

Whenever he heard the term 'Heavenly List,' Ling Chen was immensely curious. It wasn't that he aspired to become a Heavenly List expert himself; rather, whenever someone mentioned Heavenly List experts, there was always a boundless yearning in their tone. Thus, he was very eager to witness firsthand how formidable a Heavenly List expert truly was.

While they were talking, Zhou Jun came into the room carrying several bottles of wine and a few appetizers.

After downing three glasses of wine, Ling Chen looked at Zhou Jun and asked, "Is Zhu Hong imprisoned here?"

"Do you want to see him?"

"Is that possible?"

Zhou Jun hesitated for a moment and then said, "According to the rules of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, outsiders are not allowed to meet prisoners privately. However, since you've helped the pavilion this time, I'll speak to the elder about it, and perhaps an exception can be made for you to meet him."

"Alright, I would appreciate that."

...

An hour later.

Led by Zhou Jun, Ling Chen arrived at a dark and damp cave. This cave, built at the base of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, had a history of several hundred years and was used to imprison criminals or Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples who had violated the rules.

The prison cells here were simply large holes dug out of stone with iron bars installed on the outside, rudimentary but very sturdy.

Walking through the prison, a pungent foul odor immediately assaulted their noses. Ling Chen covered his nose and followed Zhou Jun all the way to the end of the jail.

"Here we are."

Zhou Jun pointed to the last cell and said, "He is locked in there. Do you want me to stay with you?"

"No need, I want to talk to him alone."

"Alright, I'll wait outside for you; just call me if needed." With that, Zhou Jun turned and left.

When Zhou Jun was gone, Ling Chen approached the iron bars and peered into the gloomy cell, where he saw a person lying on a simple wooden bed against the wall, covered with a dirty cotton blanket, huddled into a ball, shivering in the covers.

Such cold weather, coupled with the dampness underground, made the temperature in the prison extremely low.

Seeing Zhu Hong's pitiful living conditions akin to that of a beggar, Ling Chen involuntarily sighed. His sigh was not out of sympathy for Zhu Hong but for Zhu Xiaozhu. Zhu Hong's descent to his current plight was entirely of his own doing and he had no one else to blame. If he had corrected his ways in time, he might have been redeemable. Unfortunately, having killed so many people, now no one could save him.

"What are you doing here?"

At that moment, a cold, hoarse voice came from within the covers.

Ling Chen said indifferently, "Nothing much; just wanted to see how you were."

"See how I am?" Zhu Hong sneered, his tone cold and unable to suppress the bitterness in his heart, he gritted his teeth and said, "You came to see me, surely to mock me, to laugh at my misfortune. Ling Chen, spare me your pretense of benevolence. If you think I'll beg you, you can forget it. Even if I die here, I won't beg you."

"You're overthinking it. I never intended to let you out. If you do wrong, you must pay the price. I came just to tell you, no one will rescue you from here. Mr. Yun is in no position to help himself now, let alone you."

"I don't need his help," Zhu Hong said coldly. "One day, I will escape from here, and when that time comes... Hmph! Ling Chen, remember this, as long as I'm alive, you will never have peace."

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Even now, you still don't repent. It seems you are beyond salvation. Well, take care; this will probably be the last time we meet."

With that, Ling Chen said no more and turned to walk out of the prison.

Listening to Ling Chen's footsteps fading away, Zhu Hong, curled up in the blanket, suddenly threw it off, rushed to the bars, and revealed a terrifying face marred by burns. Then, with a grim expression and an

exhaustive roar, he shouted, "Ling Chen, one day you will die by my hands. I will kill you and take back everything that's mine."

Chapter 529 Little Hua is Missing

From prison back to his room, Ling Chen had barely sat down when he heard news from Zhou Jun that the God Organization's people had retreated.

Pushing open the window, Ling Chen looked around only to see no trace of the members of the God Organization; their whereabouts unknown.

"Ling Chen."

He heard a voice, turned his head, and saw He Ziyun entering the room, asking, "Mr. He, what's up?"

"The reinforcements sent by Qiao Zhen have already arrived and are resting in the woods. Do you want to go see them with me?"

It turns out the reinforcement troops had arrived, no wonder the God Organization's people had retreated.

