

The Beauty 551

Chapter 551 Capturing Liu Wei

In the Audi, Liu Xiyao, sitting in the passenger seat, looked at the focused Ling Chen driving, hesitated to speak several times, but ultimately could not get the words out.

"Just say what you want to say," Ling Chen finally spoke.

Liu Xiyao opened her mouth, a look of disbelief on her face, "You... Did you really exchange me with Nanrong Wanqing?"

Seeing her incredulous expression, Ling Chen couldn't help but chuckle, "You are sitting right here, isn't it obvious?"

"No, I mean..."

Before Liu Xiyao could finish, Ling Chen interrupted her question, "Do you think I would carelessly hand over my own woman?"

"Then who was the woman you took just now?"

"She is the genuine Wanqing."

Hearing Ling Chen's answer, Liu Xiyao was immediately perplexed, completely failing to grasp what Ling Chen meant.

Noticing her puzzled face, Ling Chen turned around and said towards the back seat, "Wanqing, no need to hide anymore, come out."

As his words fell, the back seat lifted from above. Soon after, Nanrong Wanqing emerged from beneath the seat with a smile on her face.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing suddenly appear, Liu Xiyao was dumbstruck and took quite a while to gather her wits.

"You... How come you're here, weren't you..."

Nanrong Wanqing spoke with a smile, "I've been in the car all the time."

Liu Xiyao was entirely baffled, her mind seemed to short-circuit, astonishingly puzzled about what had just happened.

Ling Chen explained, "Actually, there's nothing surprising, the person who initially underwent the inspection was indeed Wanqing herself, however, I arranged another person in the car. After Wanqing returned to the car, the two of them secretly swapped identities, and that Liu Wei had no clue at all."

"Then who did they take away?"

"A friend," Ling Chen replied. In fact, the person impersonating Nanrong Wanqing wasn't just anyone, it was Bai Huanjun. Bai Huanjun was an expert in Disguise Skills, and he had experience pretending to be Nanrong Wanqing before, making him the most suitable candidate.

After driving for several kilometers, Ling Chen pulled the Audi off to the side of the road. Shortly after, a Range Rover slowly approached and stopped beside the Audi.

"You go back first, I'll come to find you after I've settled things."

"Be careful on your own," Nanrong Wanqing cautioned, worried.

Ling Chen gave a slight smile and gave Nanrong Wanqing a reassuring look, indicating her not to worry.

Liu Xiyao had been rescued, but Bai Huanjun was still in the hands of the enemy. He couldn't just ignore Bai Huanjun's safety, that would be too disloyal.

Watching Nanrong Wanqing and Liu Xiyao get into the Range Rover, Ling Chen gave a hand gesture to Zhong Wei in the driver's seat, then turned around and drove onto the road.

While driving, Ling Chen connected his phone to the car's Bluetooth and called Hu Fei.

"Hello!"

"Fatty, have you locked onto the target?"

On the other end of the phone, Hu Fei laughed proudly, "Rest assured, you doubt my work? I've had someone on their tail all along. Those guys are very cunning, constantly changing lanes out of fear of being followed. Hmph! As if these little tricks could fool me, thinking I've been idle all these years. They surely won't expect that the dozen or so taxis behind them are our people. No matter how they change their route, they won't escape from my sight."

"That's enough! Stop boasting, and just intercept them quickly."

"Just a small matter; just you wait and see."

After hanging up the call, Ling Chen immediately headed towards Bai Huanjun's location, following the information provided by Hu Fei.

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Meanwhile, inside the swiftly moving Chevrolet SUV, Liu Wei kept glancing at the rearview mirror, searching for any suspicious targets.

However, aside from a few taxis that were constantly changing, there was no other vehicle tracking them. It was quite normal to have a high number of taxis as they were on the road to the airport.

Assured that no one was following them, Liu Wei finally relaxed, leaned against the passenger seat comfortably, and closed his eyes to rest.

Bang!

But just at that moment, a loud crash suddenly came from the front, instantly awakening everyone inside the car.

"What happened?" Liu Wei violently opened his eyes and looked through the window at the front.

"It's a car accident," the driver said.

Liu Wei slightly furrowed his brows, only to see a series of taxi cabs involved in a pile-up, blocking the entire road about twenty meters ahead. Cars could not pass at all. Moreover, all the cars were blocked by the taxis from behind, there was no way to back out; they were trapped in the middle of the road.

"Such bad luck," Liu Wei cursed discontentedly.

"You, go down and check. Get them to move the cars quickly, don't delay our schedule," Liu Wei ordered, pointing at one of his subordinates in the rear seat.

At this moment, drivers from the surrounding cars had all disembarked and walked towards the site of the accident, pointing and discussing fervently, completely surrounding the road.

Several minutes passed, and an impatient Liu Wei cursed under his breath, "Why hasn't it cleared up? What is that guy doing, not a word from him for so long."

Cursing, Liu Wei pushed open the car door and instructed the driver, "I'm going to have a look. You guys keep a close watch on Miss Nanrong."

"Yes, Mr. Liu."

After getting out of the car, Liu Wei quickly walked towards the crowd. Pushing through the crowd, Liu Wei looked around for his subordinate. However, among the dozens of onlookers around, there was no sign of his subordinate, as if he had disappeared.

Useless trash... Liu Wei scoffed coldly, then turned his attention to the several drivers who were pushing blame onto each other, incessantly arguing.

"Gentlemen," Liu Wei approached and said, "Can you please move your cars first? Don't obstruct others; we are in a hurry to get to the airport."

"Mr. Liu, why the rush to the airport? Since you're in East Sea City, why not stay a few more days? It would be nice for me to play the gracious host."

Suddenly, a familiar voice came from behind, immediately changing Liu Wei's complexion. He whipped around, seeing Ling Chen, whose face was brimming with a playful smile. Liu Wei's pupils suddenly narrowed, exclaiming, "You... how did you..."

Ling Chen spoke with a teasing smile, "You want to ask why I am here? Didn't you know that I have my informants throughout East Sea City? No matter where you run, you can't escape my eyes."

Hearing this, Liu Wei's heart sank. He hurriedly rushed towards the Chevrolet SUV.

However, before Liu Wei could squeeze through the crowd, Ling Chen's hand had already landed on his shoulder. Then, a burst of strong force passed through the hand, flipping him to the ground.

At the same time, several men burst out from the crowd, tying up Liu Wei with ropes they had prepared earlier.

"Take him and lock him up in the car."

"Yes."

The men dragged the struggling Liu Wei, pressed his head down, and shoved him into a commercial vehicle parked by the road.

Inside the car, Liu Wei realized that the subordinate he had sent out earlier was also tied up and thrown onto the vehicle.

Chapter 552 Crisis of the Pavilion Master of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion (1)

Having dealt with Liu Wei, Ling Chen approached the Chevrolet SUV alone. Before he could open the door, Bai Huanjun, disguised as Nanrong Wanqing, stepped down from the vehicle first.

Seeing the fresh blood on Bai Huanjun's hands, it was clear without asking that those guys in the car were definitely dead.

"Hard work!"

"No big deal, no need for formalities." Bai Huanjun smiled indifferently and said, "If there's nothing else, I'll head back first."

"Rest well, I'll contact you in a couple of days."

After Bai Huanjun left, Ling Chen instructed several of his subordinates at the scene to take care of the bodies in the Chevrolet. Then, he boarded the van with the others.

Looking at Liu Wei, who was tied up tightly, Ling Chen's mouth curved into a smile and he asked, "Mr. Liu, you didn't expect us to meet again so soon, did you?"

Liu Wei coldly said, "Ling Chen, I've told you, as long as you don't oppose the God Organization, we wouldn't trouble you. Sadly, you didn't cherish the opportunity. Just wait, the God Organization will never let you go."

