

The Beauty 581

Chapter 581 - Falling into a Trap

Before Ling Chen could react, there was a loud 'bang' and the door of the private room was forcefully broken open. More than ten men in suits streamed in all holding guns and loudly commanded, "Nobody move!"

Seeing who it was, Ling Chen felt a jolt of shock. Why is it them?

Without time to think further, Ling Chen quickly turned his attention towards the backpack on the table. However, the backpack containing HZ1 had already disappeared without a trace. At the same time, near the window of the private room, Wu Jun was holding the backpack in one hand, punched through the window glass with his fist, and directly jumped out, vanishing instantly.

"Stop!"

Ling Chen inwardly cursed, hurriedly rushing forward, attempting to chase Wu Jun.

Bang!

Just then, a crisp gunshot suddenly rang out, the bullet whizzing past Ling Chen and striking the window sill.

"Ling Chen, you better stay put honestly, otherwise don't blame my bullets for being indiscriminate."

Hearing the scolding from behind, Ling Chen furrowed his brows tightly, quickly contemplating his strategies in his mind. After careful consideration, Ling Chen ultimately gave up on escaping. With so many people pointing guns at him, any movement could turn his body into a hive of bullets.

Although he was confident in his own abilities, these men in suits were after all members of the Lonely Wolf. He had heard from Tang Yuan that ever since that supervisor joined the Lonely Wolf, there had been significant changes made to their structure.

Aside from the original members personally selected by the General, that supervisor had recruited many experienced special forces from the army to join the Lonely Wolf as external members. Ling Chen was well aware of that person's methods.

The Lonely Wolf was an organization built from scratch by the General, obedient only to the General himself. With that person joining Lonely Wolf midway, naturally, he had to build his own power to restrain the General and compete for the right to speak in Lonely Wolf.

Thus, Ling Chen was clear on the capabilities of these men in suits. Though their combat abilities might not match his, their shooting skills were absolutely impeccable, honed through rigorous training.

"Arrest him."

The sound of footsteps approached, and two men in suits immediately came forward, binding Ling Chen's hands behind his back.

"Have you caught him?"

At this moment, a voice came from the entrance of the private room. Ling Chen turned his head and saw a man in his forties, surrounded by several subordinates, walking towards him.

The man had a square face, stern facial features, and his lips curved into a subtle, almost imperceptible cold smile, exuding a cunning appearance.

"Officer, we have caught him, but we lost the item."

Seeing the middle-aged man approaching, Ling Chen asked, "Who are you?"

"Tang Guoxiong, currently in charge of overseeing the whole Lonely Wolf."

Ling Chen raised his eyebrows, his gaze instantly sharp.

So, this was the man the General spoke of.

"Ling Chen, you colluded with Qiao Zhen and others to steal government property, you conspired with evil forces, I am now arresting you in the name of Lonely Wolf. You better cooperate nicely, do not resist. You were once a member of the Ghosts, so you should know the rules of Lonely Wolf. If you make any dangerous moves, I won't hesitate to kill you. Did you hear me?"

Ling Chen, with a frown, said, "If it wasn't for you just now, Wu Jun would not have had the chance to escape, and HZ1 wouldn't have been taken by him."

"Cut the nonsense, you are a wanted criminal now, you have no right to tell me what to do. Ling Chen, Qiao Zhen and the others are already in a dire situation themselves, you better fend for yourself, don't expect they will come to save you." After speaking, Tang Guoxiong waved his hand grandly, "Take him away."

Leaving the restaurant, Ling Chen was roughly escorted by two men in suits to an SUV, then followed the convoy towards the east of Changling City.

Twenty minutes later, the convoy stopped outside a large courtyard.

After getting out of the car, Ling Chen followed several men in suits closely, passing through a large gate and heading straight into the courtyard.

Once in the courtyard, Ling Chen noticed that Tang Guoxiong had brought quite a number of people to Changling City. The surroundings of the yard were filled with various boxes, containing everything from electronic devices to military equipment.

"What are you doing here?" Ling Chen asked.

"Didn't you tell Qiao Zhen that God Organization has stationed its forces in Changling City? This time we intend to completely eradicate God Organization."

Ling Chen laughed mockingly and said, "With just these people?"

"What, you look down on us?" Tang Guoxiong said confidently, "All of these are elites I have carefully selected., The fact Qiao Zhen couldn't do it doesn't mean I can't. He's getting old and was embarrassingly beaten by God Organization, it's time for someone else to take over."

Seeing Tang Guoxiong's self-satisfied expression, Ling Chen scoffed, shaking his head, unwilling to respond to him.

Ignoring Ling Chen's disdain, Tang Guoxiong smiled and said, "Just wait and see, it won't take three days before I eradicate the forces of God Organization. Go, lock him up first, and after I handle things here, we'll return to Beijing together."

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Sitting in a small dark room, Ling Chen looked at the tiny ventilation duct the size of a fist overhead and sighed to himself.

This was truly unexpected; Tang Guoxiong actually showed up with Lonely Wolf's men, probably all part of Wu Jun's conspiracy.

Knowing he was a wanted man, he secretly disclosed information to Lonely Wolf, leading Tang Guoxiong and his team here.

Now, instead of rescuing Nanrong Wanqing, he had inadvertently handed Wu Jun an advantage. What a loss.

Moreover, the issues worrying Ling Chen now were more than just that.

Given the intelligence capabilities of Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, they would eventually find out he was captured. Once they take action to rescue him, they will be confronting government agencies. Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion have always maintained a distance from the government, which is why the government turns a blind eye to them. If a conflict erupts between the three parties, Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will undoubtedly end up worse off.

Sigh! Such a headache.

Bang!

Just then, a sudden loud noise came from outside the room, like something hitting the wall.

Immediately afterward, the footsteps outside the room gradually faded away and disappeared.

What happened?

Ling Chen got up and approached the door, pressing his ear against it to listen.

After a while, he heard a faint breathing sound through the door. A few seconds later, a 'clang' sounded as if the chains outside the door were being unlocked.

Ling Chen took two steps back, keeping his eyes fixed on the door.

As the door was pushed open, a slender silhouette suddenly appeared in Ling Chen's line of sight.

"Why is it you?"

Recognizing the person's face, Ling Chen was immediately shocked. He had thought of many possibilities, but never expected it would be her coming to rescue him.

"What are you daydreaming about, hurry up and go."

Hearing the urging from the other side, Ling Chen quickly came to his senses and hastened towards the door.

Chapter 582 Xia Mutong's Sudden Appearance

Leaving the dark room, Ling Chen sees a wall next to the courtyard has been knocked down, with a vehicle stopped in the middle, and broken stone bricks piled up all over the ground.

Beside the car door, there also lie two unconscious men in suits.

"They..."

"Don't worry, they are fine, just hit by anesthetic needles."

Hearing this, Ling Chen breaths a sigh of relief. Luckily it was just anesthetic needles, not harming their lives; otherwise, things could have become very troublesome.

Taking advantage of Tang Guoxiong and his people not yet returning, Ling Chen doesn't linger and quickly leaves the courtyard.

Once inside the car, Ling Chen, looking at the woman in the driver's seat, asks curiously, "How did you know I was here?"

The woman smiles smugly and says, "Do you remember when we bumped into each other at East Sea City airport? When I went to snatch your bag, I secretly placed a micro tracker in your pocket."