This time, Qiao Zhen deeply understood the severity of the situation and thus dispatched quite a number of people, nearly a hundred all armed special forces, with Tang Yuan as the operation's overall commander.

Unfortunately, before they arrived, the God Organization had already received advanced notice and retreated from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Otherwise, this operation could have completely wiped out the dispatched members of the God Organization.

After meeting with Tang Yuan and because the crisis at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was resolved, Tang Yuan did not stay long and led his troops back to Beijing.

...

In a blink of an eye, Ling Chen had stayed at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for two days. During this time, he wanted to find an opportunity to talk again with the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, hoping to persuade them to join in the fight against the God Organization. However, his every attempt to meet was refused.

"Ling Chen, do you really have to leave? Since there's nothing pressing back home, why not stay a few more days?" Zhou Jun tried hard to keep him.

"No. The crisis at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has just been resolved; I'm sure you all have a lot to deal with. I won't disturb you any further. There will be other opportunities in the future when we can get together properly."

Ling Chen was not unwilling to stay a few more days, but the attitude of the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion really annoyed him. The Pavilion Master, who managed the entire martial arts community and had countless experts at their disposal, was now being bullied yet thought of negotiating instead of retaliating, which was laughable.

He also didn't understand how the former Pavilion Master thought when they chose a woman as the Pavilion Master, who is indecisive and lacks daring and vigor. If it weren't for Zhou Jun and Song Ge, Ling Chen really wanted to scold her.

After bidding farewell to Zhou Jun and others, Ling Chen and his group directly drove to the airport.

"Big brother, are you and I returning to East Sea City together, or..."

"We won't be going. Your fourth brother still has some private matters to attend to. Once we're done, we'll come to find you."

"Alright then, take care while you're out."

After watching Qiu Yong and others' flight depart, Ling Chen and He Ziyun boarded the flight to East Sea City.

...

Upon returning to East Sea City, Ling Chen dropped off He Ziyun at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall and then drove alone to Wealthy Manor.

However, not long after Ling Chen had left by car, he received a call from He Ziyun.

"Mr. He, what's up?"

"Little Hua is missing." There was an urgency in He Ziyun's tone.

"Missing?" Ling Chen's heart sank, feeling a sense of foreboding.

"Mr. He, don't worry. Could it be that Little Hua went out?"

"No way, her phone is still at home. I just checked her room, there are signs of an intruder."

"Wait for me, I'm coming right over."

After hanging up, Ling Chen hurriedly asked the driver to turn around and rush back to Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

In no time, Ling Chen rushed into the Martial Arts Hall and found He Ziyun in Little Hua's room.

After meeting, Ling Chen glanced at the bed, noticing the disheveled sheets and a pillow on the floor, alongside a shattered glass.

Terrible! Could it be the people from the God Organization kidnapped Little Hua?

He Ziyun said solemnly, "I had called Little Hua before boarding the plane, she was fine then."

Ling Chen pondered silently; this meant Little Hua disappeared within the last three hours.

Three hours... Such a duration, the kidnappers could have taken Little Hua far from East Sea City.

What can we do now?

"Mr. He..."

He Ziyun stood there with a grave expression, silent, seemingly deep in thought. Moments later, He Ziyun said, "It must be the people from the God Organization who kidnapped Little Hua, only they would be interested in her identity." He sighed and blamed himself, "It's all my fault for leaving her alone at home."

"Mr. He, it's not your fault. Besides, discussing it now is useless, let's quickly think of a way to get Little Hua back."

He Ziyun forced a smile, "How to find her? The God Organization's bases are spread across the country; we have no clues at all, who knows where they might have taken her."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, then his eyes suddenly lit up, saying, "Perhaps someone can provide us with clues."

"Who?"

"Jiang Xinwu."

"You're right!" He Ziyun's spirits lifted, he said, "Call Hu Fei, have him bring Jiang Xinwu here immediately."

"Alright."

After calling Hu Fei, Ling Chen was about to put away his phone. However, his attention was drawn to a number in the phonebook.

That mysterious man in a suit who had approached him earlier had left a phone number. If he ever needed assistance, he could call that number.