"I've had grievances with the God Organization not just for a day or two. Even if you spare me, I won't spare you. Tell me, who exactly is Lin Guodong?"

"Ling Chen, I advise you to give up any illusions. I won't say a word."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen smiled lightly and said, "Many people have been as defiant as you, but in the end, they all chose to cooperate. Liu Wei, if you are smart, you'd better cooperate willingly and not suffer unnecessarily."

Liu Wei sneered, "Bring whatever you have. If I get scared—What are you doing?"

Before he could finish speaking, Ling Chen took a sharp dagger from the driver, playing with it in his hand. Seeing the malicious smile curling on Ling Chen's lips, Liu Wei suddenly had a very bad feeling.

"Liu Wei, don't blame me for not giving you a chance." Ling Chen grinned, which made Liu Wei feel a shiver down his spine.

At that moment, the van stopped beside a desolate street. Once the vehicle halted, a young man sitting in the passenger seat handed Ling Chen a bottle of disinfectant alcohol. Immediately after, two men next to Ling Chen forced Liu Wei's arms and body down by folding down the back seats.

Subsequently, one of the men, with a sinister smile, reached out to unbuckle Liu Wei's belt and pulled down his pants.

Seeing the man's actions, Liu Wei's heart raced, and he couldn't help but shout, "Ling Chen, what... what are you trying to do?"

"Nothing much, just offering you a free sex change surgery," Ling Chen said lightly. "However, my skills might not be that refined, so you'll have to endure the pain later."

Hearing this, Liu Wei's face instantly changed. Seeing the man now pulling down his underwear, Liu Wei immediately panicked and twisted his body frantically trying to break free. But his hands and feet were tied with ropes, and no matter how much he struggled, it was futile.

"Stop... stop!"

Seeing Ling Chen approaching with the dagger, the terrified Liu Wei hastily yelled, "No, I... I'll talk, isn't that enough?"

Seeing him yield so quickly, Ling Chen felt somewhat disappointed. It was over before it even started; how boring.

"Speak, how much do you know about Lin Guodong?"

"Mr. Lin's identity is very secretive. I only know he's from the south," Liu Wei replied honestly.

Southerner?

Ling Chen was struck by a thought. The last time he helped at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, a high-level member of the God Organization in charge was also from the south. Could it be the same person?

Thinking this, Ling Chen asked, "The recent attack on the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, was it led by Lin Guodong?"

"Yes, I was also present then."

"Then you must be very clear about the God Organization's plans."

"That attack on the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was just a probe, not an actual war with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Mr. Lin only wanted to force the Pavilion Master to compromise."

"Compromise?" Ling Chen asked, puzzled. "Compromise what?"

"Mr. Lin had dealt with the Pavilion Master several times before, showing intentions for cooperation, but was rejected by the Pavilion Master each time. Mr. Lin is adept at manipulating people's hearts and predicting their thoughts, mostly accurately. Hence, based on his understanding of the Pavilion Master, he devised that plan. He knew that as long as the Pavilion Master wasn't pushed too far, they wouldn't

easily resort to arms. On the contrary, the Pavilion Master would definitely initiate negotiation discussions themselves."

"Every move of the Pavilion Master was actually anticipated by Mr. Lin. Before that, Mr. Lin had already set up a trap, ensuring that once the Pavilion Master shows up for the negotiations, she would never be able to return."

Having listened to Liu Wei's words, Ling Chen's eyebrows knitted together and he asked, "Are you saying... the God Organization plans to kill the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master?"

"Correct. Once the Pavilion Master dies, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will certainly fall into chaos, and it wouldn't take us much effort to completely take down the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"When will the negotiation between the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the God Organization take place?"

"They will meet tomorrow in Jinhai City. I am not very clear about the exact location; the higher-ups haven't informed me yet. However, as far as I know, the people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion have already arrived in Jinhai City tonight. While we are talking, they might already be facing a crisis."

Without another word, Ling Chen immediately pulled out his phone and dialed Zhou Jun's number. If it was as Liu Wei said, he had to notify the Pavilion Master. However, the call went through to a shutdown tone.

Shutdown?

Ling Chen was inwardly anxious. Among the people he knew at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he only had Zhou Jun's number. After pondering for a while, Ling Chen found another phone number from his contacts and hesitated briefly before making the call.

Soon, the call connected, and a sweet voice came through, "Mr. Lin, hello, how may I assist you?"

"You all from the Secret Society should have many ways to contact the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, do me a favor and tell them that the meeting in Jinhai City is a trap set by the God Organization, and they must be cautious not to fall for it."

"I understand. Mr. Lin, thank you for the warning."

After hanging up, Ling Chen silently prayed, hoping it wasn't too late.

Collecting his thoughts, Ling Chen looked at Liu Wei lying on the seat and asked, "Let's set aside the matters of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for now. Why did you receive orders to capture Nanrong Wanqing and bring her back?"

"Mr. Yun had mastered a new technology. Since Mr. Yun's death, we have captured all the people associated with him, but none knew where Mr. Yun hid that technology. Later, Mr. Lin learned about Nanrong Wanqing's relationship with Mr. Yun, so he suspected that Mr. Yun might have entrusted that technology to his daughter for safekeeping."

Chapter 553 The Crisis of the Pavilion Master of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion (2)

"What kind of technology?" Ling Chen asked. He only knew that Nanrong Yuan mastered a technology, but he knew nothing about it. However, given that the God Organization was so interested in it, that technology must not be simple.

Liu Wei said, "I've heard Mr. Lin mention, if the God Organization gets hold of that critical technology, then the Lucifer experiment will be phased out, replaced by even more advanced technology."

Ling Chen was startled—stronger than the Lucifer experiment? No wonder the God Organization was so keen.

"Last time, when you were at the spare base, you stole the laboratory's hard drive. Mr. Lin, knowing the risk of confidential information leakage, thus shifted the focus to that critical technology. Once it's in their hands, even if the Lucifer experiment is cracked, the God Organization need not worry."

During the conversation, Ling Chen's cellphone rang. He glanced at the incoming number, saw it was from the Secret Society, and immediately answered the call.

"Mr. Ling, we just made contact with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but unfortunately, the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had already left for Jin Hai City. Additionally, they suddenly lost contact two hours ago; we now have no news at all."

That's not good!

Ling Chen frowned secretly; the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion losing contact could mean the God Organization had already acted.

If that was indeed the case, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would face a grave crisis.

The phone had just hung up, and before Ling Chen could put away his phone, it rang again, this time from an unknown number. Upon answering the call, he heard Song Ge's voice: "Hey! Ling."

"Song?" Ling Chen asked, surprised, "How did you get my number?"

"Just got it from the people at the Secret Society, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion asked me to check with you, to see how much you know about the situation."

"I've captured a member of the God Organization, all the information came from his mouth. The God Organization set up a trap in Jin Hai City, deliberately luring the Pavilion Master there to eliminate her. The lack of contact on your end doesn't bode well," Ling Chen paused, then asked, "By the way! Song, who accompanied the Pavilion Master to Jin Hai City?"

"Zhou Qi and Zhou Jun went, and there are more than ten accompanying personnel. Moreover, for the Pavilion Master's safety, a top-ranking Heavenly List expert is secretly protecting her. However, we now can't even locate that Heavenly List expert," Song Ge said, clearly worried.

"Wait a moment, let me see if I can get more information, and then I'll notify you."

"Okay. Ling, this is a critical matter, I hope you can help us."

"Don't worry, I will."

After hanging up, Ling Chen turned to Liu Wei and asked, "The Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is missing, do you have any way to determine her current location?"

"The operations in Jin Hai City aren't my responsibility, asking me won't help."

"But you are part of the God Organization, I think you should have ways to obtain information." As he spoke, Ling Chen fished out a cellphone from Liu Wei's pocket, indicating to the people nearby to untie Liu Wei.

