

The Beauty 561

Chapter 561 Port Rescue (1)

"Stay here, I'm going out for a bit," said Ling Chen as he got up, ready to leave.

"What are you going to do?" Su Mei quickly caught up to Ling Chen, obstructing his path and asked.

"Elder Zhou and the others must be trapped on the ship, I'm going to scout out the situation and see if I can rescue them."

"No! You're so severely injured and can barely take care of yourself, how can you go and rescue them? Don't end up risking your own life too."

"It's okay, no need to worry about me. People from the God Organization know that the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has sent reinforcements, most of their manpower must be intercepting Song Ge and the others, the manpower at the port should be less, this is a good opportunity, we cannot miss it."

"But..." Su Mei still hesitated. Her hesitation mainly stemmed from her concern for Ling Chen's safety. He was covered in wounds, and she did not want his condition to worsen. As the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, she had some knowledge in medicine and knew very well that as a martial artist, if one cannot control their injuries, the condition might worsen and possibly lead to long-term complications.

"Right!"

At that moment, Ling Chen seemed to remember something, hurriedly reaching into his pocket, rummaging left and right, and finally pulled out something wrapped in plastic paper.

"I have this."

"What is that?" Su Mei asked curiously.

Ling Chen smiled as he peeled off the plastic wrapper, revealing a small white orb, immediately dispersing a faint fragrance throughout the room.

"Heavenly Mechanism Pill!"

As the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, Su Mei would naturally recognize it.

Ling Chen nodded, the pill in his hand was a quality Heavenly Mechanism Pill, obtained from the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony. There are three types of Heavenly Mechanism Pills: ordinary, quality, and superior. However, only those who have reached the level of Dragon List could consume the quality Heavenly Mechanism Pills. Ling Chen, who was previously ranked in the Tiger List, had used an ordinary Heavenly Mechanism Pill before and found it effective, but he had never used the quality ones.

After securing the first place in the recent rookie competition, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion awarded him four quality Heavenly Mechanism Pills. He kept three at home and carried one all the time, just in case.

He had just recalled that he still had one with him.

"Heavenly Mechanism Pill isn't a healing medicinal pill, at most it can only alleviate your pain, not have much effect on the injuries," said Su Mei.

"Alleviating the pain is enough." With that, not waiting for Su Mei to say anything more, Ling Chen swallowed the quality Heavenly Mechanism Pill.

As soon as the pill entered his mouth, its effect began to work in his body. The quality Heavenly Mechanism Pill indeed had a much stronger effect than the ordinary ones. Soon, the pain in his chest was significantly alleviated.

"Alright, I'm fine now, I'll head out now," Ling Chen patted his chest, showed Su Mei an OK sign, and then turned towards the door. Reaching the doorway, Ling Chen slapped his forehead, quickly turned around, took out his phone, and placed it in Su Mei's hand.

"Keep the phone so we can easily stay in contact."

"Then take care of yourself."

"I know."

After leaving the hotel, Ling Chen drove the stolen car straight to the Jinhai City port.

In less than half an hour, Ling Chen arrived outside the port. He parked the car at the roadside, stood outside the gate, and glanced around. Although it was already 4 a.m., many workers were still loading and unloading goods.

It is normal for a major port to operate 24 hours with staff working shifts. Ling Chen observed for a while, but did not notice any suspicious individuals or questionable ships.

Right then, Ling Chen slipped past the workers and quietly went into the port management center. While nobody was paying attention, he picked up a work uniform and put it on, ensuring that his identity would not be discovered.

In the harbor, a large area is piled with containers. Ling Chen wore a work cap, pulled the brim down, and discreetly moved among the workers, searching for the whereabouts of Zhou Jun and his companions.

At this moment, a large group of workers were operating machinery, loading cargo onto a cargo ship, and more than ten large containers were successively transported to the ship.

After spending more than ten minutes, Ling Chen walked a big round in the harbor. He searched every suspicious place, but still came up empty-handed.

Strange!

Ling Chen frowned secretly, wondering if he had come to the wrong place.

Just as he was thinking, his eyes were suddenly drawn to several vehicles parked side by side not far away.

Range Rover!

It was indeed here!

Ling Chen thought to himself. If he had any doubts before, he was sure now that Zhou Qi and his people must be detained somewhere in the harbor.

However, apart from a cargo ship, there were more than ten fishing boats and several yachts around the port. He had checked the fishing boats and yachts and found no signs of anyone, all dark and deserted.

Cargo ship!

Ling Chen looked up at the cargo ship not far away and nodded secretly. Except for that ship, he had checked everywhere else. However, searching such a large ship might be problematic.

After thinking for a while, Ling Chen blended in with the port workers, picked up a woven bag, and followed the team quickly onto the cargo ship.

Once on the cargo ship, Ling Chen carefully observed the people around him. Soon, he identified several suspicious targets. Although these people were dressed in work clothes, they were not working. Instead, they stood around, monitoring the actions of others.

Moreover, under their clothes around their waists, Ling Chen saw bulges, likely lethal weapons.

Having identified the targets, Ling Chen pressed his cap down, lowered his head, and walked towards a man. Approaching him, Ling Chen glanced around, noticed that no one was paying attention to them, and without hesitation, he took action, knocked the man down to the ground, covered his mouth, and dragged him behind a box.

"If you don't want to die, you better cooperate with me." Ling Chen coldly threatened.

"Tell me, where are all the people you've captured?"

The man quickly raised his hand and pointed to a stack of containers not far away.

"Are you sure?"

The man hastily nodded, indicating he was not lying.

"You better not be lying to me; otherwise, I'll come back for you."

With that, Ling Chen raised his left hand, turned it into a knife-hand, and severely chopped at the man's neck, knocking him unconscious. To avoid detection, Ling Chen pulled a cloth from nearby and covered the man's body, hiding his tracks.

He then continued to disguise as a worker on the cargo ship, walked through the busy crowd, and headed straight towards the containers.

Upon reaching the area, Ling Chen walked past the containers, carefully listening to any noise inside.

"Hey, what are you doing over there?"

Suddenly, a man in charge of patrol noticed Ling Chen's actions and hurriedly called out reprehensively.

Chapter 562 Port Search and Rescue (2)

As the man shouted, everyone's attention instantly focused on Ling Chen.

Darn it!

Ling Chen cursed under his breath, that guy's eyes were too sharp.

At this moment, he couldn't care about hiding his identity and yelled loudly, "Elder Zhou, where are you?"

Right after his words, Ling Chen heard a 'bang bang' noise. Following the sound, Ling Chen immediately locked his gaze on one of the containers.

So they were all locked up in here.

Before Ling Chen could release Zhou Qi and the others, the nearby duty personnel already rushed over, each reaching for their waists.

Seeing those people preparing to draw weapons, Ling Chen immediately changed direction and dived towards a nearby metal box. Behind the metal box, Ling Chen glanced inside and found it was filled with a large number of screws. These screws and nuts, specially made for the cargo ship, were very large and heavy.

Looking at those screws and nuts, a glint appeared in Ling Chen's eyes. He casually picked up a few and threw them as hidden weapons. With the help of his wrist, all the screws hit the targets accurately, knocking them to the ground.

After continuously taking down five duty personnel, Ling Chen saw the deck was clear and immediately rushed to the container, ready to release Zhou Qi and the others.

However, when he saw the locks hanging outside the container, his brows involuntarily furrowed.

There were a total of three locks on the outside of the container, each as thick as a thumb, and it was impossible to break them by force alone. Seeing this, Ling Chen anxiously looked around, hoping to find tools to open the locks.

At this moment, after the recent conflict, all the deck workers had escaped from the cargo ship, and no one was to be found. However, there were plenty of noises coming from outside the cargo ship, likely members of the God Organization.

What to do now?

Ling Chen thought hard to himself, having finally located Zhou Qi and the others, he couldn't just abandon them and escape alone. Amidst his contemplation, Ling Chen suddenly noticed the crane set up in the port, and his eyes lit up.