Ling Chen is taken aback and quickly reaches into the pocket of his coat. Indeed, he finds a tracker the size of a fingernail.

An oversight!

Ling Chen shakes his head helplessly, only concerned about protecting the backpack in his hands; he didn't expect Xia Mutong to be so cunning as to plant a tracker on him unknowingly.

"Do you even know who those people you just knocked out are?"

"Not sure. Whatever kind of people they are, they don't look like the good kind."

"You, oh you." Ling Chen chuckles bitterly, not knowing what to say to her; she dared to act rashly without even clarifying the identities of those people.

"Those are members of a special government department, lucky for you that you didn't reveal your identity, otherwise, you'd be in big trouble."

"Really?" Xia Mutong is startled and starts to panic, "Doesn't that mean I'm a fugitive now?"

Ling Chen nods solemnly, "Mhm."

"That won't do, I have to send you back."

Seeing Xia Mutong trying to get out of the car, Ling Chen hurriedly grabs her arm and says, "Hey! You're actually considering sending me back? Alright, alright, stop joking. Hurry up and take me to the hotel, I still have important matters to handle."

"Are you going to rescue Miss Nanrong?"

"Not just to rescue her, this situation is far more troublesome than I had expected." Ling Chen frowns, his face showing a rare serious expression.

If it was just Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Secret Society involved, things would be much easier. But now, with Tang Guoxiong and Lonely Wolf joining in, it undoubtedly complicates the situation.

Tang Guoxiong doesn't understand the power of the God Organization at all. The people he's brought are at best cannon fodder, serving no real purpose.

So, this mission isn't just about rescuing Nanrong Wanqing and Hu Fei and the others; it's also about stopping Tang Guoxiong, to prevent further loss.

The car arrives at the hotel, and Ling Chen, taking two steps at a time, hurriedly brings Xia Mutong to the guest room.

Knocking on the door, Sang Ji and the others see Ling Chen and can't help but ask in surprise, "How did you escape? We were still discussing how to rescue you."

Ling Chen points to Xia Mutong standing beside him and says, "Thanks to Officer Xia's help." After speaking, Ling Chen walks into the room, looks at Zhou Qi and Zhou Jun, and asks, "Elder Zhou, where did Tang Guoxiong and his men run off to?"

"We just got news that Tang Guoxiong took his men to a town near Changling City by car, which is the necessary route to Yinan Village."

Ling Chen says, somewhat perplexed, "How do they know God Organization's core forces are in Yinan Village? Even your two intelligence organizations haven't found it, how could they?"

Lonely Wolf's intelligence agency is inherited from the old Ghost's, so he is very clear about Lonely Wolf's intelligence capabilities, which cannot be stronger than Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

If it's not information they gathered themselves, then someone intentionally let it slip to them.

Realizing this, Ling Chen's expression suddenly changes.

Not good!

At this moment, Sang Ji and Zhou Qi also come to their senses and exclaim in unison, "It's a trap!"

Ling Chen nods and says, "The God Organization must have given false information to Tang Guoxiong, luring them there, aiming to capture them all in one fell swoop."

"If they are seeking death on their own, just let them be; why care about their fate?" Sang Ji states calmly, "It's actually better this way; with them drawing the God Organization's attention, our actions will be much easier."

"No," Ling Chen rejects Sang Ji's words outright.

Tang Guoxiong brought with him a force of thirty to forty people; it wouldn't be right to let them lose their lives for nothing.

"Elder Zhou, we must rush to Yinan Village immediately." After thoughtful consideration, Ling Chen quickly comes up with a strategy.

Zhou Jun asks, "What do you plan to do?"

"Tang Guoxiong and we don't see eye to eye; if we directly intervene to help, not only will he not appreciate it, but he will also cause trouble for us. So, our only option is to employ a strategy of besieging Wei to rescue Zhao, and directly press on God Organization's core, making them too preoccupied to deal with Tang Guoxiong."

Saying this, Ling Chen looks at Sang Ji and Zhou Qi, saying, "Gentlemen, we are short on manpower; all I can count on now is you. I hope..."

"Don't worry." Before Ling Chen finishes speaking, Sang Ji immediately chimes in, "The orders I received are to assist you with all my might, any need you have, I will fulfill. As for manpower, don't worry, my people will be in position before the action starts."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will do the same," Zhou Qi adds, "The Pavilion Master said that Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion owes you a favor. Whatever you want to do, we will help you without hesitation."

"Thanks!"

At that moment, off to the side, Xia Mutong is feeling utterly confused, having no idea what's going on.

Secret Society? Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? She's never even heard of such bizarre names.

"Ling..."

Just as she's about to speak up, Ling Chen suddenly turns around and says, "Officer Xia, stay here, don't go anywhere, I'll come find you once everything's settled."

With that, Ling Chen leaves the room with Zhou Qi and the others swiftly.

Watching Ling Chen's fading silhouette disappear at the door, Xia Mutong is caught off guard. By the time she comes to her senses, Ling Chen and the others are already gone.

This jerk... Xia Mutong curses resentfully.

She came all this way, only to be left behind again. Doesn't he think about who saved him just now?

If she had known this would happen, she wouldn't have told Ling Chen about the tracker.

Right!

With a sudden realization, Xia Mutong's eyes light up.

She repeatedly heard them mention Yinan Village during the conversation; they must be heading to Yinan Village.

Thinking she can be shrugged off so easily, huh? No way.

Xia Mutong smirks to herself and immediately runs out the door.

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After nearly an hour's drive, Ling Chen and the group finally arrive on the outskirts of Yinan Village.

Since the vicinity could all be within the God Organization's influence, Ling Chen proceeds with extreme caution. Before even reaching Yinan Village territory, they abandon the car and approach the village on foot.

Soon, a quiet village appears in their view.

Chapter 583 The Battle of Yinan Village (1)

Ling Chen stood on a dirt slope, gazing at the village, capturing every visible person and object. However, due to it being late at night, Yinan Village was utterly quiet, not a single light to be seen.

He took out his phone, looked around, then pointed towards the north side of Yinan Village and said: "According to the signal carried by Hu Fei, their location is there, less than five hundred meters away from us."

Sang Ji said, "God Organization tends to build their bases underground, which facilitates concealment from prying eyes."

"You're right. However, the trackers on Hu Fei and his group are still transmitting signals, which means they are on the ground. If they were underground, the signal would probably be blocked."

Zhou Jun nodded: "Ling Chen makes sense. Let's not delay. Now that we have located them, we should act immediately without wasting time."

"When can your people all be here?"

"They are already here," Sang Ji pointed to the nearby surroundings and said: "They are all ambushed around, ready to move as soon as we do."

"We are ready too," Zhou Qi agreed.

"Then let's go."

With everything ready, Ling Chen no longer hesitated and immediately moved in the dark towards Yinan Village.

However, as soon as Ling Chen approached the outskirts of Yinan Village, he heard a whizzing sound passing through the air, plunging straight into the bushes ahead.

Accompanied by a muffled grunt, Ling Chen fixed his eyes and saw a man falling in the bush, a dagger stuck in his neck, and blood gushing out.

That was close!

Ling Chen touched the cold sweat on his forehead, thankful for the timely discovery, or else their movements would have been completely exposed.