"I don't care how you do it, help me get information on the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. If you can't do it, I'll keep this dagger for you."

Liu Wei glanced at the sharp dagger, his face turned exceptionally pale, and hesitated. He then picked up the cellphone, found a number, and dialed it.

"Turn on the speakerphone." Ling Chen, cautious of Liu Wei's potential tricks, demanded he turn on the speakerphone to clearly hear their conversation.

Soon, the call connected, and a cheerful voice rang out: "Hey! Liu, what's up for calling me at this time?"

"My task here is done, and I'm just bored, so I called to check in. Hey! Aren't you in charge of the operations in Jin Hai City? How's everything going?"

"Don't even mention it. Although we captured a few people, the most crucial one ran away."

"Are you talking about the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"Who else could it be? But no big deal, I'm leading my men to chase her. She's alone, she shouldn't be able to get far."

"Then you carry on, I won't bother you. When you're back at the base, let's get together properly."

"Definitely, definitely!"

Having finished, Liu Wei hung up the phone and looked at Ling Chen, saying, "You heard it, besides the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, everyone else got captured."

"Ask about their location."

"No, that would make him suspicious."

Hearing this, Ling Chen fell into deep thought. Zhou Qi and the others were caught, and whether they could save their lives was still uncertain. The Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was fleeing alone, it was hard to know if she could escape the hunt.

After thinking, Ling Chen immediately called Song Ge back and shared the information he had learned.

"Ling, don't hang up yet."

"Okay."

Holding the phone, Ling Chen could hear many people discussing strategies on the other end. After a while, Song Ge's voice came through again: "Ling, where are you?"

"In East Sea City. What's up?"

"East Sea City isn't too far from Jin Hai City, could you possibly..."

Before Song Ge finished, Ling Chen understood his intention.

"You want me to rush to Jin Hai City?"

"Ling, I know this is a tough ask, but we have no choice. You know, it would take at least four to five hours to get to Jin Hai City from here, by which time it would be too late. But if you leave from East Sea City, it would take just over an hour at most. You're in the closest location, so we can only ask for your help. Rest assured, if you agree to help, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will not let you go unrewarded."

"This..." Ling Chen hesitated, unsure whether to agree to their request.

"Ling, for the sake of friendship, please help me?" Song Ge pleaded over the phone.

Ling Chen sighed helplessly and replied, "Alright, I'll head over now. But let me be clear upfront, I'll go, but I can't guarantee anything."

"I understand, just do your best."

Putting away the phone, Ling Chen said, "You guys escort him to Hu Fei's place, be careful on the road."

"Chen, rest assured, nothing will go wrong."

Stepping out of the business car, Ling Chen was about to close the door when something seemed to occur to him. He looked at Liu Wei sitting inside the car and asked, "Among the several people who came to East Sea City, besides you, there's someone named Yi Shuiyan; why haven't I seen him appear?"

"Yi Shuiyan?" Liu Wei's expression shifted as he asked, "How do you know that I had contact with him?"

"I've said it before, the entire East Sea City is under my control; there's nothing I don't know about. Speak up, where is he?"

"We just had a temporary meeting, discussing some cooperation matters. He said he needed to think it over, that he'd give me an answer after some time."

Ling Chen frowned and asked, "Is he representing himself or the Dangyang Sect behind him?"

"Dangyang Sect."

Chapter 554 The Ambition of the Dangyang Sect

Hmph!

Truly so.

With a cold snicker, Ling Chen realized that Yi Shuiyan was likely representing the Dangyang Sect this time to negotiate with the God Organization, discussing the conditions for both parties. It's baffling how a renowned and legitimate martial arts sect would collude with nefarious forces in secret. What was Dangyang Sect's Sect Leader Zhu Jin thinking?

Aren't they afraid of trouble from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?

Or is it that... Suddenly, an idea popped into Ling Chen's head.

So that's how it is!

Ling Chen instantaneously had an epiphany and grasped the crux of the matter. In fact, it had always been simple. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had long been the leader within martial arts; no other force could surpass its influence.

However, everyone has their own ambitions and desires, which are bound to inflate and breed beyond control. Sadly, for many years the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has dominated the scene, keeping even the most ambitious at bay, forever denying them their opportunity to rise.

Therefore, the God Organization became an excellent opportunity. Just like what the God Organization is undertaking this time, if they can eliminate the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master successfully and leverage the God Organization's formidable power to take down the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. By then, the Dangyang Sect could use the momentum to ascend and take hold of the authoritative voice within the Huaxia martial arts world.

Liu Wei had said earlier that Yi Shuiyan expressed he needed to consider further. This so-called consideration was nothing but waiting for an outcome. As long as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master is killed, the Dangyang Sect will surely declare their position immediately.

As he closed the car door and watched the business van disappear from view, Ling Chen immediately called Nanrong Hao to send a good car over.

From East Sea City to Jinhai City, there was a distance of over two hundred kilometers. If he took the expressway and drove fast enough, just over an hour would suffice to make it there.

Before long, a beastly roar approached from a distance and swiftly arrived in front of Ling Chen.

The car door opened, and Nanrong Hao emerged from the driver's seat, patting the car beside him with a grin, "Chen, you wanted a good car, so I brought it to you. What do you think, not bad right?"

Ling Chen's eyes brightened as he smiled, "Your cousin is quite generous."

The car in front of him was none other than Su Lin's Maserati.

Nanrong Hao complained, "My cousin thought I was borrowing the car and flatly refused, but when she heard you needed it, she didn't hesitate to throw the keys to me. Such different treatment... I don't even know who's her real family anymore."

"That's because your cousin trusts me. Enough! I've got important things to deal with, you can take a taxi back on your own."

Settling in the driver's seat, Ling Chen started the car and gently tapped the accelerator. The front of the car surged forward, speeding off like a flash of lightning and vanishing at the end of the street.

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Jin Sea City.

It was nearing midnight now. The streets were deserted, with scarcely a few silhouettes visible, save for the occasional taxi whizzing by.

At this hour, in a side alley by the street, a person curled up wearing a hood. In the dim light, their entire face was shrouded in shadows, indiscernible.

However, in the quiet alley, one could hear the person's frantic breathing. After a while, a series of disordered footsteps came from the other end of the alley. As the sounds drew closer, the person quickly got up from the corner and hurried towards the exit of the alley.

Out of the alleyway and under the street lamp light, one could see strands of hair hanging down from either side of the hood. Within the hood was a face so beautiful it was trembling. The pale complexion, a slightly raised nose, and lips soft as cherries were alluringly pink.

Above them, a pair of clear and spirited eyes sparkled like stream water, as if all the spirit was contained within. Two fine eyebrows, damp with sweat from the forehead, quivered slightly with her panting.

Hearing the footsteps behind her drawing closer, a hint of urgency flickered in her eyes as she looked around, hoping to find a place to hide. However, apart from the alley she had just come from, there was only a straight street with no other way out.

What to do now?

Just then, a taxi sped towards her from a nearby intersection.

Without a second thought, she rushed into the middle of the road and frantically waved her hands, signaling for the taxi to stop.

Screech!

Accompanied by the piercing sound of a sudden brake, the taxi stopped less than two meters away from her. Immediately afterward, a head poked out from the driver's window and cursed without mercy: "Are you crazy? Do you have a death wish?"

"Driver... I'm sorry, could you give me a ride?" she approached and pleaded desperately.

The driver was about to continue scolding her, but when he saw her stunningly beautiful face, the words died in his throat and the anger on his face was instantly replaced by an enthusiastic smile.

"Get in!"

"Thank you!" she said gratefully.

Once in the car, the driver asked, "Beauty, where to?"

"I don't know."

"You don't know?"

"Just anywhere but here is fine."

Hearing this, the driver grinned and said: "Well, that's easy to handle." With that, he started the car and drove on.