There's a way!

Without waiting for pursuers from outside the cargo ship to arrive, Ling Chen tapped his toes lightly, speeding swiftly, and leaped straight off the ship's deck, landing firmly on the ground. He then continued to run at full speed.

Soon, he reached the base of the crane.

With his agile skills, Ling Chen grabbed the supports with both hands and quickly made his way up. In less than ten seconds, he reached the crane's control booth, thirty meters high.

Upon entering the booth, the operator inside looked at Ling Chen in surprise and said, "Who are you? Get down from here; this place doesn't allow outsiders." As he spoke, the man tried to drive Ling Chen away.

Watching the man's approaching hand, Ling Chen, without saying a word, swiftly grabbed the operator's wrist and gave it a gentle twist. Instantly, the worker let out a cry of pain.

"Behave yourself, you better do exactly as I say," Ling Chen commanded while pointing at the deck of the cargo ship. "Get that container down for me."

The operator, sweating coldly, said with difficulty, "This...this is against the rules."

"Friend, you know best how high up we are here. If you accidentally fall, you'll lose your life. Your life is almost gone, and you're still worried about breaking the rules?"

Upon hearing this, the operator felt a chill rise from the soles of his feet.

"Don't...don't kill me, I'll do as you say."

Under the control of the staff, the crane slowly operated, moving from mid-air above the deck of the cargo ship. Then, the iron hook hanging from the crane arm latched onto both sides of the container, slowly pulling it up and moving it toward the port.

Taking advantage of the moment when the staff were operating the crane, Ling Chen scanned the control room and saw a pile of tools in the corner, including a wire cutter.

"Bring the container over here." As soon as he finished speaking, Ling Chen picked up the wire cutter, stepped outside the control room, and watched the slowly moving container.

As soon as the container neared, Ling Chen immediately extended the wire cutter in his hand, cutting all three locks on the outside.

As the doors of the container swung open, it revealed Zhou Qi, Zhou Jun, and over ten members of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, all bound tightly and with their movements restricted.

"Elder Zhou."

Ling Chen hurriedly jumped into the container, helping everyone to untie their ropes.

"Ling Chen, how did you get here?" Zhou Qi asked, puzzled.

"We'll talk about that later. This is not a safe place to stay, let's leave quickly." Saying this, Ling Chen walked out of the container, returned to the crane control room, and signaled to the staff member to lower the container to the ground.

However, at that moment, Ling Chen, standing at a high vantage point, suddenly saw several Land Rovers approaching rapidly from outside the port gate. Besides that, the sharp-eyed Ling Chen also noticed a rapidly moving figure following behind the Land Rovers. Due to the high speed, he couldn't see clearly. But, knowing the skills that person possessed, he knew who it was.

Ji Gang.

A master from the Heavenly List!

"They arrived so quickly." Ling Chen frowned secretly. In his expectation, Ji Gang and his men should be intercepting the reinforcements from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; they shouldn't have managed to return so quickly. But now, it seemed things weren't going as smoothly as he thought.

Seeing that the people from the God Organization were about to arrive, Ling Chen rushed out of the control room and shouted to the people in the container, "Elder Zhou."

"What's wrong?" Zhou Qi poked his head out and asked.

"Quick, go that way," Ling Chen pointed in another direction of the port, urging them anxiously.

"What about you?"

"Don't worry about me. Go first, I'll meet up with you later. Hurry, if we don't go now, it'll be too late."

Seeing Ling Chen's anxious face, Zhou Qi didn't dare to delay any longer. Without waiting for the container to touch the ground, he led the others to jump from nearly ten meters high and then sprint towards the direction Ling Chen had pointed.

Seeing Zhou Qi and the others leaving, Ling Chen immediately returned to the control room, pushed aside the staff member, and operated the crane himself, moving the container towards those Land Rovers.

When the leading Land Rover was about to pass right beneath the container, Ling Chen slammed the button down hard. Suddenly, the container hanging in mid-air fell directly, smashing the Land Rover flat. Under such heavy pressure, there was no chance for anyone in the car to survive.

As the first Land Rover was destroyed, the subsequent few Land Rovers, being too close to stop, collided into each other.

Seeing this scenario, Ling Chen's lips curved in a slight smile, giving a soft chuckle.

He had finally bought some time for Zhou Qi and the others to escape.

"Nicely done."

Ling Chen patted the staff member's shoulder, then quickly sprinted out of the control room. With Zhou Qi and the others gone, it was his turn to leave.

However, as Ling Chen climbed down from the crane, preparing to flee the port, he saw a flash before his eyes, and an old man suddenly appeared in front of him.

Chapter 563 The Fisherman

Ji Gang!

Ling Chen's pupils shrank, and he couldn't help but retreat. Facing a master from the Heavenly List, such a reaction was not shameful. Ling Chen knew well that he was vastly inferior to the old man before him. If he fought against him, he would undoubtedly die.

Still a step too late!

I should have fled earlier, but still, this old fellow caught me.

"You really don't know what's good for you," Ji Gang said coldly. "I spared your life, and yet you dare come here to cause trouble."

"Elder Ji, right," Ling Chen said while looking at Ji Gang. "I can't understand, why would a distinguished expert from the Heavenly List join the God Organization and assist tyrants in their oppression? Didn't your Master teach you that martial artists should follow the righteous path?"

"The righteous path?" Ji Gang scoffed dismissively and said, "What is the righteous path, and what is the path of evil—it's not for you to define. As long as I have enough power, the path of evil can become the righteous path. Kid, I'm over sixty years your senior; it's not your place to lecture me. Opposing me is a death wish!"

At the utterance of the word 'death,' Ling Chen immediately felt an overwhelming presence rush towards him. Even before moving, the force was already exerted. Feeling the pressure emanating from Ji Gang, Ling Chen's throat felt as if it were being strangled, breathing became difficult, and his entire bearing was completely suppressed, unable to lift his head.

Of the thirty-six stratagems, retreating is the best.

Flee!

If I don't flee now, I really will lose my life here.

Choosing his direction carefully, Ling Chen didn't hesitate—he immediately started sprinting with all his might.

"Trying to escape?" Watching Ling Chen's retreating figure, Ji Gang let out a sneer, lightly tapped his toes, and chased after him with lightning speed.

After a frantic rush of several dozen meters, Ling Chen was getting closer and closer to that cargo ship.

Almost there!

Hope was within reach, and Ling Chen's eyes gleamed brighter. The docks offered no means of escape except the sea. Once in the water, under the cover of the dark night, the other party wouldn't be able to find him.

However, just when Ling Chen was less than five meters away from the water, a strong gust of wind suddenly swept towards him from behind. Ling Chen's heart sank. He didn't need to look back to know who it was. In that moment, he clenched his teeth and gathered all his strength into his legs, shooting forward at his top speed.

But even though he was fast, Ji Gang was faster.

Three meters... Two meters... As the distance closed, Ling Chen leaped into the air, arms raised high, fingers joined together, plunging straight towards the water. But at that moment, a powerful force brutally struck his back, and the potent Inner Strength penetrated his skin, instantly spreading throughout his body.

Pff!

A mouthful of fresh blood spewed out, and Ling Chen lost consciousness, plummeting into the pitch-black sea. Accompanied by a splash, Ling Chen's figure immediately disappeared.

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Hotel.

In room 302, Su Mei was holding a teacup, her brow furrowed with worry as she sat restlessly, waiting for news of Ling Chen.

Knock knock knock!

At that moment, a crisp knocking on the door could be heard. Su Mei quickly got up and walked to the door, opening it.

"Ling..." Before she could finish, Su Mei swallowed back her words and instead said, "You've finally arrived."

"Pavilion Master, we apologize for our tardiness," Song Ge said with remorse.

"It's okay, didn't you say you were attacked on the way? How is everything?"

"Not too bad, we didn't suffer heavy losses. Pavilion Master, we should escort you away first."

Su Mei nodded and asked, "Do you have any news about Ling Chen?"