He couldn't tell who the person who made the move was, but they were somehow able to detect the presence of the Dark Post.

Having learned from this incident, Ling Chen immediately slowed his pace, vigilantly observing his surroundings. There were definitely more than one Dark Post in this area.

As expected, within a distance of just thirty meters, Ling Chen and Zhou Qi eliminated five Dark Posts, all cleverly hidden.

With the help of members from the Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the group steadily advanced, systematically eliminating the Dark Posts.

In a blink of an eye, more than ten minutes had passed.

At this point, Ling Chen was less than thirty meters away from the signal transmitted from Hu Fei.

Looking around, there were only four houses within a thirty-meter radius, and Hu Fei and his group were certainly detained in one of them.

Then, Ling Chen turned and signaled to Sang Ji and Zhou Qi.

They immediately understood, and each chose a target, then slowly approached the houses.

Ling Chen's target was a house of over a hundred square meters, with doors at the front and back, completely dark inside, and nothing visible through the windows.

After circling the house, Ling Chen directly went to the back door, listening closely for a while. After confirming there was no sound inside, he pulled out a dagger from his body, inserted the blade into the door crack, and gently pried it up; the door immediately opened.

Once inside the room, Ling Chen tiptoed forward. Because the room was too dark, with visibility under one meter, Ling Chen had to rely solely on his keen ears to analyze and judge.

Suddenly, a red light spot appeared in Ling Chen's sight.

Almost instantly, Ling Chen quickly lowered his body, rolling forward to take cover behind a row of sofas. The whole movement was swift and smooth, without any noise.

After a while, Ling Chen slowly raised his head from behind the sofa, looking at the red light spot in the corner and muttered a silent word of thanks.

Thankfully, he discovered it in time. Unexpectedly, this room was equipped with a motion detection device.

The device was perfectly positioned, covering the entire house's entrances and the doors of each room, immediately detecting anyone appearing in this area.

After a moment of contemplation, Ling Chen picked up a cushion from the sofa, aimed in the opposite direction, and tossed it with a swing of his arm.

Suddenly, the cushion traced a parabola through the air. As the monitoring device detected the cushion, the sensor immediately swiveled in its direction. Seizing the opportunity, Ling Chen powerfully launched himself with his legs, sprinting like a cheetah into the adjacent room.

By the time the monitoring device swung back, Ling Chen had already vanished from the living room.

Entering the bedroom, Ling Chen leaned against the door, intending to catch his breath. However, upon seeing the surveillance camera mounted on the opposite ceiling, a wry smile unwittingly spread across his lips.

Despite all calculations, he hadn't anticipated another camera inside the room, pointed directly at the door, capturing his every move.

Damn!

Ling Chen cursed silently.

Realizing he had been spotted, he didn't bother hiding anymore and began openly searching the room for Hu Fei and the others.

He moved around the room's furnishings and soon, Ling Chen discovered a ring pull under the bed, attached to a square wooden board.

Pulling the ring, Ling Chen used both hands to gradually lift it upwards. Immediately, a cell almost five meters deep appeared beneath, resembling a well shaft, its inner surfaces smooth with nowhere to grip. At the bottom, Hu Fei, Liu Dongsheng, and Kaelina were all imprisoned.

"Ling Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen appear overhead, Hu Fei's eyes lit up as he urgently waved his hand and called out.

"Hold on, I'll find something to help you guys climb up."

After saying this, Ling Chen looked around, tore the bed sheet in half, tied them together, and let them fall from above.

Once Hu Fei and the other two climbed up, Ling Chen asked, "Why only the three of you, where are the others?"

Gasping for breath, Hu Fei replied, "Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun were taken away; it's been almost two days with no word from them. We don't know if they are dead or alive."

"What about Wanqing, have you seen her?"

The three exchanged looks and all shook their heads.

"Miss Nanrong must be imprisoned somewhere else."

"Ling Chen, did you come alone?"

Hearing Hu Fei's question, Ling Chen replied, "Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion both sent reinforcements." As he spoke, Ling Chen glanced at Liu Dongsheng, his expression turning somewhat strange.

"Boss Liu, why are you..."

"Don't ask now, I called him here," Hu Fei interjected quickly, urging, "Ling Chen, we'd better find the others soon. Wu Jun told us that he plans to use us as test subjects. I'm worried about the safety of Jiang Yunkai and the others."

"Test subjects?"

A chill ran through Ling Chen, a bad premonition forming in his mind.

"Ling Chen!"

Just then, an urgent shout from Zhou Jun came from outside the house.

Without a second thought, Ling Chen swiftly led Hu Fei and the others as they dashed out the front door.

Seeing the three Zhou Qi outside, Ling Chen asked, "What's wrong?"

"Our presence has been exposed, we're surrounded by enemies."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's eyes turned icy, and with a chilling tone, he commanded, "Kill them all, spare no one!"

Chapter 584 The Battle of Yinan Village (2)

"Ling Chen, the most crucial thing now is to find Miss Nanrong and the others. How about this, we split into three groups: one from the Secret Society, one from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and us. We'll expand the search area and save some time," Hu Fei suggested.

Sang Ji nodded and said, "That's a good idea. Whoever finds the entrance first should immediately notify the others."

Zhou Qi patted Ling Chen on the shoulder and admonished, "Take good care of yourselves and be careful."

Watching Sang Ji and Zhou Qi leave, Ling Chen turned to Hu Fei and asked, "You've been here longer than me and should be more familiar with the environment of Yinan Village. Where should we start looking?"

Liu Dongsheng pointed towards the nearby bamboo forest and said, "That place is full of mechanisms. I suspect the entrance is inside there."

"Let's go check it out," Ling Chen said without hesitation and immediately headed towards the bamboo forest.

When they reached the edge of the forest, Ling Chen didn't think twice before plunging in, weaving through the dense foliage, searching for the entrance.

As Liu Dongsheng had said, the bamboo forest was packed with motion-detecting devices; the security was extremely tight. Nobody would believe that there wasn't something amiss here.

However, the bamboo forest was vast, and finding the entrance amidst it, though not quite like looking for a needle in a haystack, was not far off, and who knew how much time it would waste.

As they moved, a gust of wind suddenly hit Ling Chen's ears. Almost instantly, Ling Chen shifted his feet and slightly turned his body, only to see a sharp dagger slashing close to his clothes.

Without waiting for the assailant to retract, the quick-reacting Ling Chen swiftly locked the person's wrist, gently pulled, and immediately threw the person to the ground. Then, Ling Chen squatted and punched the person's face.

Bang!

Accompanied by a muffled sound, the assailant immediately passed out.

"Ling Chen, are you alright?" Hu Fei who had caught up asked.

Ling Chen shook his head and looked into the dark bamboo forest, his eyebrows unconsciously furrowing. Continuing this search was uncertain; perhaps the God Organization had already led Nanrong Wanqing and the others to escape through another exit.

"Fatso, do you have a lighter on you?"

"I do." Liu Dongsheng pulled a kerosene lighter from his pocket and tossed it to Ling Chen, asking, "Are you thinking of setting fire to the bamboo forest?"

"You saw it too, there's definitely more than one Dark Post in this bamboo forest. Rather than waste time, it's better to burn it down and force those bastards out."