As the taxi was about to reach the crossroads, more than ten men hurried out of the alley they were in before, searching the area for the woman.

"There are two people in that taxi."

A sharp-eyed man pointed towards the taxi at the intersection and shouted loudly.

"Some of you stay here and see if she's hiding somewhere else, the rest come with me to chase that taxi," a man quickly gave the order.

Twenty minutes passed, and the taxi driver pulled over on a deserted street.

"Beauty, we're here, forty-eight dollars."

Money?

Her heart skipped a beat—she had no money on her. As the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, she always had everything arranged for her; she didn't even need to carry money during outings - Zhou Jun would take care of it.

"Driver, I... I'm sorry, I've forgotten to bring money. Could I owe you this time and pay you back later?"

"No money?" Hearing her words, the driver's face immediately soured.

"Beauty, we work hard for our living. You have the cheek to run up a tab for over forty bucks? If you didn't bring cash, surely you have a bank card on you. How about this, I'll take you to a nearby ATM, and you withdraw a couple hundred dollars. How does that sound?"

"I didn't bring my wallet, or... maybe you could give me your phone number, and I..."

"That won't do." The driver outright rejected her suggestion, saying, "How would I know you won't just run off? I've seen plenty like you, promising to pay next time, but once you get out of the car, you vanish into thin air. Where am I supposed to find you? Look, you must have something valuable on you. Leave it as collateral, and when you bring the money, we'll swap back. That way, no one loses out."

"But... I really didn't bring anything with me."

Dissatisfied, the driver said, "You dare to hail my car without bringing anything? I've heard of people dining and dashing but never riding and running. Let me tell you this, if you don't pay me today, then don't think about getting out of the car." As he spoke, the driver locked all the car doors.

Chapter 555 Su Mei (1)

Seeing the driver's adamant attitude and his refusal to listen to any words, she couldn't help but feel anxious. As the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, she had never suffered such treatment.

At this moment, the driver in the cab eyed her with malicious intent, curling up a sinister smile at the corner of his mouth, and said, "Beautiful lady, I have a suggestion that could cover your cab fare."

"What suggestion?"

"You don't have any money, and you don't have anything valuable on you to pawn, but, a pretty girl like you has plenty of assets to offer, as long as you... hehe, you're smart, you should understand what I mean."

Seeing the ferocity flicker in the driver's eyes, she clearly understood his intent and her pretty face instantly changed. Overwhelmed with shame and anger, she scolded, "Shameless!"

"Shameless?" The driver sneered and said, "It's you who owes money in the first place, any request I make is not excessive. Luckily for us, there isn't anyone around here, convenient for 'handling our business'." Saying so, the driver reached out toward her.

"Stop!" Startled, she quickly placed her hands in front of her chest, leaning back to avoid his harassment.

"Let me out."

While calling out, she tried to pull the door locks to leave the taxi. But the doors were locked, and no matter how hard she tried, they wouldn't budge.

At this time, the driver was leaning closer to her, almost pressing down on her body.

Smelling the tobacco reek from him, she panicked, flailing her arms desperately trying to stop his actions.

At this moment, she deeply regretted getting into this car. She would have rather been captured by the people from the God Organization than fallen into the hands of such a vile person.

Regrettably, time cannot be rewound; at this moment, all she could do was resist by all means possible to avoid disgrace.

"Come on, beautiful, don't be shy. It's the modern age, no need to be bashful. Rest assured, I'll make sure you experience unparalleled pleasure," the driver said, exhilarated.

Hiss!

In the midst of speaking, the driver grabbed her clothing and violently tore it open.

Looking at her disheveled attire, the driver could not help but swallow his saliva, his primal instincts raging, dying to overwhelm the beauty before him.

"Don't..."

She fiercely guarded her vital parts, tears filling her pleading eyes, desperately hoping he would stop. However, the driver's mind was already corrupted by evil thoughts, and the more she begged, the more excited he became.

As she saw his body pressing down on her, she bit her lower lip and couldn't help but close her eyes, tears rolling slowly down her cheeks.

Clang!

Just then, a crisp sound suddenly rang out, snapping both the man and woman in the car back to reality. Looking up, they saw the car window glass had been smashed at some unobserved moment.

Before the driver could react, a large hand reached in through the broken window, grabbed the driver by the hair, and forcibly dragged him out through it.

"What are you doing? Let go, let me go!" The driver shouted loudly, clinging to that hand.

Accompanied by a scoff, the large hand swung fiercely, tossing the driver onto the ground, followed by a fierce kick to his abdomen.

Instantaneously, the driver screamed, his face turning pale as he clutched his belly, writhing in pain on the ground.

"It's okay now, come out."

Hearing the voice beside her, she looked up to see the man outside the car window, momentarily stunned, taking quite a while to recover.

"What's wrong, do you want me to carry you out?"

"You... how did you find me here?" she asked, full of confusion.

"Don't ask so much for now, we need to hurry. Those people are about to catch up," Ling Chen said as he opened the car door, urging her into the adjacent Maserati.

No sooner had they driven off than several Land Rovers quickly arrived and halted next to the taxi.

Driving along the road, Ling Chen glanced at the woman beside him from the corner of his eye, his gaze filled with amazement. Noticing his subtle movements, she couldn't help but speak, "Have you not looked enough?"

Ling Chen grinned: "If I don't look properly now, I'm afraid I might forget what you look like later."

Hearing this, she fully understood Ling Chen's implications, her face immediately showing a hint of embarrassment. Previously on that luxury cruise, Ling Chen had caught a glimpse of her true face. In order to prevent the disclosure of her identity, she secretly drugged the tea, induced Ling Chen to drink it, which caused him to forget her appearance.

"We've known each other for a while now; isn't it time you told me your real name?" Ling Chen asked.

"My name is Su Mei."

"So, you are Miss Su." Ling Chen nodded, finally knowing her name. When they had first met, he used 'Tea Girl' as a substitute for her name.

Su Mei curiously asked, "You still haven't told me, how did you find me?"

"I have my ways," Ling Chen said. After he arrived in East Sea City, he had Liu Wei contact his friends in the city with a mobile phone, then Hu Fei used the phone's location services to lock on her position. This significantly narrowed down the search area.

Moreover, when Liu Wei spoke with her over the phone, she unintentionally mentioned a taxi. Using this clue, Hu Fei utilized East Sea City's surveillance system and quickly found the target.

It was for this reason that Ling Chen was able to arrive in time when Su Mei was in danger.

"Where are we heading now?"

"I'm taking you back to East Sea City. The people from the God Organization are still searching for you in East Sea City, it's not safe for you here. East Sea is my turf; I'll contact the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion later and have them meet directly in East Sea City."

Saying this, Ling Chen changed the subject and asked, "How were you attacked before? Song told me that there was a Heavenly List expert secretly protecting your safety; was he also subdued by the people of the God Organization?"

"I don't know." Su Mei shook her head and said, "According to the original plan, we were going to stay in a hotel and then meet with the people from the God Organization the next day. But we ran into trouble shortly after we checked in. The hotel we stayed in was already under the control of the God Organization, from the inside out, everyone was their person. Elder Zhou and the rest didn't realize it in advance, so we walked into an ambush. By the time we reacted, most of our people had been captured. Later, thanks to the efforts of others, I was able to escape from the hotel. I intended to contact that Heavenly List expert, but he never appeared from beginning to end, I don't know if something happened to him."

At the end of her words, Su Mei couldn't hide the worry in her eyes and said, "Elder Zhou and the others are still in the hands of the God Organization, their fates are uncertain. Ling Chen, can you help me save them?"