"Elder Zhou just made contact with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. They have escaped safely, but as for Ling Chen... there is still no news of him, and Elder Zhou didn't elaborate."

Hearing this, a gleam appeared in Su Mei's beautiful eyes, and the worry in them diminished significantly. Zhou Qi and the others being rescued meant that Ling Chen's operation was successful. Since Zhou Qi was alright, Ling Chen should have also escaped unharmed.

"Let's go, let's meet up with Elder Zhou and the others first."

"Yes, Pavilion Master."

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Ling Chen didn't know how long had passed when he groggily opened his eyes, struggling to sit up. However, as soon as he moved, a wave of severe pain swept through his entire body, causing him to involuntarily moan.

Damn it!

His limbs wouldn't obey him.

Ling Chen vaguely remembered being hit hard by Ji Gang as he fell into the sea. But the fact he could still feel pain now meant that he had survived.

Where is this?

He struggled to turn his neck, surveying his surroundings. He found himself lying on a crude wooden bed, surrounded by mud walls cracking in many places as if they would collapse at any moment.

The roof above was covered with thick layers of thatch, and many dried small fishes were hanging from the beams, filling the hut with a pungent fishy smell.

Through the walls, Ling Chen could faintly hear the sound of waves crashing. If he wasn't mistaken, he must be by the sea, and the owner of this house was possibly a fisherman.

As he pondered, a person walked into the cabin, an old man around seventy or eighty years old, with a gaunt face and a slender figure, wearing a conical hat, carrying a basket of fish in his left hand. Through the gaps in the basket, more than ten fresh fish could be seen.

Perhaps sensing Ling Chen's gaze, the old man turned his head and said indifferently, "You've finally woken up."

"Old man, how long have I been unconscious?"

"Two days," the old man replied. "Two days ago, while I was out fishing, I found you lying on the beach, so I rescued you. You're lucky to still be breathing; otherwise, not even a deity could have saved you."

"Thank you!" Ling Chen expressed his gratitude. If it weren't for this old man, his life would have been long gone.

"Old man, do you have a telephone here? I want to make a call to a friend."

The old man gestured towards the room's furnishings and counterquestioned, "Do you think I have such a thing?"

Ling Chen took a quick glance and realized that the room really didn't have any electrical appliances, not even a lamp; the lighting was done with old-fashioned kerosene lamps.

"Old man, if you don't have one, could you help me borrow one from someone else?" Ling Chen asked, not giving up hope.

The old man shook his head and said, "I'm the only one living in this place, there are no outsiders, and I don't wish to interact with outsiders. You better just stay here peacefully until your injuries heal, then you can leave on your own."

Ling Chen felt helpless and pleaded, "Old man, I really have an urgent matter. Please help me, I'll be sure to repay you generously after this is all settled."

"Forget it, I have no interest in your gratitude," the old man paused, and before Ling Chen could say anything more, he continued, "Your injuries are very serious. You can't leave bed for five days, and even if you contact your friends, you'll still have to stay here for five days."

Saying that, the old man walked over to an old wooden table, pulled out several bottles and jars from underneath, then took out a porcelain bowl, poured contents from the bottles and jars, mixing them together.

Chapter 564 Goddess Meets Goddess

Before long, a bowl of some unknown liquid was ready.

The old man carried the porcelain bowl to the bedside, propped up Ling Chen's neck with one hand, then brought the bowl to his lips and said, "Drink up, this stuff is good for your injuries."

Ling Chen wrinkled his brow slightly at the pungent smell emanating from the bowl and asked, "What kind of medicine is this?"

Although the old man before him had saved him, he didn't let his guard down. Being cautious never hurts, no matter the situation.

"This is a traditional remedy; rest assured, I have no reason to harm you. If I wanted to harm you, why would I bother saving you? Just drink it quickly."

Hearing this, Ling Chen thought it made sense, and without further hesitation, he braved the assault on his taste buds and downed the unknown medicinal liquid.

As the medicine went down his throat, Ling Chen immediately felt his head grow heavy and he drifted off to sleep. It wasn't long before he fell into a deep slumber.

Watching Ling Chen asleep, the old man mumbled to himself, "Lucky for you, you have a strong life force. You took the Heavenly Mechanism Pill and it kept you breathing; otherwise, you'd be long gone."

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East Sea City.

Wealthy Manor.

At this moment, Nanrong Wanqing and Liu Xiyao were sitting in the living room, staring at the entrance, hoping that Ling Chen would appear in their line of sight the next second. However, having waited for two or three days, there was still no sign of Ling Chen returning.

"Could he... could he have had an accident?" said Nanrong Wanqing, filled with anxiety.

Ever since the night Ling Chen asked her and Liu Xiyao to return, she had lost contact with him, without a single piece of news. What worried her the most was whether Ling Chen had been captured by those people, or worse... There was another possibility, but she dared not even think it.

At that moment, Nanrong Hao walked in from outside.

Seeing Nanrong Hao, Nanrong Wanqing immediately couldn't sit still. She quickly got up to meet him, asking impatiently, "Did you find him?"

Nanrong Hao shook his head and said, "I asked the guys, they said Chen went to Jin Sea City a few days ago and hasn't been heard from since."

Liu Xiyao asked with confusion, "What's he doing in Jin Sea City?"

"I'm not too sure."

"Nanrong Hao, call the police right now," said Nanrong Wanqing, after deep deliberation.

"Call the police?" Nanrong Hao hesitated.

"What are you dazed for, go and make the call now," Nanrong Wanqing urged.

"Oh!" Once Sister had spoken, Nanrong Hao did not dare disobey and quickly took out his phone to dial the emergency number.

"Wanqing, don't be too anxious," Su Lin, seeing the urgency on Nanrong Wanqing's face, couldn't help but console her, "You know how capable Ling Chen is. Anyone who confronts him is at a disadvantage, he won't be in trouble."

Nanrong Wanqing sighed lightly and said, "I hope so, too, but it's been two or three days with no news at all, how can I not worry?"

At this point, Nanrong Hao, who was standing by the window, put down his phone and said, "Sister, I've made the call. The police will be here soon."

Less than half an hour later, Xia Mutong, in a neat police uniform, came in with two subordinates.

"Miss Nanrong," Xia Mutong greeted and asked, "Was it you who called in the report just now?"

Anxious, Nanrong Wanqing got straight to the point, "Officer Xia, Ling Chen is missing, and I would like you to help me look for him."

"Disappeared?" Xia Mutong slightly startled, doubting whether she had misheard.

That scoundrel could actually disappear, what a strange occurrence. Knowing Ling Chen as she did, she assumed the scoundrel must be so enthralled by someone's tender affections that he had forgotten to return.

Her mind wandered for a moment before Xia Mutong dismissed the distractions, and spoke seriously, "Miss Nanrong, you say he is missing, what evidence do you have to prove this? Perhaps he's just gone out for fun and forgot to get in touch with you."

"That's impossible, he's not that kind of person."

Xia Mutong said with difficulty, "You can't provide any clues. I'm afraid it's going to be hard for me to help you."

"I..."

"We don't need you to intervene in Ling Chen's affairs."

Before Nanrong Wanqing could finish speaking, an agreeable voice came from the entrance. In an instant, everyone's attention was focused on the doorway.

At the entrance of the room, a gracefully contoured woman walked in, her wrist adorned with an exquisite silver bracelet, a delicate necklace of an unknown material around her soft neck, shining brightly with dazzling multicolored hues.

Even though the woman's face was obscured by a thin veil, the elegant figure, the faint outline visible behind the veil, and the temperament she displayed in her bearing made it clear that this woman was exceptionally striking.

Moreover, she was accompanied by an elder and several men, who were vigilantly guarding their surroundings.

"Who are you?" As the owner of this villa, Nanrong Wanqing asked.

"You may call me Su Mei," the woman replied indifferently.

Xia Mutong scrutinized the other party and asked, "You just said to not intervene in Ling Chen's matters, what do you mean by that?"