With that said, Ling Chen walked straight to a pile of dry branches and ignited them. Fortunately, it had been clear weather recently; the branches were dry and highly flammable. Soon, the fire started spreading quickly through the entire bamboo forest.

Watching the fierce flames rapidly expand and surge into the sky, Ling Chen turned and said, "Let's go."

Leaving the bamboo forest, Ling Chen could only hear shouts of killing around, mainly concentrated in two directions. He wasn't worried about the safety of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Secret Society; with their abilities, some small fry posed no threat to them.

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At this moment.

In a spacious room, Wu Jun stood in front of several large screens, watching the flames rising into the sky, his expression extremely somber.

"Mr. Wu, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and the Secret Society have both sent masters, and our ground troops may have difficulty resisting. Should we ask Mr. Lin for instructions to dispatch more people?"

"What's the hurry," Wu Jun said coldly. "How's the situation at the laboratory?"

"The experiment is still continuing, with no results yet. Since it's the first time conducting such an experiment, it will take a longer time."

"Tell them not to terminate the experiment without my orders. Also, keep a close watch on Nanrong Wanqing, she is an important bargaining chip."

"Understood."

After his subordinate left, Wu Jun picked up his cellphone, walked alone to the corner of the room, and dialed a number.

At this time, outside the bamboo forest, Ling Chen stared intently at the firestorm, his face emotionless. In less than three minutes, more than ten people had escaped from the blaze. Unfortunately, their bodies had already been consumed by the flames; even though they escaped the bamboo forest, they still could not escape death.

Whoosh!

Suddenly, a silhouette burst out of the raging flames at high speed, quickly approaching him in the blink of an eye.

Ling Chen's pupils shrank; without time to think, he quickly pushed away the people around him and swiftly retreated.

It was only after he had retreated more than ten meters that Ling Chen steadied himself and looked at the person who had emerged from the fire.

Ji Gang!

Recognizing the identity of the other person, Ling Chen's heart skipped a beat, and his frown deepened. It was this old man!

"Your life is indeed tough," Ji Gang said coldly as he stared at Ling Chen. "I thought you were dead."

"How could I be dead if you are not?" Ling Chen retorted unabashedly.

"Humph!"

With a cold snort, Ji Gang's body instantly disappeared from its spot, moving like a gust of wind, rapidly closing in on Ling Chen. In the blink of an eye, the distance of over ten meters between them had shrunk to two meters.

So fast!

Ling Chen backpedaled quickly, his eyes closely tracking Ji Gang, trying to lock onto his position. However, Ji Gang's speed was too fast, almost eluding his sight.

"Die!"

A cold shout came, and Ling Chen's body stiffened, instantly surrounded by an overpowering aura. He felt Ji Gang's shadow everywhere, momentarily stunned and completely at a loss.

Although he had received guidance from Su He, Ling Chen didn't believe that just a few days of training could close the gap with a Heavenly List master, which was clearly unrealistic.

In a flash of thought, a cold, sharp light suddenly shot towards him, landing right next to Ling Chen's foot. At the same time, the pressure around Ling Chen greatly diminished, and he felt as if he had just taken a round trip through hell, covered in cold sweat.

Taking a breath, Ling Chen looked at the sword embedded in the ground, a hint of surprise flashing in his eyes.

At that moment, Ji Gang stood with his hands behind him to the side, his sharp gaze sweeping around, and coldly spoke, "Qin Chuan, since you've come, why hide and not show yourself?"

"Ji Gang, as a master of the Heavenly List, what ability is it to bully a youngster?"

As the voice sounded, Ling Chen's sight unexpectedly included an old man, youthful yet with white hair, a face radiant with health, tall and muscular, dressed in a light blue Tang suit, giving an ethereal impression.

Qin Chuan!

A thought struck Ling Chen; this was the mysterious Heavenly List master from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tasked with ensuring Su Mei's safety.

Ji Gang responded disdainfully, "A defeated subordinate, what right do you have to challenge me?"

Unconcerned with Ji Gang's mockery, Qin Chuan calmly said, "I know your strength, so I do not intend to confront you directly. Today's battle doesn't concern us; I just need to hold you off." After speaking, Qin Chuan glanced at Ling Chen and said, "Leave this place to me, you go attend to your matters."

Chapter 585 The Eldest Miss's Old Illness Relapses

Ling Chen clasped his hands in salute to Qin Chuan, and without another word, immediately led Hu Fei and the others toward the bamboo forest.

Just now, when Ji Gang emerged from the bamboo forest, Ling Chen had paid special attention to his location; the entrance should be around there.

Taking advantage of the gradually subsiding fire around them, Ling Chen hurriedly rushed in, his eyes scanning around, occasionally stepping on the ground to avoid missing any important clues.

Before long, the observant Ling Chen noticed that the ground less than five meters in front of him showed signs of disturbance.

He quickly approached it, wiped away the ash on the ground, and suddenly, a steel plate two meters long and one meter wide was revealed before him.

"This is the place."

Ling Chen glanced around; there should have been surveillance cameras here. However, due to the fire, those devices had already been destroyed.

Taking out a dagger, Ling Chen inserted the blade into the gap of the steel plate and then tried to pry it open with all his strength. However, the steel plate was too thick, and a single dagger was simply not enough to pry it open.

Unfortunately, he had nothing else on him besides the dagger. If he had some explosives, it might be possible to try and blast the steel plate.

"Mr. Ling, let me give it a try."

Hearing Liu Dongsheng speak up, Ling Chen immediately got up and gave up his place.

Liu Dongsheng crouched down, tapped the surface of the steel plate, then placed his ear against it, listening carefully for any sounds from inside.

While Liu Dongsheng was busy, Ling Chen walked over to Hu Fei's side and asked quietly, "Fatty, isn't he the restaurant owner? How did you bring him here?"

Hu Fei smiled proudly and said, "Not all of the friends I make are ordinary people. Just wait and see, his skills are quite something."

During their conversation, Liu Dongsheng rolled up his sleeves, revealing his entire arm. Then, he placed his fingertips against his skin and gently pulled outwards. Instantly, a steel wire about ten centimeters long was drawn from underneath his skin.

Seeing this sight, Ling Chen and Kaelina couldn't help but be startled.

Someone had actually hidden things under their skin, this method was truly ruthless. Moreover, looking at Liu Dongsheng, it seemed to be a common practice for him, with no change in his complexion.

In addition to the steel wire hidden in his arm, Liu Dongsheng successively pulled out four more wires from his calf and the back of his hand.

He connected these special wires together and then inserted them into the gap in the middle of the steel plate. After that, he again placed his ear against the steel plate, using his right hand to maneuver the wires non-stop.

It didn't take long to hear a light 'click', and the gap in the middle of the steel plate slowly began to move apart, revealing a spacious entrance.

Ling Chen's eyes brightened; he hadn't expected Liu Dongsheng to actually manage to open the door.

"How did you do that?" he asked curiously.

"These steel plates have control devices inside them; you just need to find the right spot," replied Liu Dongsheng casually.

Ling Chen knew, however, that to achieve this, one must have a wealth of experience and intimate knowledge of various control systems.

It seemed that Hu Fei was right, the people he knew were no ordinary individuals.

Having passed through that steel plate entrance, Ling Chen and the others finally entered the base of the God Organization.