Chapter 556 Su Mei (2)

"Save them?" Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Miss Su, you can't even protect yourself now, you should take more care of yourself. I've advised you long ago that this wouldn't have happened if you hadn't insisted on negotiating with the God Organization. All in all, you're just too naive. I've dealt with the God Organization for so many years, I know them better than you do. In their eyes, there is never a compromise, either submit or perish, there is no other choice."

"I understand all that you're saying, it's just... sigh!" Su Mei sighed and said: "I just didn't want the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to get involved in the strife. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has been inherited for hundreds of years, it has some foundation, but I don't want it to be consumed so quickly."

"In this era, the middle ground is long outdated. What you're doing will only hasten the downfall of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. There's a saying that goes, 'If you don't advance, you will fall back.' Seeking self-preservation will only speed up the decline of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. The God Organization is targeting you precisely because only you are capable of threatening them. If you still think about coexisting peacefully with the God Organization, then everything is over."

"You're right." Su Mei said with shame: "I was too naive. If it weren't for me, Elder Zhou and the others wouldn't have had this trouble."

"Alright! You don't need to blame yourself too much. It's not too late to come to your senses now. Elder Zhou and the others have only been captured, there's no immediate danger to their lives, don't worry too much. Once I've taken you to a safe place, I'll figure out a way to save them."

While speaking, Ling Chen glanced at Su Mei, seeing the exposed white skin on her chest, he quickly averted his gaze, not daring to look any further.

"Right!" Ling Chen coughed lightly, trying to shift his attention, and asked: "As the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, how can you not handle even an ordinary person?"

Su Mei countered with a question: "Who said that the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has to learn martial arts?"

"With no strength, how could they willingly support you as Pavilion Master?" Ling Chen was puzzled.

"Why not. You ask that because you don't understand the rules of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. The Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is not elected, but inherited from generation to generation."

Upon hearing Su Mei's explanation, Ling Chen exclaimed in surprise: "From what you're saying, isn't the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion just like those martial arts family clans, only passing it down to their own people."

"Exactly."

Su Mei nodded and said: "The first Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion laid down the rule that the position of Pavilion Master can only be passed to descendants, and if there are no heirs, the position can be passed to disciples. Thus, every Pavilion Master, when of age, gets married and has children, regardless of sex, they are appointed as the next Pavilion Master. I was frail and sickly when I was born, so my parents did not let me practice martial arts, but focused on various classics, widely read books, learning how to manage the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"What if someone betrays you?" Ling Chen asked: "Without the power to deter the masses, who will follow you? There are so many members of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I don't believe that every single one of them is loyal."

"Because I have a backer, no one dares to harbor ill intentions."

"What kind of backer?"

"Although I haven't learned martial arts, both my parents are top-notch experts. With them backing me up, who would dare to mess around. Moreover, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion venerates many elders, they uphold the rules of the Pavilion and are only loyal to the Pavilion Master. With them sitting at the helm, no one dares to challenge the authority of the Pavilion Master."

So that's how it is.

Ling Chen finally understood. With her mom and dad supporting her from behind, indeed nobody would dare to mess around, no wonder this woman could secure the position of Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion—the Pavilion inherited family style.

Su Mei was barely in her twenties, her parents were probably only in their fifties, not to mention behind her, on top of her parents' support, there might still be grandparents... Thinking of this, Ling Chen realized the hidden power behind this woman, it was too terrifying.

"What do your parents think about your decision?" Ling Chen asked.

"I don't know, I haven't asked them. After they passed the position of Pavilion Master to me, they went off to travel and seldom return, only if the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is facing a life-and-death crisis would they intervene. Being a Pavilion Master, if I rely on others for help in everything, how can I grow?"

That makes sense! Ling Chen nodded, agreeing with what Su Mei said.

After driving for several kilometers, Ling Chen driving the Maserati was about to enter the highway section. However, just at that moment, several Land Rovers suddenly burst out from the intersection behind them, following closely behind them.

This is bad!

Ling Chen looked at those Land Rovers getting closer through the rearview mirror, thinking to himself that it was bad.

Didn't expect those guys to be so fast.

"Hold on!"

As he spoke, Ling Chen floored the accelerator, and the Maserati burst forward, the speed getting faster and faster, approaching 160 mph.

As the Maserati sped up, the several Land Rovers behind immediately increased their speed, maintaining a distance of less than fifty meters, gradually closing in.

On the streets of Jin Hai City, 160 mph was almost the limit, if he drove any faster, an accident could easily occur. Even for an experienced driver like Ling Chen, he wouldn't dare to drive too fast on roads full of crossroads.

Seeing that the Land Rovers were getting closer in the rearview mirror, Ling Chen suddenly stepped on the brakes, controlled the car with a deft drift, and turned into an alley by the road.

The few Land Rovers behind did not expect Ling Chen to change direction, they missed the moment and rushed past the entrance of the alley. By the time they turned around and came back, the Maserati had already disappeared.

At this moment, inside the alley, Ling Chen and Su Mei sat in the driver and passenger seats, waiting patiently.

Outside the car, Ling Chen covered the entire car with an old canvas found in the trash bin, to avoid being tracked by the God Organization.

About ten minutes later, seeing no activity around, Ling Chen got out of the car, lifted the canvas from the car, and drove the Maserati out of the alley again.

Back on the open road, Ling Chen continued towards the highway entrance. Once on the highway, it would be easy to shake off the pursuers.

1:30 am.

Ling Chen finally arrived at the highway entrance driving the Maserati. Yet, before entering the toll booth, Ling Chen immediately stopped the car, frowning at both sides of the entrance.

At the entrance, there were two Land Rovers parked on each side. Clearly, the people sitting in those cars were from the God Organization. The opponents had probably anticipated their escape through the highway and had arranged manpower to guard in advance.

Four Land Rovers—it would be undoubtedly difficult to break through their defense line.

While pondering, Ling Chen saw the big lights of the four Land Rovers not far away light up; the dazzling beams converged, shining on the body of the Maserati. At the same time, those four Land Rovers gently pressed on the accelerator, coming over slowly, forming a siege.

Chapter 557 Mate Selection Criteria (1)

"What should we do?" Su Mei asked Ling Chen, who was in the driver's seat, with a hint of nervousness in her beautiful eyes.

Ling Chen cocked his head to one side, the corners of his mouth lifting slightly in a smile before asking, "What are your standards for choosing a spouse?"

"What?" Su Mei was taken aback, momentarily failing to grasp the situation.

"Weren't you just saying that the Pavilion Masters of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion all marry and have children? So, you'll have to find a man in the future too. Since that's the case, you must have some standards for choosing a spouse, or... do you already have someone in mind?"

Su Mei stared blankly at Ling Chen. At a time like this, he still had the mind to ask about this? Didn't he see the crisis before us?

Just as she was thinking this, Su Mei suddenly felt the car lurch forward, speeding towards the four Range Rovers ahead. As the hood of the car was about to collide with the Range Rover, Su Mei's face turned pale, and she couldn't help but close her eyes, her hands gripping the armrests tightly.

Screech!

Accompanied by a harsh sound of tires rubbing against the pavement, the Maserati executed a 180-degree spin on the spot, reversing the positions of the car's front and rear. Then, Ling Chen shifted gears with his right hand, pressing the accelerator to the floor with the tip of his foot. Before the four pursuing Range Rovers could react, the Maserati had already burst forth, leaving them far behind in an instant.

However, at this moment, a Range Rover suddenly charged out from a side street and slammed into the side of the Maserati with extreme force. Under the powerful impact, the Maserati flipped onto its side and continued to roll along the ground until it slid to a halt against a road column at the edge of the road, where it was trapped and slowly came to a stop.

Groggy, Ling Chen shook his head, rubbing his throbbing forehead. He looked at Su Mei in the passenger seat and saw that she had fallen unconscious.

"Miss Su, Miss Su..." Ling Chen called out several times, but Su Mei remained unresponsive, her head limply hanging over her right shoulder.