Su Mei replied unapologetically, "This is something your police can't handle, so it's better if you don't interfere, to avoid hindering us."

Hearing that, Xia Mutong was inwardly furious. This woman had the audacity to belittle the police.

"Miss Nanrong."

Without hesitation, Su Mei walked up to Nanrong Wanqing, extending her hand and said, "This is our first formal meeting. I'm very pleased to meet you."

Looking at Su Mei's outstretched hand, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Do you know me?"

"I've heard about you. Don't forget we have a mutual friend, Ling Chen."

Ling Chen?

For some reason, when Su Mei mentioned his name, Nanrong Wanqing felt a pang of discomfort. She sensed a whiff of hostility from this woman.

However, thinking of the missing Ling Chen, Nanrong Wanqing immediately discarded the strange thoughts and asked, "Do you happen to know where Ling Chen is?"

"I'm not certain yet, but rest assured, I'll do everything I can to find him." After speaking, Su Mei scanned the onlookers and said, "I have matters to attend to, if you'll excuse me. Miss Nanrong, I believe we will have many more opportunities to meet in the future. Goodbye!"

After the words fell, Su Mei, surrounded by Zhou Qi and the others, turned and left the living room.

Watching Su Mei's departing figure, Su Lin spoke discontentedly, "Who is this woman? She has no manners at all, acting as if this is her own home. Coming and going as she pleases."

"Forget it!" Nanrong Wanqing interjected, "It doesn't matter who she is, as long as she can help us find Ling Chen."

"Miss Nanrong, rest assured, our police will certainly help you find Ling Chen," Xia Mutong spoke earnestly. Her competitive nature was already piqued, Su Mei's comments earlier had made her feel slighted, and she found it very uncomfortable.

She was determined to see who could find Ling Chen first.

Chapter 565 Su He

In the blink of an eye, three days had passed.

These days, Ling Chen had been staying in the room, lying on the bed unable to move. The fisherman would come daily at a fixed time to administer traditional remedies to treat his injuries.

So many days had passed without a word from him, and he guessed that Nanrong Wanqing and the others were probably worried sick.

With no other choice, Ling Chen sighed, knowing he shouldn't have given his cellphone to Su Mei; it would have been much better to keep it for his own use.

Lost in his thoughts, the door of the room was pushed open, and the old fisherman walked in carrying a fish basket. Seeing Ling Chen looking at him, the old man spoke, "Would you like to go outside and sit for a while?"

Ling Chen's eyes brightened, and he nodded eagerly. Having been cooped up in bed all these days, the opportunity to breathe some fresh air was more than welcome.

Immediately, the old man helped Ling Chen up from the bed, then supported his arm and slowly moved him outside. It had been several days, and this was Ling Chen's first time stepping out.

Outside the house, there were several bamboo poles used for drying fish and clothes, and next to them, there was a wicker chair.

Sitting on the wicker chair, the old man took a thick blanket from one of the bamboo poles and covered Ling Chen with it to prevent him from catching cold. By now, it was nearing evening, the sky gradually darkening, and the sea breeze was howling, bringing a slight chill.

"Thank you, Elder Su."

After spending a few days together, Ling Chen had learned the old man's name was Su He, a fisherman who had lived in this place for many years, leading a life almost isolated from the world, self-sufficient, and seldom interacting with outsiders.

Ling Chen admired him; if he were asked to live alone in such a place for decades, he would rather die quickly.

"Elder Su, don't you have children?"

"I do."

"Why don't you reunite with them? It's almost the New Year, and I believe your children would wish for the whole family to be together."

"I am not particular about that," Su He said indifferently: "They have their lives, I have mine, and we do not interfere with each other. The hearts of people in this world are too chaotic nowadays; it's better to live quietly alone."

Hearing this, Ling Chen seemed to understand something. Su He having lived in solitude for these many decades must have experienced some kind of setback in his youth, otherwise, he wouldn't have chosen this way of life.

Looking around at the environment, lush greenery and facing the sea, it indeed was a great place to retire.

"How were you injured?"

At this moment, Su He suddenly popped the question.

"Well..." Ling Chen hesitated and then made up an excuse, "I accidentally fell into the sea when I was on a boat and got swept away by the waves." Saying this, he smiled and continued, gratefully: "I thought I was definitely going to die, but it seems that fate still takes care of me."

Su He looked at him and said flatly, "There's no need to lie in front of me; I know how the injury on your back was caused."

"You know?" Ling Chen was taken aback, looking at Su He with a surprised face.

"You were severely injured by someone using Inner Strength, and the person who did it is very powerful, likely a high-ranked expert from the Heavenly List. You survived not because fate took care of you, but because you had once consumed a Heavenly Mechanism Pill. The effects of the Heavenly Mechanism Pill lingered in your body, which is why you were able to save your life." After speaking, Su He looked at Ling Chen with a profound expression: "Since you were able to obtain a high-quality Heavenly Mechanism Pill, it seems you have a deep connection with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Hearing Su He's words, Ling Chen was immensely shocked, the old man could deduce so much just from his injuries.

Master!

The word spontaneously popped into Ling Chen's mind.

"Elder sir, you..."

"You haven't answered my question yet, what's your relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "I suppose we could be considered friends. I know the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master and have helped the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion out a few times with minor matters."

"Was the Heavenly Mechanism Pill given to you by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"Not exactly, the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony was just held recently."

"The Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony?" Su He had an enlightened look and nodded, saying, "I almost forgot about the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony. Given your age, you must have participated in the Newcomer competition."

"Indeed."

"What place did you achieve?"

Ling Chen gave a slight smile: "I was fortunate enough to win first place."

Su He waved his hand and said, "Those who win first place don't rely on luck. Well, to be young and already top of the Newcomer List shows you are a promising individual." He paused a moment, then suddenly changed the topic, asking, "You just mentioned that you know the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master?"

"Yes, I believe I could be considered a friend in her eyes."

"Friend?" Su He smirked and murmured to himself, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master's age... she must be in her twenties by now, so that's the case... Hmph! What a fateful connection."

Ling Chen, puzzled, asked, "Elder Su, what fate are you talking about?"

"It's nothing." Su He changed the subject and asked, "Who injured you?"

"Ji Gang."

"Was it him?" Su He's expression changed slightly, an expression of astonishment appearing in his cloudy old eyes.

"Elder Su, do you know Ji Gang?"

"I've heard of him." Su He seemed reluctant to say more, and before Ling Chen could speak again, he said, "Stay here and recover for the time being. Don't rush back. Once you've healed, I have something to tell you."

After saying this, Su He turned and walked back inside the house, leaving Ling Chen alone, gazing out at the sea in a daze.

...

Two days later, Ling Chen's injuries gradually healed. Though his back still ached a bit, it no longer affected his ability to walk.

That day, as the sun rose, the sea shimmered under the glow of the dawn sky, radiantly fiery red.

After finishing the breakfast prepared by Su He, Ling Chen followed him out of the house and onto a fishing boat by the seaside.

Once on the boat, Su He gestured for Ling Chen to sit at the bow. Then, he rowed the oars, steering the fishing boat towards the middle of the sea.

"Prajnaparamita Sutra is an extraordinary Internal Cultivation Method. Through the ages, besides Ling Gengqiu, you are the second person to practice this mental method. Since you are already familiar with the Prajnaparamita Sutra, I won't waste words. Today, I will tell you how to effectively enhance your strength."

For the past two days, Ling Chen had disclosed nearly all his matters, except for his relationships with several women; Su He was almost fully aware of his past experiences.

"Elder Su, aren't there only two ways to enhance the Prajnaparamita Sutra?" Ling Chen said.

The information given to him by Su Mei had mentioned that the most effective ways to enhance the Prajnaparamita Sutra were through slaughter and lust, so he was curious about the method Su He mentioned.

"That's correct, unless you want to become a womanizing playboy like Ling Gengqiu, or a ruthless killer who does not blink an eye? Those two methods are unorthodox. If it were me, I would never use those harmful methods to increase my power."