Looking at the complex network of passages inside the base, Ling Chen felt a bit of a headache, unsure of which way to go.

"Let's check over there."

At this moment, Hu Fei pointed ahead and quickly walked over.

There were many rooms along both sides of the passage, with Hu Fei pushing each door as he passed, seemingly in search of something.

Before long, Hu Fei's expression brightened, and he said with a smile, "Found it."

Once inside the room, Ling Chen realized that what Hu Fei had been looking for was a computer.

Opening the computer, Hu Fei moved the keyboard in front of him, eyes glued to the screen, fingers flying, he typed rapidly. Boxes popped up continuously on the computer screen as he worked.

"Done!"

A few minutes later, Hu Fei smirked, his face full of pride.

"How is it?"

"I've connected to the base's main system; I can access all the surveillance now." As he spoke, Hu Fei tapped a few keys, and immediately more than a dozen surveillance feeds appeared on the computer screen.

"Look, Miss Nanrong is locked up there." Kaelina pointed to one of the surveillance screens.

"Can you find Jiang Yunkai and the others?"

"Wait a moment!" Hu Fei focused on the screen, quickly switching surveillance feeds. After a while, he shook his head: "Can't find them, they might be locked up in an area not covered by surveillance."

Liu Dongsheng said gravely: "Wu Jun once said he was going to use us as test subjects, could those two..."

"There's that possibility." Ling Chen interjected: "Here's the plan: I'll go rescue Wanqing, Boss Liu, Kaelina, you two go look for Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun. Fatty stays here, closely monitor their activities. After fifteen minutes, regardless of whether we've found them or not, everyone meet back here. Any questions?"

Liu Dongsheng and Kaelina nodded.

"Be careful."

After speaking, Ling Chen turned and left the room.

Following the route provided by Hu Fei, Ling Chen went straight down the corridor, encountering several security doors. However, with Hu Fei's help, he hardly ran into any trouble.

Soon, Ling Chen arrived at the area where Nanrong Wanqing was detained.

Seeing the surveillance camera in the corner, Ling Chen made a gesture, then leaned against the wall. A few seconds later, under Hu Fei's remote control, the door immediately opened.

As the door opened, Ling Chen's legs powered up, and he surged forward, quickly passing through the doorway.

Before the guards inside could react, Ling Chen had already charged up close, his steel fists thundered out. In no time, several guards were knocked to the ground.

"Ling Chen?"

At this moment, Nanrong Wanqing, who was imprisoned in the cell, finally snapped back to reality, her face radiant with surprise as she saw Ling Chen, her beautiful eyes shimmering with excitement.

"Are you alright?" Ling Chen asked with concern.

Nanrong Wanqing shook her head.

"Wait, I'll get you out first."

Ling Chen searched the guards, found a key.

When the cell door opened and Ling Chen saw Nanrong Wanqing sitting on the bed, he extended his hand to her and said, "Let's go, I'll take you out of here."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing's charming face immediately showed a trace of a bitter smile.

"I... I can't move."

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, not understanding what she meant, and asked, "Are you injured?"

"No, my legs are numb, it's like it's gone back to how it was before."

"How could this be?" Ling Chen was shocked, puzzled. Nanrong Wanqing's legs had obviously been healed, why would this issue recur?

"They seem to have conducted some kind of experiment on me, by the time I woke up it was already like this."

Ling Chen's brow furrowed slightly, comforting her: "Don't worry, it might just be temporary. I'll get you out first."

With that, Ling Chen hoisted Nanrong Wanqing onto his back and strode outside.

Chapter 586 A Move to Insult the Enemy

However, just after leaving the cell, Ling Chen encountered several people blocking his path ahead.

Seeing the man standing at the front, a flash of surprise crossed Ling Chen's eyes. But it soon turned cold, his gaze sharp and wild as that of a beast.

"Yi Shuiyan." Ling Chen enunciated every syllable of the other's name, "I really didn't expect to run into you here." After speaking, Ling Chen glanced at the Dangyang Sect disciples behind Yi Shuiyan and said with a mocking smile, "So the Dangyang Sect is willing to play lapdog for the God Organization. I'm not at all surprised."

"Ling Chen, cut the nonsense. It's not your place to judge the actions of the Dangyang Sect," Yi Shuiyan said with a ferrous face. "I do admire your courage for barging in here, do you not fear death?"

"Death?" Ling Chen said mockingly, "Yi Shuiyan, don't forget, you were defeated by me. To deal with you, one hand is enough."

After saying this, Ling Chen, supporting Nanrong Wanqing with one hand, slowly stretched out his right hand, palm up, and curled a finger at Yi Shuiyan, making a provocative gesture.

Seeing his action, Yi Shuiyan's face grew even uglier, his eyes filled with raging anger, as if he wished to brutally slaughter Ling Chen.

However, he wasn't hot-headed. He knew how to contain his anger, especially considering the lesson from last time; he was well aware of Ling Chen's strength. Now, he indeed wasn't Ling Chen's match.

"Do you think that just because you claimed the top newcomer spot, you can look down on everyone?" Yi Shuiyan spoke coldly.

Ling Chen shook his head and replied, "I've never thought that. There are skies beyond skies, people beyond people. Huaxia is full of hidden dragons and crouching tigers; there are many more powerful than me. But right now, it's just you and me. In my eyes, you're someone I've defeated before, is there a problem with that? If you want to turn things around, rely on your own skills and stop wasting time with

words. I remember you used to be forthright; how come you've become so nagging now? Could it be that after the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, you took a trip to Thailand?"

"Shut up!" Yi Shuiyan bellowed in anger, his barely constrained rage flaring up again.

"Enough talk. If you want to fight, let's get on with it. Don't waste my time," Ling Chen said impatiently. He had only fifteen minutes as agreed with Kaelina; if delayed further, he might not make it to the rendezvous point in time.

"Disciple, since Mr. Ling wishes to fight, accompany him for a few moves."

At that moment, a voice suddenly came from behind Yi Shuiyan.

Ling Chen focused his gaze, and his expression changed instantly.

Zhu Jin!

Sect Leader of the Dangyang Sect.

He didn't expect this guy to be here too. Ling Chen inwardly voiced his alarm. If it was just Yi Shuiyan, he wasn't afraid at all, but with Zhu Jin as well, things were getting complicated.

Although he hadn't fought Zhu Jin before, as the Sect Leader of the Dangyang Sect, he couldn't be that weak.

Hearing his master speak, Yi Shuiyan's courage was greatly bolstered, and he immediately drew the steel blade he carried, stepping towards Ling Chen.

"Ling Chen..." Nanrong Wanqing looked at the approaching Yi Shuiyan, her beautiful eyes full of concern.

Ling Chen gently patted her hand, reassuring her, "It's okay, I can handle this, trust me."

With those words, Ling Chen placed Nanrong Wanqing in a corner of the corridor, against the wall. Then, he straightened his waist and strode forward to meet Yi Shuiyan.

As they approached each other, Yi Shuiyan flicked his wrist, and the steel blade, like a windmill, slashed through the air, seemingly with the force of ten thousand acres, aimed straight at Ling Chen's head.

As the blade wind approached, Ling Chen did not dodge, his sharp eyes looking straight ahead, showing no intention of evasion.