Thinking this, Ling Chen stepped out of the room and dialed the number.

Dial tone...

After a few rings, the call connected, and a sweet voice came from the other end, "Mr. Ling, hello, what can I help you with?"

Ling Chen got straight to the point and said, "A friend of mine has been kidnapped by the God Organization, I want to know where she's being held."

"Mr. Ling, describe your friend's physical features to me, I will try my best to help you find her."

"Okay, thanks!"

After hanging up, he saw He Ziyun walking out of the room, expressionless, and saying, "Ling Chen, you go back first, I'll notify you when I have news."

"It's okay, I..."

"Go back. I want to interrogate Jiang Xinwu alone."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately understood He Ziyun's intentions.

"Alright then. Mr. He, call me directly if there's anything, I'll keep my phone on 24 hours." Pausing, Ling Chen reassured, "Don't feel too bad, the God Organization knows Little Hua's uniqueness; they won't harm her easily, we still have a chance to save her."

"I know."

Sensing the restrained anger in He Ziyun's eyes, Ling Chen sighed inwardly, it seemed Jiang Xinwu was about to suffer.

Leaving Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Ling Chen drove straight back to Wealthy Manor.

Upon entering, Ling Chen saw the TV in the living room turned on, broadcasting entertainment news. On the sofa lay a person, clad in a sleeping robe, with slightly exposed snowy white beautiful legs, indescribably enticing.

Ling Chen's lips curled slightly as he quietly approached the sofa. Without waiting for the person to notice his presence, Ling Chen flipped over onto the sofa, pinning the person down, his hands expertly climbing onto those two sacred peaks of Jade Peak.

However, as soon as he touched the peaks, Ling Chen immediately sensed something was amiss.

Nanrong Wanqing's breasts didn't seem quite this big.

Chapter 530 Rescuing Little Hua (1)

As Ling Chen was feeling puzzled, a shrieking scream suddenly came from below him. He focused his gaze and realized, lying beneath him was none other than Su Lin.

At this moment, Su Lin was staring with wide eyes, looking at him in disbelief, frozen in place, unmoving.

Once he recognized her, Ling Chen was dumbstruck.

How could it be this girl? Didn't she say over the phone last time that she wouldn't be back for another month?

"You... you can get off me now." Su Lin glared at Ling Chen, and seeing that he didn't move, her pretty face blushed red as she spoke with restrained annoyance.

Reminded by her words, Ling Chen finally snapped back to reality, quickly scrambling off the sofa, awkwardly looking at Su Lin, saying, "That... I didn't know it was you, I thought it was..."

As he was speaking, he saw Nanrong Wanqing walking down the staircase. Seeing Ling Chen return, a faint smile drifted across Nanrong Wanqing's face.

"When did you get back? I was about to call you." As she spoke, Nanrong Wanqing moved to the living room, glanced at Su Lin whose face was flushed red, and then at Ling Chen who looked uneasy, curiously asking, "What's going on with you two?"

"Nothing, nothing at all." Ling Chen quickly waved his hands. Not letting Nanrong Wanqing press further, he shifted the topic, asking, "How long has Su Lin been back?"

"She came back a couple of days ago."

"I initially planned to take some time off to celebrate Wanqing's birthday, but there was a sudden issue, so it got delayed by two days. Hey! Where have you been these days? You weren't even seen around, not staying home to accompany Wanqing. Is this how you act as a boyfriend?"

Facing Su Lin's questioning, Ling Chen hurriedly explained, "I ran into some urgent matters, so I had to leave for a few days."

"Alright!" Nanrong Wanqing chuckled softly, saying, "He's got his own things to handle; no need to blame him. Oh, it's perfect timing for your return, Lin mentioned she wanted to go shopping at the mall later; you should join us."

"OK!" When the girlfriend speaks, Ling Chen dared not refuse and immediately agreed.

"You two sit for a while, I'm going to change clothes."

"I'll go too."

Seeing the two head upstairs, Ling Chen went back to his bedroom alone, took a shower, and changed into clean clothes.

Returning to the living room, he saw Su Lin coming down first. Still like always, the girl was wearing pure cotton stockings, showcasing her long beautiful legs openly, paired with a casual denim jacket, her long hair draped over her shoulders. Her delicate face lightly powdered, wearing eyeshadow, with pink lips exuding an endless allure, tempting one to take a bite.