"So, what should be done?"

"The method I am going to teach you today is generally used by martial artists. However, I have added my own understanding and innovations to make it more efficient."

Chapter 566 Teaching the Profession

"What method?" Ling Chen asked humbly for guidance.

During these past days of their acquaintance, although Su He had never revealed his true identity, Ling Chen secretly speculated that this elder must be a hermit of great attainment. Otherwise, how could he have such an intricate grasp of so many secrets?

Thinking it over, he felt his luck hadn't been too bad this time. Although he had suffered serious injuries, fortune often follows misfortune, letting him encounter a true master. If he could obtain guidance from him, perhaps it would enhance his strength.

Su He spoke slowly and deliberately: "Every master's strength is related to their potential. The greater the potential, the higher they can reach; the two are directly proportional. Therefore, it's less about the increase in strength and more about the development of potential. The God Organization understands this very well, so they pour all their efforts into developing potential, thereby strengthening their power. It's undeniable; the success they have achieved is extraordinary. Through tireless effort, they are unmatched in this respect."

"However, the development of potential needs to be progressive and not rushed. It's like a cup that was originally only able to hold one liter of water, but you insist on pouring in two liters. Unless you can change the size of the cup, pouring in more water is pointless. Similarly, our bodies are like a cup; we must continually expand its capacity to embrace myriad rivers and to reach the highest realm."

"The reason why your Prajnaparamita Sutra has plateaued is because you don't know the right method. Apart from killing and lust, you can't effectively cultivate this mental method. This is your biggest deficiency."

Ling Chen asked earnestly, "Then what should I do?"

"Watch closely."

As his voice fell, Su He put down the oar in his hands, lightly tapped the tip of his foot, and his body skimmed out of the fishing boat like a great roc spreading its wings.

Following that, his feet touched the sea's surface, light as a dragonfly skimming the water, causing gentle ripples.

But what shocked Ling Chen the most was that Su He was now standing upright on the sea surface without any sign of sinking.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen felt his mind wasn't quite comprehending. This spectacle he'd only seen in movies was now being played out before him in reality.

For a while, Ling Chen was immersed in shock and couldn't come back to his senses.

At this time, Su He gently lifted one leg and lightly tapped the sea surface, his body immediately zipping out, running swiftly around the fishing boat as if on flat ground.

After a moment, Su He bent one leg into a 'Golden Rooster Standing on One Leg' pose, then pressed his whole body down, sitting cross-legged on the sea surface as if merging with the seawater, swaying with the wind.

"Did you see?"

Ling Chen nodded, finally waking from his astoundment.

"Elder Su, how do you do that?"

"Control. Once your realm reaches the Heavenly List, you will encounter such techniques. Why are masters in the Heavenly List strong? Because they are adept at controlling their own strength, turning complexity into simplicity. Speaking of this to you now is premature; this state of being can only be understood intuitively, not conveyed in words."

"Elder Su, then please talk about something within my grasp."

"Rest assured, I will teach you the correct way to develop potential. Besides that, I want you to comprehend 'Control'."

Hearing this, Ling Chen doubted if he heard correctly and hurriedly said, "Elder Su, didn't you just say that only masters in the Heavenly List could understand that level? I haven't even reached the Earthly List yet, how can I comprehend such a profound level?"

Su He patiently explained, "According to my understanding, 'Control' is less a realm and more a technique. As long as it's a technique, there is a way to master it, the learning process may just be harder. In the next few days, focus solely on this; I will impart it to you as much as I can. As for how much you can grasp, that depends on your aptitude and fate."

At this point, Su He changed the topic back, saying, "The development of human potential is stimulated by external pressure. However, the key is to grasp the extent of this. As long as you can handle this well, your strength will steadily improve. Starting today, I will train you in two steps, one is the development of potential, and the other is the mastery of 'Control'. I hope you take it seriously."

Ling Chen nodded with full confidence, "No problem."

Ling Chen was very clear in his heart that this was a rare opportunity for him. It's not just any person that can meet a hermit. He too had gained a blessing through misfortune.

Jin Hai City.

Inside a presidential suite of a five-star hotel, Su Mei stood before the panoramic window, gazing at the towering high-rises outside, her beautiful eyes twinkling with a soft glow of anticipation and hope.

Knock knock knock!

At that moment, a crisp knocking sound came. The elegant lady standing behind Su Mei immediately walked to the door and opened it.

"Elder Zhou." The elegant lady nodded to the elder, then stepped aside to welcome him in.

Zhou Qi quickly walked up behind Su Mei, slightly bowed and respectfully said, "Pavilion Master."

Su Mei turned around to look at Zhou Qi, awaiting orders, and asked, "Elder Zhou, is there any news about Ling Chen?"

"Not yet. I've dispatched more people, searching around the port for Ling Chen's whereabouts, but..." Zhou Qi hesitated as if he had more to say.

Su Mei frowned slightly and asked, "But what?"

"Pavilion Master, that night Ling Chen told us to escape first and stayed behind by himself. It's been almost a week now without any news; no sign of him being alive, no body if dead, I feel... I feel that he might not have escaped that night."

Hearing this, Su Mei's delicate face immediately turned a shade paler. She bit her lip and stared intently into Zhou Qi's eyes, uttering deliberately, "Are you trying to tell me that he... is dead?"

With his head bowed, Zhou Qi said, "Pavilion Master, no one hopes for anything to happen to Ling Chen, but we must face reality. Moreover, you've drawn so many people from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to Jin Hai City just to find someone unrelated, and many within the Pavilion have some complaints about your actions."

Su Mei's expression darkened, and she said coldly, "You better clarify your words, what do you mean by someone unrelated?"

"Pavilion Master, to us, Ling Chen is a lifesaver, but in the eyes of others, they won't think so. Moreover, Ling Chen is not one of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. With such a fuss being made over this, there's bound to be discontent."

With a frosty face, Su Mei responded, "You tell those people, if anyone is dissatisfied, let them come to me personally. I want to see who has the courage. Elder Zhou, you pass down my command, have the people continue to search. In short, we must see him alive, or find his body if he's dead. No one can leave Jin Hai City without finding Ling Chen. Also..."

"Order the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to activate all its intelligence capabilities and find every secret base of the God Organization in Huaxia. With tooth for tooth, eye for eye; since the God Organization wants to start a war, I'll see it through to the end."

Chapter 567 Retaliation of the Two Great Powers

Zhou Qi's heart tightened as he looked at Su Mei and asked, "Pavilion Master, are you really preparing to go to war?"

"When they're bullying us to this point, if we continue to retreat, where will the face of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion lie? Ling Chen is right; the God Organization will never rest content. Since that's the case, we might as well strike first."

"Pavilion Master, going to war with the God Organization is no small matter. Don't you want to discuss it with the elders of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"There's no need," Su Mei said indifferently. "I am the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, my word is the command. Who dares to disobey? Elder Zhou, remember, I don't need others to give me advice when I do things."

Feeling the cold frost in Su Mei's gaze, Zhou Qi quickly bowed with clasped hands and respectfully responded, "Yes, I understand. Please rest assured, Pavilion Master, I will immediately relay the orders." Having said this, Zhou Qi turned and left the presidential suite.

After he departed, the graceful woman who had been standing by Su Mei's side pulled out a continuously vibrating cell phone from her pocket, hurriedly answered the call, and passed it to Su Mei.

Su Mei's furrowed brows slightly relaxed after hearing whatever was said on the phone; she replied with an "I know" and then hung up.

"Pavilion Master, what's happened?"

"It's Elder Qin. He's finally sent a message," Su Mei let out a sigh of relief.

Elder Qin was the Heavenly List expert who had been secretly protecting her. Having heard no word from him for an entire week, she feared he had met with an accident. The importance of a Heavenly List expert goes without saying; even for Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, a Heavenly List expert is an invaluable asset. So, knowing the Heavenly List master was unharmed, Su Mei could finally relax.