In the moment the blade was about to strike, Ling Chen's fingers swiftly struck out, hitting the steel blade dead center.

The instant his fingertips touched the blade, the steel knife was deflected as if it had been struck hard, springing away, and even Yi Shuiyan's arm was thrown off course.

This sudden turn of events startled Yi Shuiyan, his face full of shock. He had never expected that his blade, carrying his full strength, would be easily neutralized by Ling Chen with just two fingers.

Could it be... in just a few short months, Ling Chen's abilities had advanced to the Earthly List?

No, that's impossible!

Yi Shuiyan stared blankly at Ling Chen, the steel knife in his hand hesitating to rise again.

"Shuiyan!"

Seeing his disciple's dazed expression, Zhu Jin couldn't help but yell out.

Regaining his senses, Yi Shuiyan looked at Ling Chen in front of him and couldn't help but involuntarily step back, a hint of hesitation in his eyes.

Feeling the gap between them, Yi Shuiyan had already lost the courage to make a move.

At the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, under the watchful eyes of the public, he was defeated by Ling Chen.

Now, he didn't want to experience another failure.

For a martial artist, being defeated twice by the same person would undoubtedly cause a significant obstacle to his future cultivation.

Yi Shuiyan knew this well, so he didn't dare to make a move lightly.

"Useless." Zhu Jin snorted coldly, walked forward, and left Yi Shuiyan behind him.

"Ling Chen, you think you're so great, then let me see for myself how capable you really are."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's gaze slightly hardened. His body tensed up, and he stepped forward, positioning himself in front of Nanrong Wanqing.

Back at the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, he had already seen the shamelessness of the Dangyang Sect. Therefore, he had to be on guard against Zhu Jin to prevent others from taking the opportunity to attack Nanrong Wanqing.

Ling Chen was not very familiar with Zhu Jin's strength, but he had heard from Qiu Yong that Zhu Jin was also a high-ranking master on the Dragon List; as to which rank, he wasn't sure.

However, to become the Sect Leader of the Dangyang Sect, his strength couldn't be too lacking.

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen leaned slightly forward, with his shoulders facing Zhu Jin, ready to defend against any attacks.

However, to Ling Chen's surprise, Zhu Jin did not immediately attack, but instead retreated two steps, increasing the distance between them.

Seeing the other's action, Ling Chen was filled with confusion and puzzlement, not understanding what Zhu Jin was up to.

Not only that, but Yi Shuiyan and the others originally behind Zhu Jin also retreated, as if they knew what was going to happen next.

This scene caught Ling Chen's eyes, making him even more surprised. His gaze towards Zhu Jin carried a hint of caution and care.

"Are you ready to take the hit?"

Zhu Jin's voice came, Ling Chen remained silent, his expression stern, fully focused on his opponent, his right arm slightly leaning back. From this position, he could ensure he draws his dagger at the fastest speed.

Observing Ling Chen's tense appearance, a sly smile suddenly appeared on Zhu Jin's face.

At the moment the smile appeared, his long-brewed attack was finally launched.

Chapter 587 Battle with Zhu Jin

Generally speaking, all attacks have techniques to follow. Breaking techniques with techniques is a common practice for all Martial Arts practitioners.

But when Zhu Jin made his move, there were no techniques.

Or rather, his techniques were not techniques, but countless needles!

Covering the sky and flying all over.

Instantly filled the entire corridor.

Watching the dense flying needles, Ling Chen's pupils suddenly constricted, and he involuntarily stepped back. However, when he thought about retreating, he remembered Nanrong Wanqing behind him.

If he gave way, those flying needles would surely hit Nanrong Wanqing.

At this moment, Nanrong Wanqing's legs were injured, rendering her unable to move, so he had to consider her safety.

Thinking this, Ling Chen clenched his teeth, took a big step forward, and his Inner Strength burst forth.

In a split second, the flying needles met an invisible wall, their speed instantly slowed. Seizing this opportunity, Ling Chen reached for his waist, quickly drew out his dagger, and blocked all the flying needles in front of him.

Seeing this scene, Zhu Jin's face involuntarily changed.

Inner Strength released externally!

He almost forgot, Ling Chen's realm had already reached the level of releasing Inner Strength externally. However, his own realm had also reached the level of releasing Inner Strength, but controlling it precisely like Ling Chen was not something everyone could do. Even he could not easily do it.

As the flying needles were deflected, Ling Chen didn't hesitate for a moment, lightly tapped his toes, and took the initiative to attack.

Seeing Ling Chen charging at him, Zhu Jin flipped his palm up, and five flying needles instantly lodged between his fingertips. Then, with a flick of his wrist, at high speed, the five flying needles shot out instantly, heading straight for Ling Chen's face.

As the flying needles approached, Ling Chen still maintained a straight line, showing no intent to change direction. Suddenly, in the midst of his charge, Ling Chen paused his step, twisted his waist, and made a 360-degree spin.

With his movement, the five flying needles immediately flew past beside him. Not waiting for Zhu Jin to make another move, Ling Chen flipped his wrist, tightly gripping the dagger in his hand, and violently threw it out.

At this moment, the distance between the two was less than three meters. With the force added, the speed of the dagger was like a flash of lightning, bringing a burst of piercing sound, heading straight for Zhu Jin's forehead.

Hmph!

Zhu Jin sneered, lightly shifted his feet, and agilely dodged the dagger's attack.

However, as he dodged, Ling Chen seized the opportunity, quickly closing in. In just one step, Ling Chen had already pressed Zhu Jin within half a meter.

Clasping his fist tightly, Ling Chen shouted loudly, with a punch fast as wind, carrying a whistling Qi Force, fiercely bombarding Zhu Jin.

Due to the close distance, Zhu Jin had no time to dodge and had to endure it directly. Instantly, he raised one palm, his Inner Strength gathered and clashed towards Ling Chen's steel fist.

At the moment of contact between fist and palm, an abrupt 'bang' sound erupted, Inner Strength burst forth, and their bodies, like two colliding balloons, immediately retreated.

Watching the clash between the two, Yi Shuiyan's face suddenly changed.

He was shocked to discover that his Master had actually been forced back four steps, whereas Ling Chen only three, immediately revealing the gap between them.

Zhu Jin incredulously looked at Ling Chen, not hiding the shock in his eyes. His own strength was enough to rank in the top three of the Dragon List, and Ling Chen was so young yet able to surpass him.

Back then, during the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, Ling Chen's strength had just entered the fifth rank of the Dragon List; in such a short time, his progress was unimaginably vast.

At this moment, he finally understood why Yi Shuiyan dared not make a move lightly.

Now, Yi Shuiyan indeed was no match for Ling Chen!

"Shuiyan."

Hearing the Master's call, Yi Shuiyan quickly walked to Zhu Jin's side and asked, "Master, what are your orders?"

Zhu Jin glanced at him and said nothing, but the coldness in his eyes conveyed everything.

Before Yi Shuiyan could say anything else, suddenly, Zhu Jin pointed his toes and leaned slightly forward, his legs moving continuously, gliding over the ground like a dragonfly skimming the water, heading straight for Ling Chen.

Just as Zhu Jin made his move, the previously motionless Yi Shuiyan suddenly drew his steel knife, its blade sharp and fierce, heading straight for Nanrong Wanqing behind Ling Chen.