At this moment, the sound of footsteps approached from afar, reaching Ling Chen's ears. Through the shattered car window, Ling Chen turned his head and saw more than a dozen men hastening over, less than twenty meters away.

This is bad!

Ling Chen frowned to himself, disregarding his own discomfort. He quickly kicked the deformed car door open, then dragged the unconscious Su Mei from the passenger seat onto himself, ready to escape from the car.

However, Ling Chen suddenly noticed that just outside the car door was an incline by the roadside. With the pursuers closing in, there was no time to think. Clutching Su Mei's delicate body in his arms, he jumped out of the car and sprinted down the slope.

The enemy was numerous and powerful, and although Ling Chen was not afraid of those men with his strength, the unconscious Su Mei by his side was a concern. Having to deal both with the pursuers and ensuring Su Mei's safety made it difficult to act freely. Instead of such a struggle, it was better to avoid the sharp edge for the time being and take Su Mei to a safe place first.

Moreover, there was another reason for Ling Chen's reluctance to fight. Su Mei had previously mentioned that there was an expert from the Heavenly List secretly protecting her. However, so much time had passed, and that expert had not yet appeared, which certainly indicated a problem. It may well be that among the pursuers there were other experts hidden. For this reason, he had to be as cautious as possible.

The slope was over twenty meters high. After descending, there was no suitable place to hide, the surroundings open and empty. Having no other choice for fear of being caught by the people following, Ling Chen had to continue running while holding Su Mei in his arms.

Luckily, Ling Chen was in good physical condition. Despite the violent collision just now, he had only a mild headache and had not sustained any major injuries.

After a few hundred meters, the trees on both sides became denser, with the occasional house standing among them. With the cover of night, Ling Chen was able to put more distance between himself and the pursuers.

At this time, Ling Chen saw a small western-style building not far away, complete with a courtyard behind it and surrounded by a wall.

After hesitating for a moment, Ling Chen carried Su Mei on his back, with one hand supporting her rounded buttocks to prevent her from falling. Then, with a single leap, he grabbed the top of the surrounding wall with one hand, leveraging his body over it.

Climbing over the wall, Ling Chen glanced around at the environment; it was pitch-dark, a small sedan was parked in the center of the courtyard, its body covered with post-rain filth, seeming as if it hadn't been cleaned for a long time.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen walked to the back door of the small western-style house and rummaged through a pile of miscellaneous items to find two thin pieces of wire, which he used to pick the lock on the back door.

After the door was opened, Ling Chen didn't switch on the lights, to avoid drawing the attention of the pursuing soldiers outside.

He went straight to the living room, placed the unconscious Su Mei on the sofa, and then went upstairs alone to check every bedroom. As he had suspected, nobody was living in this small western-style house. If there had been someone, the small sedan in the courtyard wouldn't be so dirty that nobody cared to clean it.

He finally found a place to hide.

Ling Chen took a deep breath, took a cup and filled it with water from the tap, and gulped it down. After wiping the water from the corner of his mouth, Ling Chen filled an electric kettle with water and placed it on the stove to boil.

Taking this opportunity, Ling Chen checked Su Mei's physical condition. Thankfully, there was nothing seriously wrong.

When the water boiled, he found a clean towel and wiped Su Mei's face with it. Perhaps feeling the warmth of the hot towel, the unconscious Su Mei moved slightly, her eyelashes quivering gently.

"Miss Su."

Ling Chen called out softly. After a while, Su Mei slowly opened her eyes, rubbed her throbbing forehead, sat up from the sofa, and asked, "Where is this?"

"Inside a civilian residence, don't worry, there's no one living in this house for now." With that said, Ling Chen stood up, brought over a cup of hot water, and offered it to Su Mei, "Have some water first."

"Thank you!"

"Nothing to thank me for." Ling Chen smiled slightly: "You rest for a bit, I'm going to check outside."

A few minutes later, Ling Chen came back into the house and said, "The pursuers have gone past us, they did not discover our tracks."

"What should we do next?"

"There's a car outside, we'll drive away later." As he spoke, Ling Chen looked at the time; it was already close to 3 o'clock in the morning, and reinforcements from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion should be arriving soon.

"Why not stay here?" Su Mei asked, "Isn't this place quite safe?"

Ling Chen shook his head and explained, "Don't think of those people as fools. The surroundings here are too simple, there are only so many places to hide. If they don't discover our whereabouts after a while, they will certainly suspect that we're hiding in a civilian house."

"I didn't realize you had so much experience in this area."

Ling Chen laughed: "You should know what I did before. Without a trick or two, I'd have lost my life long ago." As he said this, Ling Chen changed the subject with a smile, "You haven't answered the question I asked you before; isn't it time to tell me now?"

Chapter 558 Choosing a Mate (2)

"What's the problem?"

"Your criteria for choosing a spouse. You're already in your twenties; don't tell me you've never thought about this." Ling Chen said with a smile: "Since there's no one else here, feel free to share. Don't worry, I'll keep your secret and won't tell anyone else."

Facing Ling Chen's gaze, Su Mei's cheeks immediately flushed with a faint blush, involuntarily turning her head away and shifting her eyes elsewhere. Her shy demeanor seemed to indicate she dared not look directly into Ling Chen's eyes.

Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but tease: "Why, are you feeling embarrassed?"

"Who says I'm embarrassed? I'm worried you would be."

"Me?" Ling Chen paused, pointing to his nose and chuckling: "How does this relate to me?"

"Aren't you asking about my standards for choosing a spouse? My standards are simple: excellence. As the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, I usually stay within Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and rarely have time to go out. The men I know are limited to the Pavilion's members, so my choices are very limited. Hence, the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony has become one of my criteria for selection. If a young and outstanding man wins first place in the New Talent Competition, he will be considered a priority candidate."

Hearing this, Ling Chen touched his nose, concealing his embarrassment. No wonder Su Mei was reluctant to elaborate; it turned out to be about him. He gave a light cough and laughed to himself: "Then I'm afraid I'll have to disappoint you. If we had met six months earlier, you might have had a chance."

Su Mei's pretty face turned red, and with a huff, she gave Ling Chen a displeased glance: "Who fancies you."

"If you don't fancy me, someone else will," Ling Chen retorted casually. Without waiting for Su Mei to speak, he stood up and said, "Enough joking around, it's about time we left."

With that, Ling Chen led Su Mei to the courtyard and opened the door of the small car. He checked the vehicle after getting into the driver's seat. Lucky for them, there was half a tank of gas left, enough for their escape.

Starting the car, Ling Chen slowly drove out of the courtyard, and after determining the direction, he immediately headed towards the road.

There were people from the God Organization monitoring the highway entrance; they had to find another way to leave.

After driving for more than ten minutes, Su Mei looked out of the car window and asked, "Where are we going?"

"We can't take the highway, so we'll have to take the national road." After replying, Ling Chen put down his phone and said, "I just contacted Song. They are still on the plane and will probably arrive in about an hour."

"One hour..." Su Mei nodded slightly, her tense expression visibly relaxed. As long as they rendezvoused with the main force of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, her safety would be assured.

"Ling Chen, we..."

"Not good!"

At that moment, before Su Mei could finish speaking, a cry of alarm came from Ling Chen. Su Mei looked up and saw that a person had appeared on the road ahead out of nowhere, standing directly in the path of the fast-moving car, less than ten meters away.

At this point, the car was traveling at the speed of 120 kilometers per hour, even with Ling Chen's quick reaction to hit the brakes in time, the inertia of the car's body would still hit the person. Moreover, at such a speed, if he were to forcefully turn the steering wheel, it would only cause the car to lose balance and lead to an accident.

As the car's hood was about to strike the person, Ling Chen's heart leaped to his throat, his hands tightly gripping the steering wheel, staring intently ahead.