"Pavilion Master, what exactly happened to Elder Qin? Why hasn't there been any news for so long?"

"He was found by Ji Gang, and after a fierce battle, he was seriously injured by his opponent and nearly died. Luckily, he managed to escape and save his life. Due to the severity of his injuries, he had no time to contact us. He's been hiding and healing in a safe place these days."

Hearing this, the graceful woman expressed her shock: "Is Ji Gang really that powerful?"

Su Mei nodded lightly and said, "Ji Gang was promoted to the Heavenly List more than thirty years ago, while Elder Qin has been in it for less than ten years, there's definitely a gap. Within Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, probably only that one person can deal with Ji Gang."

"You're talking about him?" The graceful woman immediately guessed who Su Mei was referring to.

Thinking of that one person, Su Mei couldn't help but sigh and said, "Let's not talk about this. As long as Elder Qin is fine, that's good enough."

Now, only Ling Chen's safety remained a concern.

After hesitating for a moment, Su Mei picked up the phone, scrolled through the contacts to find a number, and hesitated to dial out.

Forget it!

Sooner or later, she would have to face it.

With that thought, Su Mei directly dialed the number.

Beep... beep... After a while, the call connected, and a cool voice came through: "You're looking for me for something?"

...

The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was extremely efficient at handling affairs. Following Su Mei's orders, in less than a day, the intelligence organization of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion had dug out over ten secret strongholds of the God Organization spread across the country.

Overnight, all the strongholds had been subjected to devastating strikes.

"Pavilion Master."

Inside the presidential suite, Zhou Qi was reporting the results of last night's battle.

"All thirteen secret locations of the God Organization have been destroyed. Thirty-four people were killed, forty-one captured. I have assigned Zhou Jun to take charge of the interrogation of those people to see if we can dig up more information."

"Very good." Su Mei nodded her head, affirming the actions taken.

"By the way! Pavilion Master, there's another thing."

"Go ahead."

"Last night, during our operation, our people encountered another group. They had the same goal as us, to destroy the secret strongholds of the God Organization. However, those people were ruthless, not leaving a single survivor. I have notified the intelligence agency to investigate the origins of the other party."

"There's no need to check. I know their identity. They are not our enemies, no need to worry."

Curious, Zhou Qi asked, "Then who are they...?"

"Secret Society," replied Su Mei.

She had called the porridge girl yesterday to explain Ling Chen's situation. She was well aware of Ling Chen's background and his relationship with the Secret Society. Now with Ling Chen's whereabouts unknown and his life or death uncertain, the Secret Society would surely take action.

If Ling Chen were truly dead, the Secret Society would probably launch a frenzied retaliation.

Zhou Qi said in surprise, "The Secret Society has always been neutral. Why would they suddenly clash with the God Organization?"

"That's not for you to worry about. Just do your part."

"Understood."

...

At this moment, on the calm sea surface, Ling Chen stood upright with concentration. However, in less than a second, his body immediately sank into the sea.

After splashing around a few times, Ling Chen emerged from the surface, and looking at Su He on the fishing boat, said with a distressed face, "Elder Su, I can't do it."

"It's not that you can't do it; you haven't grasped the correct method. I've told you, when you control your Inner Strength, you must cast aside all distractions, be calm and serene, and integrate yourself with everything around you. Imagine yourself as part of the sea, not thinking about how to stand on its surface."

Ling Chen gave a wry smile. After several days, he had failed countless times, having to soak in the icy seawater for at least a few hours every day. Even with his constitution, it was almost unbearable, and he had thought of giving up several times. Yet, when Su He became serious, he was even stricter than the strictest mentor, giving Ling Chen no chance to retreat and always forcing him to continue.

After listening to Su He's guidance, Ling Chen had no choice but to climb back onto the boat and continue trying.

At this moment, he was unaware that due to his disappearance, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Secret Society, these two mysterious forces, had already launched a furious retaliation against the God Organization.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen cleared his mind of all distractions, stood at the bow of the boat with eyes slightly closed, feeling the cold sea breeze blow against him.

Integration!

Thinking of Su He's teachings, Ling Chen let go of his reservations, felt the raging sea breeze around him, listened to the surging waves, and then visualized these scenes in his mind, immersing himself in them.

Gradually, he felt as if his body was light and airy, as if turning into a breeze, merging with the wind and drifting along with it.

At that moment, he seemed to forget the existence of his body, allowing his consciousness to soar.

After a moment passed, Ling Chen maintained steady breathing, quietly drawing up the Inner Strength from his Dantian, slowly channeling it through his body, finally gathering it in his legs.

As Inner Strength gradually concentrated, Ling Chen stepped confidently off the bow of the fishing boat onto the sea surface without hesitation.

The moment his feet touched the sea, his body suddenly sank down sharply.

Ling Chen had experienced this feeling many times before, and every time at this moment, he couldn't help but panic, fearing he would sink into the water again.

Chapter 568 The Identity of Su He

However, with Su He's reminder and the lessons of the past few days, Ling Chen began to realize some key points. It was normal for his body to sink, but each time it was because of this reason that he would become flustered, leading to the failure of his attempts.

Having learned from his mistakes, Ling Chen immediately made changes, letting his body sink without interfering, focusing solely on maintaining his ethereal state without thinking about anything.

When his body had sunk a few centimeters, Ling Chen felt it suddenly stop, as if he had found his footing.

Success!

Ling Chen felt a surge of joy in his heart.

This excitement immediately disrupted the state he had barely managed to maintain, and his body lost control, sinking into the seawater once again.

Emerging from the surface, Ling Chen looked at Su He on the fishing boat and said excitedly, "Elder Su, did you see that? I succeeded."

With a faint smile, Su He nodded in affirmation and said, "Not bad, although you only maintained it for one second, it's at least a good start. The progress you've made in just a few days indicates that your aptitude is quite decent. Keep up the effort, as long as you can learn to control and use your own Inner Strength, your power will increase by several levels."

"I owe it entirely to Elder Su's cultivation," Ling Chen expressed his gratitude.

The morning's training ended, and Ling Chen took the fishing boat back to shore with Su He.

The lunch was simple, a few roasted sweet potatoes, plus a few steamed fish and a wild vegetable. Su He's food was always self-sufficient, and although it wasn't luxurious, it was natural and had a unique flavor.

While eating, Ling Chen nibbled on a sweet potato, his eyes occasionally glancing at Su He, his face contemplative.

"Kid, what are you looking at me for?"

Seeing his fidgeting noticed, Ling Chen awkwardly smiled and said, "Elder Su, if I may dare to ask, in the past..."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Su He immediately raised his hand to stop him.

"Don't inquire about my past; anyhow, it's none of your business. Finish your food and take a good rest; we have special training this afternoon." With that said, Su He pulled out a dagger from his waist and cut a hot roasted sweet potato in half.

Ling Chen's gaze unintentionally swept over the dagger and suddenly froze, unable to move for a long time.

Noticing Ling Chen's action, Su He spoke dissatisfiedly, "Didn't I tell you to stop looking?"

"It's not that... Elder Su, this..." Ling Chen stretched out his hand, pointing at the blade of the dagger, a look of surprise on his face.

There was a broken sword pattern engraved on the blade of the dagger. Ling Chen was very familiar with this pattern; it was the unique symbol of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Su He carrying a dagger marked with the symbol of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion – what did this imply? For a moment, Ling Chen speculated on Su He's identity.

He clearly remembered that when Su He had saved him, he had mentioned that he had survived because he had taken a Heavenly Mechanism Pill.

But he only thought of Su He as a hermit and thus did not ponder why Su He knew he had taken the Heavenly Mechanism Pill. Now looking back, only someone very familiar with the Heavenly Mechanism Pill would know what medicine he had taken.

The Heavenly Mechanism Pill, along with this dagger bearing the mark of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, suggested that Su He's identity might have a significant connection with the Pavilion.

Su He unremarkably put the dagger away, his tone indifferent, "This was a gift from a good friend of mine who is with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; no need to make a fuss over it."