Seeing Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan approaching from different directions, Ling Chen furrowed his brows. His sharp gaze wandered back and forth between the two, his expression hesitating, unsure whom to defend against.

Guarding against Zhu Jin meant he could not protect Nanrong Wanqing. If he blocked Yi Shuiyan, he would definitely be attacked by Zhu Jin.

For a moment, Ling Chen found himself in a dilemma.

Zhu Jin!

Yi Shuiyan!

He could only choose one.

In a flash of thought, Ling Chen pivoted on his feet, turned, and ran towards Nanrong Wanqing, pulling her up from the ground and carrying her on his back. This way, Yi Shuiyan and Zhu Jin could only target him alone.

However, carrying Nanrong Wanqing made Ling Chen's movements very inconvenient.

As the blade came slashing, Ling Chen moved his legs back and slightly leaned back, narrowly dodging Yi Shuiyan's assault.

But the danger was far from over.

As Yi Shuiyan withdrew his blade, Zhu Jin seized the opportunity to close the distance, one palm facing up, the other holding more than ten flying needles, attacking consecutively, giving Ling Chen no chance to catch his breath.

With the flesh palm approaching, Ling Chen didn't even think, and threw a punch, deflecting Zhu Jin's attack. But the real trouble was Zhu Jin's subsequent move.

Seeing the flying needles about to be released, Ling Chen's eyes suddenly turned cold. Following that, he made a move that surprised everyone.

Instead of waiting for the flying needles, Ling Chen threw Nanrong Wanqing up high with both hands. Then, he slid his feet and moved sideways to close distance with Zhu Jin, his fists like dragons emerging from the sea, fierce and powerful, aimed directly at Zhu Jin's vital points.

At this range, even if Zhu Jin released the needles, he couldn't avoid Ling Chen's attack. It would at most result in mutual destruction.

At this moment, Ling Chen had to gamble.

As expected, Zhu Jin, concerned for his own safety, did not dare to fight Ling Chen directly. He quickly retreated, dodging Ling Chen's punches, moving out of his attack range.

Seeing this, Ling Chen secretly breathed a sigh of relief and hurriedly caught the falling Nanrong Wanqing in his arms.

"Attack together!"

Seeing that the combined attack of the two did not threaten Ling Chen, Zhu Jin's face turned incredibly ugly, his eyes blazing with anger.

At this moment, he no longer cared about the rules of the Martial Arts world. As long as he could kill Ling Chen, nothing else mattered.

As Zhu Jin's words fell, several observing Dangyang Sect disciples stepped forward, lined up, and joined the battle.

Ling Chen furrowed his brows, his gaze slightly lifting and sweeping towards the surveillance camera in the corner.

"Attack!"

Accompanied by a light shout, Zhu Jin and the others did not hesitate and immediately launched an attack.

Chapter 588 Protection Mechanism

However, just as Zhu Jin and his men were about to make their move, a sudden 'clang' sound came from the ground. Everyone turned their heads and saw a cylindrical fire extinguisher rolling on the ground.

Moreover, the spray nozzle of the fire extinguisher had been opened, and a white gas burst out instantly, filling the entire corridor.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen felt a sense of relief and immediately ran forward with Nanrong Wanqing through the lingering smoke.

Under the cover of the smoke, Zhu Jin and others could only hear the sound of footsteps nearby but could not see Ling Chen's figure.

"Stop him, don't let him get away," Zhu Jin shouted loudly.

However, by the time he shouted, Ling Chen had already escaped far away under the cover of the smoke.

"Mr. Ling."

After passing through the corridor, Ling Chen immediately heard a familiar voice beside him. He turned his head and saw Liu Dongsheng emerging from a corner.

"Thanks!" Ling Chen said gratefully.

"Don't mention it, Mr. Hu saw through the surveillance that you were in danger, so he asked me to come and lend a hand."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Let's hurry, it would be troublesome if they catch up with us."

As they moved, Ling Chen looked at Liu Dongsheng and asked, "Did you find Jiang Yunkai and the others?"

Hearing this, Liu Dongsheng's face turned somewhat gloomy.

"We found them, but we can't rescue them."

"What happened?"

"You'll see in a moment."

While talking, the three of them hurried to the meeting room.

At this moment, Kaelina and Hu Fei were in the room. Liu Dongsheng closed the room door, locked it, and then brought Ling Chen to Hu Fei's side.

"Is Miss Nanrong alright?"

"She's fine." As he spoke, Ling Chen placed Nanrong Wanqing on a chair nearby and asked, "Fatty, how are Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun doing?"

Hu Fei pointed to the computer screen and said, "You should see for yourself."

Hearing that, Ling Chen immediately went to the computer and stared at the surveillance footage on the screen.

"There! I just found this," Hu Fei said, pointing to one of the screens.

In that surveillance image, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun were each lying on a bed, with their hands and feet bound by straps, immobilized. From their looks, they seemed to have been injected with anesthetic and were in a deep sleep.

Next to the beds, several men in white coats were using various instruments on Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, occasionally injecting them with some type of drug.

Seeing this, Ling Chen knew something was wrong in his heart. It was clear that those in white coats were preparing to use them for experimentation.

"Do you know their location?" Ling Chen asked.

Hu Fei replied, "Miss Kaelina and Elder Liu found their location, but there are two layers of ten-centimeter-thick blast doors outside the laboratory. Even a bomb would do no good. The only way is to take over the main control room of the base; otherwise, there's no other way."

"Where's the main control room?"

Without another word, Hu Fei pulled up a building plan from the computer and marked the location of the main control.

"This is the main control room, right in the center of the base. But that's not the biggest problem. I just reviewed the base configuration; this place has a protective device installed."

Ling Chen, puzzled, asked "What protective device?"

"There's a safety protection system inside the base, once the base is under attack, it will trigger the defensive mechanism, sealing all passageways and isolating the core area of the base. By then, no one will be able to get in or out. Moreover, I understand that this layer of protection can withstand a nuclear explosion."

"A nuclear explosion?" Everyone was taken aback.

Hu Fei nodded and said, "It may be an exaggeration to say a nuclear explosion, but there's no doubt about its solidity. If you guys enter the area of the main control room, you'll likely be trapped inside."

Ling Chen frowned and said, "Is there no way to prevent it?"

"No, that protective system uses an independent control system, and it's not connected to any network; I can't hack into it from here. If I'm not wrong, the control system for that protective device must be in the main control room."

Liu Dongsheng chimed in, "That means, if we can take over the main control room, we can lift the base's protective mechanism."

"That's true, but the key question is, can you do it?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen fell into thought.

He had broken into numerous God Organization bases, but none had ever been equipped with this protective device. It was clear that this base was of great importance to the God Organization. Perhaps this was the main base of the God Organization.

However, as Hu Fei said, whether they could take over the main control room was the key.

With Zhu Jin and others in the base, aside from them, who could guarantee there were no other experts here? Among their group, only he was powerful enough to contend with Zhu Jin. Kaelina and Liu Dongsheng, although capable, were not martial artists.

Thinking this, Ling Chen struggled to make a decision for a moment.

If they abandoned Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, not caring about their lives or deaths, they would have a hundred percent certainty of leaving. However, abandoning friends was not something Ling Chen could do. Besides, they were captured while trying to help him. If he were to leave them behind, it might dishearten the others.