Suddenly, the person standing in front of the car did not appear to move, but in an instant, vanished without a trace.

Screech!

Accompanied by a piercing sound of tire friction, the car finally came to a stop.

Ling Chen took a deep breath, quickly shifted his gaze, and peered through the car window, scanning for traces of that person. However, there was no one around the car.

Could it have been a trick of the eye?

There had clearly been a figure standing in front of the car just moments ago.

While still in shock, Ling Chen suddenly caught a glimpse of a figure flashing before his eyes. Right then, in front of the sedan, another person appeared. Under the illumination of the headlights, Ling Chen finally made out the true face of the individual.

An old man, beyond his seventieth year, with silver-white beard, a face full of wrinkles, and cloudy old eyes, looked like he was one foot in the grave. Yet, it was this very ordinary-looking elderly man that made Ling Chen's heart skip a beat.

An inexplicable chill rose from the bottom of his heart for no apparent reason.

This person... was dangerous!

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen labeled the elderly figure before him.

Not only dangerous but extremely so.

"Ling Chen, he..." Su Mei pointed at the old man, ready to ask a question, but before she could finish her sentence, she saw Ling Chen shifting into reverse, steering the sedan swiftly backward.

However, the car had barely moved back two meters when the old man in front reached out his hand, grabbed the front bumper of the car. Before Ling Chen could react, the entire front of the vehicle was lifted, both front wheels off the ground.

As a front-wheel-drive sedan, without the front two wheels, the car instantly lost its driving force and was unable to continue reversing.

Impressive!

Ling Chen watched the old man through the car window, a look of shock plastered on his face.

This sedan weighed at least a ton, and for the old man to lift its front end effortlessly was a testament to his formidable strength. Although there were many strongmen both domestically and internationally who could do it, this old man had done it with just one hand, without showing any sign of effort, his face not flushed, his breath not short. To achieve this level, the old man's strength should not be underestimated.

"Get out of the car."

After a moment of shock, Ling Chen made a swift decision.

The space inside the car was cramped, leaving him unable to cope with any situation that might arise.

Hearing Ling Chen's command, Su Mei didn't hesitate, hurriedly pushed open the car door, and prepared to get out from the passenger side. But at that moment, the old man at the front of the car suddenly exerted force, flipping the sedan upwards with a single hand. Instantly, the entire car flipped over in mid-air, completing a three hundred and sixty-degree spin, then landed on the ground with a 'bang.'

Ling Chen and Su Mei, who hadn't managed to get out in time, only felt their whole bodies jolt, shaking uncontrollably. Fortunately, they had both fastened their seat belts and were firmly strapped to their seats. However, Su Mei, not as physically strong as Ling Chen, felt dizziness and disorientation from the violent shaking.

Seeing Su Mei's pale face, Ling Chen didn't have the luxury to think further, kicked open the car door, swiftly unfastened Su Mei's seat belt, and then dragged her out from the passenger side.

Stepping away from the sedan, Ling Chen shielded Su Mei, his eyes alertly fixed on the old man, and he said in a deep voice, "Are you from the God Organization?"

However, the old man didn't even glance at him, his gaze remained locked on Su Mei.

"Hand her over, and I'll let you live," the old man said slowly, his voice hoarse, with a hint of cold and fierce murderous intent in his tone.

Seeing the old man closing in step by step, Ling Chen furrowed his brows, turned to Su Mei, and said, "Miss Su, I'll hold him off in a moment; take the chance to run first."

Chapter 559 Mr. Ji

"That's for you?"

"Don't worry about me, I..."

"What's all this nonsense?"

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, the old man suddenly snapped coldly. As his words fell, Ling Chen's gaze shifted, only to see a flickering figure before his eyes. Immediately after, a gust of wind hit his face. Before he could react, the gust turned into a powerful force and struck him fiercely.

Puff!

In an instant, Ling Chen felt a sweetness in his throat, and blood spilled from his mouth. His legs lifted off the ground and he heavily crashed onto the floor.

"Ling Chen!"

Seeing this, Su Mei's face changed drastically. She hurried to Ling Chen's side and helped him up from the ground.

"How are you?" Su Mei asked with concern.

"I... I'm fine." Ling Chen endured the pain in his chest and said with a pale face.

Although he said he was fine, he was very aware of how severe his injuries were. At least three ribs had been broken at the front of his chest; at the moment, even a slight movement sent a fierce pain throughout his limbs.

In one move!

Ling Chen had completely lost his ability to resist.

As a master on the Dragon List, probably only a master from the Earthly List could render him incapable of fighting back. Looking at the old man before him, Ling Chen's eyebrows were tightly knit, and he was out of ideas.

This old man's strength was too formidable; he was no match for him. Even if he had not been injured, he wouldn't have been able to defeat him.

At that moment, the old man slowly walked over, grabbed Su Mei's left shoulder, and yanked her to his side.

"Miss Su." Ling Chen reached out, trying to snatch Su Mei back. However, before his fingertips could touch Su Mei, the old man kicked him away, causing him to fall to the ground.

Blood, once again, flowed from his mouth.

"Ling Chen!"

Su Mei looked at Ling Chen with a pained expression and worry.

"Let's go!" The old man snapped, holding Su Mei with one hand and lightly tapping the ground with his foot. In the blink of an eye, the two disappeared into the thick night, leaving no trace.

After they left, Ling Chen lay on the ground gasping for breath. Once the pain in his body eased slightly, he struggled to get up from the ground.

Back in the car, despite his injuries, Ling Chen started the sedan and immediately chased in the direction where the old man had disappeared.

No matter how skilled the old man was, he couldn't be faster than a car. Ling Chen took a deep breath, remained calm, organized his thoughts, and checked the roads on both sides.

He was on a main road with no branch intersections. Judging by the direction the old man left in, he must have headed towards the downtown area.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen took out his phone and called Hu Fei, planning to repeat an old trick by having Liu Wei make a call to his contacts to locate the old man. Logically deducing, the old man would definitely meet up with those people.

In Jinhai City.

In the underground parking lot of a five-star hotel, three Range Rover off-road vehicles were parked.

Not long after, two people walked towards the entrance of the parking lot; one was an old man over seventy years old, and the other was Su Mei, who had previously been captured.

Seeing the old man appear, a middle-aged man immediately stepped out of a Range Rover. He was holding a phone in his hand and walked while saying, "Hello! Liu, I still have things to handle, I'll talk to you later."

As soon as he hung up, the middle-aged man quickly walked towards the old man.

"Mr. Ji." The middle-aged man greeted respectfully.

"The person is here, you can take her back and report in."

"Yes, Mr. Ji, thank you for your hard work." Saying that, the middle-aged man took Su Mei from the old man's hands and asked, "By the way! Mr. Ji, wasn't there someone else with her, did you find him?"

The old man disdainfully said, "He's a useless loser, why bother wasting thoughts on him."

"Is he dead?"

"He's not worthy of dying by my hands." With those words, the old man closed his mouth and turned to walk outside the car park.

After seeing Mr. Ji leave, the middle-aged man hastily pushed Su Mei into the car.

As three Range Rovers drove out of the underground parking lot, the middle-aged man instructed, "Head to the port."

Halfway through their journey, Su Mei sitting in the backseat asked, "What did you do to them?"

"Don't worry, they are all doing well, their lives are not in danger for now. But, this is under the condition that you cooperate with me..."

Boom!

Suddenly, a loud noise erupted as the Range Rover in the middle was instantly rammed into the roadside. The sedan that hit it had its front completely wrecked, and its windows shattered, scattering glass all around.

Faced with this sudden turn of events, the Range Rovers in front and behind immediately stopped, and several men sprinted from their vehicles to check on the people inside.

"Damn! Can't you fucking drive? Are you blind or what?" A man cursed at the sedan's driver while walking to the car door, he reached in to pull the driver out.