Hearing this far-fetched explanation, Ling Chen nodded half-believingly and did not continue to press further. He knew that even if he kept on asking, he would not get any more information, and he might even anger Su He, thus losing more than he would gain. Hence, Ling Chen smartly chose to remain silent.

...

Beijing.

In a nondescript house located in the center of the city, a middle-aged man sat in a wicker chair by the window, holding a cup of coffee in his hand, gazing into the distance, enjoying the bustling view outside the window with great contentment.

After a while, the door to the room opened, and a young man with a commanding presence quickly walked in and then stood firm behind the wicker chair.

"What is it?" the middle-aged man in the wicker chair asked.

"Mr. Lin, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Secret Society have destroyed more than thirty of our secret bases, affecting over two hundred individuals. They were either taken away or killed; none

were left behind. If those captured cannot withstand torture, our secret bases established in Huaxia will be increasingly exposed."

The middle-aged man asked with keen interest, "I can understand the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion seeking revenge, but the Secret Society... We have no feud with them. We've even cooperated a few times before. Why are they targeting us? Could it be that they have been won over by the Pavilion?"

"I'm not quite sure about the motives of the Secret Society. Mr. Lin, how do you plan to handle this crisis?"

"Crisis?" The middle-aged man chuckled lightly, his tone unconcerned, "This is hardly a crisis. It's merely minor disturbances from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Secret Society. Let them destroy those secret bases and take the people; after all, they're just insignificant small fries, no need to fret for them."

"Yes, I understand what to do." After speaking, the young man turned to leave.

"Wait!"

Hearing the middle-aged man's voice from behind, the young man quickly turned back and asked, "Mr. Lin, do you have any further instructions?"

"Last time I dispatched Liu Wei in charge of the operation in East Sea City, but now there's no sign of him, not even a message. I guess he's not coming back. Mr. Yun's technological skills are crucial and of great use to us. Now that we have fallen out with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it's time to speed up the process. Send a few reliable people to East Sea City, and make sure to bring Nanrong Wanqing back."

"Yes, I will attend to it immediately."

"Also, has there been any response from the Dangyang Sect?"

"Not yet. Our operation failed, and we couldn't eliminate the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, so the Dangyang Sect is naturally hesitant to throw in their lot with us. Hmph! Human nature, I can understand. Unfortunately, they have forgotten whom they are dealing with. You, come here."

The young man promptly brought his head closer to the middle-aged man.

After a low-voiced conversation, the middle-aged man asked, "Did you get it all?"

"Understood."

"Good, do as I say, and it won't be long before the Dangyang Sect willingly joins us." Saying this, the middle-aged man laughed with pride.

...

In the blink of an eye, another three days passed, with only a week left until New Year.

However, the Nanrong Family, which should have been immersed in the festive atmosphere, could not find joy.

So many days have passed, and Ling Chen was still nowhere to be found. Even Nanrong Wanqing, who was firmly convinced that Ling Chen was still alive, couldn't help but shed tears every day, her eyes swelling with crying.

"Wanqing, come out for a moment, someone is looking for you outside."

Chapter 569 Wu Jun

Hearing Su Lin's voice from outside the door, Nanrong Wanqing picked up a tissue, wiped away the remaining tears at the corners of her eyes, got up with red and swollen eyes, walked to the door, and opened it.

"Wanqing..." Seeing Nanrong Wanqing's haggard look, Su Lin couldn't help but sigh softly, her face full of concern, consoling her, "Wanqing, don't be too sad. No news doesn't mean something has happened to Ling Chen. Maybe he's fine and just delayed because of some matters."

Nanrong Wanqing nodded lightly and asked, "Who did you just say was looking for me?"

"The person said he's a friend of Ling Chen."

"Let's go, come with me to take a look."

Arriving in the living room, they saw a man in his thirties sitting on the sofa, gentle and refined, with an exceptional demeanor.

Upon seeing Nanrong Wanqing coming downstairs with Su Lin, the man promptly stood up and said politely, "Miss Nanrong, hello!"

Nanrong Wanqing examined him with a puzzled face and asked, "May I know who you are...?"

The man smiled and replied, "My name is Wu Jun, I'm a friend of Ling Chen."

"How come I've never seen you before?"

"Miss Nanrong, I don't know if Ling Chen has told you, but he used to serve the country in a secret military unit."

Nanrong Wanqing nodded, "I've heard about it."

"I am his former comrade-in-arms, only recently discharged from service. It's normal that you haven't met me."

"I do know one of his comrades-in-arms."

Wu Jun smiled, "The one you're talking about must be Tang Yuan. Old Tang has been through life and death with Ling Chen for many years; their relationship is the strongest."

After listening to Wu Jun, Nanrong Wanqing felt more trust in his identity and asked, "Mr. Wu, why have you come to find me this time, if I may ask?"

"Miss Nanrong, to tell the truth, I'm here because of Ling Chen. I believe you're aware that Ling Chen has been missing for many days, and his life or death is uncertain. However, what I want to tell you is that he hasn't really disappeared."

"Then where is he?" Nanrong Wanqing asked impatiently.

"He..." Wu Jun hesitated and then said, "He's currently in a very dangerous situation, at risk of losing his life at any moment. I'm here to see you at his request."

Nanrong Wanqing became anxious, "What exactly happened to him?"

"Recently, our organization called us old members back to carry out a very important secret mission. Although the mission was completed, we suffered heavy casualties. Ling Chen got seriously injured trying to save his teammates. Doctors say his condition is very unstable, and it's hard to say whether he can pull through. Yesterday, when Ling Chen regained consciousness, he entrusted me to see you. Also, having heard the General speak of your relationship, I thought perhaps your presence might help him."

"Alright, I'll go with you." Nanrong Wanqing agreed without a second thought.

Su Lin tugged at Nanrong Wanqing's sleeve and whispered, "Wanqing, don't be so hasty to agree. Everything he said just now is just his word; who knows if it's true or false."

"He knows Tang Yuan and the General; I believe he's not lying."

"That doesn't mean anything for sure. You better be careful not to fall for a trap."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing thought for a moment and then asked, "Mr. Wu, there are two very close contacts of Ling Chen in his former organization, do you know who they are?"

"Mu Zhiyuan and Chen Ping." Wu Jun smiled and said, "Not only is Ling Chen close with them, but I also consider them family. We have all received much kindness from this couple, it's just a pity... Ah!" Wu Jun sighed, his expression turned sad, "Good people don't live long; they left us too soon."

Nanrong Wanqing nodded, trusting Wu Jun's identity a bit more.

"By the way! Mr. Wu, why didn't the General send Tang Yuan?"

"During our secret mission, Tang Yuan was also unfortunately seriously injured. His condition is similar to Ling Chen's, and he is currently undergoing treatment at the base, still not conscious." After saying this, without waiting for Nanrong Wanqing to ask anything more, Wu Jun added, "Miss Nanrong, we're pressed for time. I hope you can accompany me there as quickly as possible."

"Wanqing..."

Before Su Lin could finish speaking, Nanrong Wanqing had already stopped her with a look.

"Mr. Wu, I'll go with you."

Seeing that Nanrong Wanqing was insistent on going, Su Lin chimed in, "I'll come too."

Wu Jun shook his head and said, "Miss Su, I'm very sorry, but I was ordered to only take Miss Nanrong. The place has a high security level; it's a national military secret base. If it wasn't for considering Ling Chen's safety, we would never make an exception to bring Miss Nanrong there."

"I understand." Nanrong Wanqing turned to look at Su Lin and said, "Don't come, just stay at home peacefully."

"But... but you be careful."

"It's okay. Mr. Wu, let's hurry."

"Alright." Wu Jun responded with a nod and took the lead towards the door.

Watching Nanrong Wanqing's departing figure, Su Lin quickly took out her mobile phone and dialed a number.

Leaving the Nanrong family, Wu Jun led Nanrong Wanqing to a Mercedes-Benz van.

Apart from them, there was a male driver in his twenties in the van.