Tsk tsk!

This girl... really is a seductress, killing without a trace of guilt.

Seeing that Nanrong Wanqing hadn't come down yet, Ling Chen, fearing that the earlier incident would cause awkwardness between them, took the initiative to ask, "What have you been doing during your internship?"

"Archaeology." Su Lin said disinterestedly, "I thought archaeology would be interesting, but it turned out to be not fun at all, totally boring, just cleaning dirt every day, not even allowing me to go down and play around."

"Play? Play what?"

"Going into ancient tombs. The archaeological team discovered a group of ancient noble tombs in the mountains and dug there every day. With my limited experience and as an intern, they didn't allow me to enter the tombs, only to stay on the ground clearing the broken pots they excavated. I was utterly bored." Su Lin pouted her sexy red lips as she spoke.

Hearing Su Lin's words, Ling Chen couldn't comprehend why this woman would enjoy dealing with corpses, wasn't she afraid?

Just thinking, he saw Su Lin nudge his arm, smiling playfully, saying, "Hey! I heard during Wanqing's birthday banquet, you prepared a very special birthday gift for her. Not bad, it's all over the internet, that video clip is spreading like wildfire."

"It's not as good as you say, just average."

"Don't be modest. How come I never realized before? It turns out you're a romantic guy." A twinkle sparkled in Su Lin's eyes.

Ling Chen grinned, "That just means your eyesight is poor, not appreciating me."

Hearing this, Su Lin rolled her eyes at Ling Chen in a playful tone, "Someone like you, probably only Wanqing can appreciate."

While they spoke, Nanrong Wanqing, having changed her clothes, came down the stairs.

That afternoon, Ling Chen accompanied the two women, earnestly playing the role of a porter around several major malls. Only when the evening fell did the two women contentedly return to Wealthy Manor.

Just after getting home and before Ling Chen could rest, he received a call from Hu Fei: "Hey, Ling Chen, you better come over quickly."

"What happened?"

"If you don't come soon, Jiang Xinwu probably won't last much longer."

Ling Chen was shocked; he had already guessed the reason He Ziyun had asked him to avoid the scene. At that time, He Ziyun was furious, so he didn't say much, letting He Ziyun cool off, but he didn't expect the other party to be so cruel.

"Wait for me, I'm coming over right now."

After hanging up, Ling Chen immediately drove towards Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

Arriving at the academy, Ling Chen went directly to the warehouse. Upon entering, he saw Jiang Xinwu half-dead, lying on the ground, covered in blood, barely breathing, not far from death.

On the side, He Ziyun was coldly pulling Jiang Xinwu up, placing him on a chair, continuing to demand the whereabouts of Little Hua. Seeing Jiang Xinwu remain silent, He Ziyun did not hesitate and punched out, knocking Jiang Xinwu to the floor again.

"Mr. He."

Unable to watch any longer, Ling Chen quickly spoke up to intervene.

He Ziyun glanced at Ling Chen, frowning slightly, "Why are you here?"

"Mr. He, I know you're worried about Little Hua's safety, but this approach won't help." Speaking of which, Ling Chen shifted the conversational tone, asking, "Did he provide any clues?"

"He said he knows nothing."

"I think he really might not know." Ling Chen said, "He's at most a henchman for the God Organization, ignorant of those secrets. Even if you kill him, it might not help save Little Hua. We should think of another way."

"What way?"

"I..." Just as Ling Chen was about to speak, his phone in his pocket suddenly rang.

He pulled out his phone, glanced at the caller ID, his eyes suddenly lit up, and he quickly answered the call.

"Hello, Mr. Ling, we've made some headway on the matter you entrusted to us."

"Really?" Ling Chen's heart leapt, eager to know, "Where is she?"

"In the sky."

In the sky?

Hearing this response, Ling Chen paused, it took a moment for him to react.

"Do you mean on an airplane?"

"Yes. To be precise, it's supposed to be the God Organization's mobile lab. As far as we know, the God Organization has a secret lab built on an airplane, usually in the air, making it hard to pinpoint its location."