But just as the car door opened, a hand suddenly reached out, grabbed the man's collar, and violently pulled him in. Instantly, the man's head hit the car door's top, knocking him unconscious.

"Who is it?"

Amidst the shouting of the surrounding men, Ling Chen quickly rushed down from the driver's seat and charged directly at the men near the Range Rover.

In a short span, five men were down at Ling Chen's feet. Taking advantage of the delay before others could encircle him, Ling Chen hurriedly opened the door of the crashed Range Rover, glanced inside, and saw that the two men in the front passenger and driver seats were unconscious, while the two men in the back responsible for guarding Su Mei were still groggy.

Because those two men served as a human shield, Su Mei in the middle wasn't much affected.

Seeing Ling Chen at the car door, Su Mei showed a hint of joy. Before she could speak, she heard Ling Chen say, "Stay seated and don't move."

After giving instructions, Ling Chen pulled all the men in the back out, followed by the people in the driver and passenger seats, and threw them onto the ground. Without waiting for the others to catch up, Ling Chen quickly jumped into the driver's seat and restarted the Range Rover.

Fortunately, the Range Rover's quality was solid. Despite enduring the collision, only the body's side skirt was slightly deformed, which did not affect driving.

"Hold on!"

As his words fell, Ling Chen floored the accelerator, breaking through the crowd.

"Miss Su, where is that old man who captured you?" Ling Chen asked.

He must clarify the situation about that old man, the greatest threat.

"I'm not sure; he left after handing me over to those people."

That's a relief! Ling Chen quietly breathed a sigh of relief. However, as soon as he relaxed, he immediately felt a sharp pain through his body. The wounds on his body had not yet recovered, and just now he had forcefully rescued Su Mei. Now the pain flared again making him utterly uncomfortable, even his vision started to blur.

Chapter 560 Heavenly List Expert

Seeing Ling Chen sway the Land Rover from side to side, Su Mei asked worriedly, "Ling Chen, how are you?"

"I'm... I'm fine." Ling Chen said laboriously. Under intense pain, he bit down on his tongue tip forcefully, and immediately, his mind cleared up significantly. Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen looked at the rearview mirror, only to see another Land Rover quickly catching up from behind, speeding faster and faster.

Seeing this, Ling Chen controlled his speed and gradually slowed down. Shortly after, the pursuing Land Rover quickly caught up and drove alongside his.

As the two Land Rovers were side by side in a straight line, Ling Chen suddenly turned the steering wheel, veering the car sharply to the left.

Bang!

With a loud crash, the two vehicles collided fiercely. Under the impact controlled by Ling Chen in the Land Rover, the other vehicle slightly shifted to the side. Conveniently, there were several cars parked on the roadside, blocking the pursuing Land Rover's path which, unable to dodge timely, crashed into the rear of a parked car, billowing white smoke.

Having shaken off the other Land Rover, Ling Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief. He then sped up and drove the Land Rover into a nearby open-air parking lot. After that, he abandoned the Land Rover and randomly stole another car in the parking lot, continuing the escape with Su Mei.

Over ten minutes later, feeling increasingly weak, Ling Chen had no choice but to stop the car on the roadside, then found a simple motel to rest for a while.

When paying, the motel owner, seeing the beautiful like celestial Su Mei then looking at Ling Chen, revealed a meaningful smile in his eyes.

"302." The motel owner handed the room key to Ling Chen and leaned closer to him, chuckling lowly, "That room has better soundproofing, you two can enjoy yourselves to the fullest."

Although the motel owner spoke quietly, Su Mei still heard him clearly from the side, her pretty face blushing deeply, her eyes unable to hide her embarrassment.

Ling Chen, uninterested in explaining, quickly dragged Su Mei up the stairs.

In room 302, Ling Chen sat on the bed leaning against the wall, panting heavily.

"Here, drink some water first." Seeing Ling Chen's injury seemed severe, Su Mei quickly opened a bottle of mineral water provided in the room.

After taking a few sips and soothing his throat, Ling Chen felt much more comfortable, though the pain in his chest was still intense.

"When will Song Ge and the others arrive?"

Hearing Su Mei's question, Ling Chen shook his head, took out his mobile phone, and said, "You call him yourself. Give them our address and ask them to hurry over, I can't hold on much longer."

Su Mei nodded, took the phone, and dialed Song Ge's number.

Once the call connected, Su Mei spoke urgently, "Song Ge, it's me, you... what?" Not knowing what was said from the other end, Su Mei's face slightly changed.

"Okay, I understand, be careful."

After Su Mei hung up the call, Ling Chen asked, "What happened over there?"

"They were attacked right as they left the airport." Su Mei couldn't hide her worry while saying this, "Song Ge told me that the attacker was an old man, likely the same one who injured you."

Ling Chen frowned and said, "Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion sent so many experts over, can't they take down that old man?"

Miss Su sighed, "I'm afraid things are not as simple as you imagine. That old man... is a Heavenly List master!"

What?

Ling Chen's pupils shrank, his face revealing shock.

Heavenly List master!

No wonder Song Ge and the others were stopped; it turns out that old fellow is a Heavenly List master. Ling Chen secretly felt fortunate that when he encountered that old man previously, the man probably disdained killing him; otherwise, even ten lives wouldn't have been enough to survive.

That said, the Heavenly List master secretly protecting Miss Su's safety must have been unable to help because of that old man.

"Miss Su, are there no Heavenly List masters among the reinforcements sent by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"Do you think there are many Heavenly List masters in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Aside from our own people, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion only has two Heavenly List masters. One is solely responsible for my safety; the other stays in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to fend off foreign enemies." At this point, Su Mei suddenly changed the topic, continuing, "The old man who hurt you before, I think I know who he is."

"You know his identity?"

Su Mei nodded and said, "I've heard people calling him Mr. Ji. Among the Heavenly List masters I know of, there is an old man surnamed Ji, whom I have never met; I can't believe he was recruited by the God Organization. If I remember correctly, his name should be Ji Gang, and he's already over eighty years old. Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has always wanted to contact him to maintain good relations, but he is elusive and has no fixed abode, so we have always been unable to reach him."

Ling Chen was somewhat surprised, saying, "I thought he was a Heavenly List master 'manufactured' through the Lucifer experiment; turns out he's real."

"The Lucifer experiment I learned about is actually the development of one's own potential, guided by effective scientific technology, combined with medicinal enhancements, which instantly enhance one's strength multiple times. However, these 'manufactured' Heavenly List masters, no matter how powerful they are, can't surpass those who break through limits by their cultivation. Moreover, everyone's potential has a limit; even if the experiment is successful, it will greatly reduce their lifespan."

"I see."

While talking, Ling Chen suddenly felt a heaviness in his chest, barely catching his breath, and his face turned unsightly.

Seeing his discomfort, Su Mei said, "We should still go to the hospital to check; your injury can't be neglected for too long."

"No need." Ling Chen shook his head, "Going to the hospital could likely expose our whereabouts." With a computer expert Hu Fei by his side, God Organization surely doesn't lack such experts.

"How about... we call the police?" suggested Su Mei.

"No." Ling Chen directly rejected Su Mei's suggestion. He knew too well the style of God Organization; even if they sought help from the police, God Organization would neither fear nor show mercy, only causing more innocent casualties.

"You don't need to worry too much about me; I'll be fine with some rest. It's unlikely that the God Organization's people will find this place anytime soon, and we can rest assured."

Su Mei, with a worried expression, said, "I wonder how Elder Zhou and the others are faring?"

"It's a pity we don't know their whereabouts; otherwise, we could think of a way to rescue them first."

Hearing this, something seemed to occur to Su Mei, and she said, "The people who captured me previously said they were sending me to the port; could this be a clue?"

The port?

Ling Chen's mind stirred. Yes! Located by the sea, they must be planning to leave by boat.