As the Mercedes-Benz van started, it slowly drove out of Wealthy Manor and merged into the traffic flow.

At this time, at the entrance of Wealthy Manor, two Land Rover vehicles followed behind the Mercedes-Benz van, maintaining a distance of more than thirty meters.

Sitting in one of the cars, Nanrong Wanqing looked at the route the Mercedes-Benz van was taking and asked, "Where are we going? Aren't we going to the airport?"

Wu Jun smiled, "Don't worry; we still have to go through some security measures."

During the conversation, the Mercedes-Benz van drove directly into a nearby underground parking garage.

"Follow them."

Zhong Wei, sitting in the passenger seat, said.

Liang Zhao Hui nodded and immediately followed the Mercedes-Benz van into the parking garage.

Reaching the second level of the underground parking garage, Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui searched for the position of the Mercedes-Benz van outside the car window.

Before long, Liang Zhao Hui pointed to a Mercedes-Benz van not far away and said, "There!"

"That's not it." Zhong Wei shook his head and pointed to another Mercedes-Benz van parked in the corner, "That one."

When the two men clearly saw the license plates of those two Mercedes-Benz vans, their expressions suddenly changed. The license plates of the two Mercedes-Benz vans were exactly the same.

"Captain Zhong, look, there's another one."

Very quickly, Liang Zhao Hui with sharp eyes noticed that there were at least five Mercedes-Benz vans of the same model and with the same license plates in the underground parking garage.

Damn it!

Zhong Wei said gravely, "The chairman has been deceived!"

Just as they spoke, they saw the Mercedes-Benz vans driving out one after another.

"Zhong Wei, which car should we chase?" Liang Zhao Hui asked urgently.

Chapter 570 Assistant

Zhong Wei looked left and right but even he couldn't determine which Benz business van Nanrong Wanqing was sitting in. Watching those vans gradually driving away, Zhong Wei casually pointed and, following his intuition, said, "It should be that one."

"Got it." Liang Zhao Hui immediately started the Land Rover, closely following the designated Benz business van.

"Notify the second team to find a car and follow too."

"Understood."

This time, only two Land Rovers were sent out while the other party had five Benz business vans, so they could only choose two vans to tail. A forty percent chance isn't too great, but it's not too low either.

As the cars pulled out of the parking lot, Zhong Wei and Liang Zhao Hui locked onto their target and followed the Benz business van to the downtown area. Since there were too many pedestrians around, the Benz business van had to stop on the roadside.

After a while, the driver's door opened, and a man wearing a peaked cap jumped out of the vehicle and quickly melted into the crowd, disappearing in the blink of an eye.

Zhong Wei didn't have time to think and hurriedly chased after him. Looking at the empty Benz business van, Zhong Wei muttered under his breath, "This is bad," and immediately picked up the walkie-talkie: "Calling the second team, have you got anything?"

"Captain Zhong, the driver fled, and there's no one in the car."

Hearing the news from the second team, Zhong Wei's face collapsed.

"Captain Zhong, what should we do?" Liang Zhao Hui rushed over and asked urgently.

"Alert the police, lock down the airport."

Before Zhong Wei had finished speaking, his phone started ringing. He took it out and saw an unknown caller ID, then immediately answered the call.

"Hello, who's this?"

"There's no need for you to bother with Miss Nanrong's matter, nor to call the police. We'll handle it."

Zhong Wei said in a deep voice, "Who are you?"

"Don't ask. Just stay at home comfortably, and I'll ensure Miss Nanrong is safely returned home." Before Zhong Wei could ask anything more, the caller had already hung up.

...

East Sea City.

Old City.

At this moment, Hu Fei sat in his office with the company of numerous beautiful women, his fingers flying rapidly over the keyboard, entering command after command on the computer screen. With his actions, the surveillance footage on the display next to him kept changing, always locked onto a Benz business van.

More than ten minutes went by when the Benz business van drove into a motel. After a moment, the Benz van disappeared and, instead, an Audi sedan drove out of the motel, slowly merging into the traffic.

Seeing this, Hu Fei immediately picked up his mobile phone and dialed a number.

"Hey! They've switched cars; their current location is toward the suburban outskirts, possibly preparing to leave the city. Take down the license plate number and follow them, but don't get noticed."

"Why make it so troublesome? Just stop their car directly and rescue the person."

"No!" Hu Fei said immediately, "Going there would only mean death. Don't make any rash moves for now."

"That person is quite capable?" the person on the phone asked.

"He was formerly a member of the Ghost Organization; he won't be that bad in any case, so it's better to be cautious. Ling Chen mentioned him to me before—Wu Jun, a traitor of the Ghost Organization, responsible for the death of many comrades. Ling Chen even asked me last time to help locate him. I never expected this guy to be so bold as to dare to run to the Nanrong Family. It's fortunate you called to inform me in time, or we'd be in big trouble."

"So what do we do now? I promised Ling Chen I would ensure Miss Nanrong's safety. Are you telling me to just do nothing?"

"That's not what I mean. Ling Chen's whereabouts are unknown at the moment, and we can only rely on ourselves. You follow them first and see where they go. I'll try to think of a way to find more people to help."

"Alright then."

After hanging up the call, Hu Fei pushed the women aside and stood up from his office chair.

...

"Do you want to ask me to go save Nanrong Wanqing?"

"That's right." Hu Fei nodded and said, "We have people, but they are just street thugs. We can't ask them to clash with the people from God Organization. Apart from you, there aren't many others in East Sea City we can find. Last time Ling Chen saved you from death's door, you owe him one."

"I didn't say I wouldn't help. When do we leave?"

"Very soon. I'll contact a few more people, and we'll get going once everyone is here."

"Okay."

...

In the quiet alley, Hu Fei stood at the entrance, looking at a small restaurant not too far away with indecision, seemingly struggling to make up his mind.

At that moment, a dark-skinned man walked out of the small restaurant. He was holding a trash bag, ready to take out the trash.

"Mr. Hu?"

The man noticed Hu Fei hesitating at the entrance of the alley and waved with a smile, then approached Hu Fei and asked, "Mr. Hu, why didn't you come inside? What are you doing just standing out here?"

Hu Fei looked at the dark-skinned man before him, hesitated to speak, opened his mouth several times, but ultimately the words failed to come out.

Seeing the troubled expression on Hu Fei's face, the dark-skinned man's smile faded, and he couldn't help asking, "Mr. Hu, what's the matter?"

Hu Fei let out a helpless sigh and said, "Liu, I promised you before that I would help you leave behind your past life so you could lead a peaceful life like a normal person. But... I've run into some trouble..."

Hearing this, Boss Liu grinned and said, "Mr. Hu, thanks to you, I had the opportunity to become a common man. For me, you are my benefactor. Don't worry, whatever the trouble is, I will help you resolve it, even if it costs me my life."

"Thank you!"

"What's there to thank me for."

...

Half a day passed.

In front of the express delivery office in the Old City, a sedan car slowly parked by the roadside. Then the car door opened, and a tall, graceful, sexy and attractive blonde got out of the car and walked straight into the express company.

Following the blonde's arrival, a taxi closely followed suit, stopping next to the express company.

"Miss Kaelina, thank you for coming over."

In the spacious and bright office, Hu Fei expressed his thanks.

Kaelina looked around and asked, "Didn't you say there were more people? Why is it just us two?"

"Don't worry, they'll be here soon."

No sooner had he finished speaking than the office door was pushed open, and a dark-skinned man strode in.

Kaelina eyed the man, her beautiful eyes sparkling, and asked, "Hu Fei, who is this?"

Hu Fei smiled and introduced, "His name is Liu Dongsheng, my friend. He owns a small restaurant in East Sea City. Miss Kaelina, my friend is a good cook; you should try his food sometime."

Hearing that, Kaelina's gaze towards Liu Dongsheng became more interested.

After some small talk, another person came in from outside.

Hu Fei pointed at the newcomer and said, "This is Jiang Yunkai. Let's all get acquainted."