His thoughts raced, and Ling Chen immediately made a decision.

"Fatty, you guys take Wanqing and leave first."

"And you?"

"I'm going to save Kai and the others."

Hu Fei was stunned, his face full of surprise: "You alone? No! You must be crazy, it's pure suicide."

"It's settled, don't worry about me; I know what to do. Kaelina, Boss Liu, ensure their safety, we'll meet outside." Having said that, Ling Chen left the room without waiting for Hu Fei to speak again.

"This guy... always trying to act tough." Watching Ling Chen's retreating figure, Hu Fei shook his head helplessly.

"Elder Liu, let's get moving."

As he spoke, Hu Fei's fingers flew over the keyboard rapidly.

Seeing his actions, Kaelina asked, "What are you doing?"

"What else could I be doing? Of course, I'm giving that guy one last hand. I'll shut down all the surveillance systems of the base in a moment, and then plant a Trojan in the system. It will take them at least a few minutes to reboot the surveillance. Although it's not much time, Ling Chen should be able to reach the main control room with his ability."

Leaving the room, Ling Chen recalled the building plan he had just seen and took another passage toward the core area of the base.

Along the way, Ling Chen encountered almost no obstacles; it was surprisingly smooth.

Before long, Ling Chen arrived in front of a blast door. According to the layout of the building plan, the main control room was just behind this blast door.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen looked up and began to search for a way to enter the blast door.

Chapter 589 The Death of the Traitor

However, at this moment, with a 'click' sound, the originally tightly closed explosion-proof door suddenly opened, leaving Ling Chen astonished.

Ha! His luck was really good.

He didn't know that if it weren't for the Trojan horse implanted by Hu Fei that disrupted the base's control system, this explosion-proof door would never have opened.

After passing through the explosion-proof door, Ling Chen came straight to the outside of the main control room. Listening to the sounds inside, Ling Chen stretched his hand to push the door open a crack, then peeked inside.

The main control room was large, with thirty or forty staff members. However, what caught Ling Chen's attention the most was Wu Jun.

When enemies meet, their eyes blaze with hatred.

Upon seeing Wu Jun, Ling Chen immediately disregarded everyone else.

Bang!

Bursting through the door, Ling Chen strode forward, rapidly rushing towards Wu Jun.

Hearing the noise at the door, Wu Jun turned his head, his face suddenly changing as he saw Ling Chen approaching quickly. He hastily retreated, his right hand reaching towards his waist, seemingly wanting to draw a weapon.

However, his speed could never match Ling Chen's. In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen had already reached Wu Jun. Not waiting for Wu Jun to draw his weapon, Ling Chen reached out with one hand, grabbing Wu Jun by the collar, and fiercely launched his steel fist, brutally hitting his abdomen.

Puh!

A mouthful of fresh blood spewed out, instantly turning Wu Jun's face pale. Seizing the moment, Ling Chen let go, grabbed both of Wu Jun's arms, and twisted gently. There were two 'crack' sounds followed immediately by a scream of agony that echoed throughout the main control room.

Wu Jun, with both arms broken, seemed to lose all strength and collapsed directly to the ground, unable to even climb up.

At this moment, the surrounding staff finally reacted. One of the staff quickly pulled a key hanging around his neck and inserted it into a device. Following that, he opened a transparent cover and forcefully slammed the red button beneath it.

Suddenly, a series of sounds came from outside of the control room, as if some heavy objects had fallen.

Ling Chen glanced and immediately locked onto that red button. Instantly, he lightly tapped his toes, moving swiftly like a gust of wind, rushing over to seize the key controlling the protective device.

However, before he could get close, a fierce gust of wind suddenly shot towards him from the side.

Ling Chen glanced out of the corner of his eye, his heart sinking instantly, and he immediately stopped his forward charge, leaning his body backwards, just in time to dodge the approaching steel knife.

But this delay lost him a perfect opportunity. At this time, Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan had already hurriedly come close, blocking his path.

"Ling Chen, surrender yourself, you can't escape," Zhu Jin said coldly.

Ling Chen snorted lightly, picking up Wu Jun who was struggling on the ground with one hand.

"Zhu Jin, you better step aside. Later, I can speak well on your behalf in front of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and spare you some pain."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?" Zhu Jin scoffed disdainfully, "Do you think I still care about Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? With the God Organization behind me, I will sooner or later destroy Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and take its place."

"Just you?" Ling Chen found it amusing, shaking his head: "Greed overreaches itself, Zhu Jin, what capabilities and qualifications do you have to replace Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? Even if you destroy the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, you are nothing more than a lapdog of the God Organization."

"How dare you!" Yi Shuiyan yelled coldly.

Ling Chen spoke indifferently, "Yi Shuiyan, I used to respect you as a real man, but now I realize, you're nothing more than a beast, not even sparing your own junior sister."

Hearing this, Yi Shuiyan's face darkened instantly.

"You... don't talk nonsense."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen said with a mocking smile, "Whether I'm talking nonsense, you know best in your heart."

When he was on that luxurious cruise ship, Ling Chen had seen Qin Wu in utter despair. From her demeanor, it was evident that she had been violated by Yi Shuiyan against her will.

Since then, Ling Chen had an even lower opinion of Yi Shuiyan.

Listening to their conversation, Zhu Jin glanced at his disciple and then refocused his attention on Ling Chen.

"Ling Chen, there's no need to bring up the past. Release her quickly, and maybe I'll spare your life, allowing you to serve some purpose."

"You want to use me as a test subject?"

"Your two friends are undergoing the greatest experiment in history. If successful, they will undergo a transformative change. They will not only not hate us, but will also be grateful to us, for we have given them a new life."

"I think they would rather be ordinary people."

"It's too late!"

At that moment, Wu Jun, enduring pain, let out a cold laugh, "Look over there, the experiment has already started, and you can't save your friends."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, and he immediately turned his attention to the nearby screen. On the screen, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun were being injected with an unknown drug. As the drug took effect in their bodies, their skin immediately turned a strange color.

At the same time, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun began convulsing simultaneously, foaming at the mouth, appearing very critical.

Seeing this, Ling Chen's eyes blazed with rage.

"Release them immediately!"

"The experiment has already begun, no one can stop it now. Give up that thought, Ling Chen," Wu Jun said with a smug laugh.

Ling Chen, gritting his teeth, coldly said, "If anything happens to them, none of you here will live."

With those words, Ling Chen grabbed Wu Jun with one hand and rushed towards Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan, intent on seizing the key that controlled the security system.

Hmph!

Zhu Jin flicked his wrist, and more than ten flying needles shot out piercing through the air.

Seeing the needles approaching, without thinking, Ling Chen immediately used Wu Jun as a shield. Instantly, all the needles pierced into Wu Jun's body.

"No!"

Wu Jun screamed in pain.

As the needles entered his body, Wu Jun's skin quickly turned a pale purple. Clearly, the needles contained poison.

Ling Chen had anticipated Zhu Jin would pull such a move, which is why he used Wu Jun as a human shield.

"Forget about him, kill!" Zhu Jin, without regard for Wu Jun's safety, commanded sternly.

Hearing the Master's order, Yi Shuiyan didn't hesitate, flipping his wrist and bringing down his steel sword towards Ling Chen's head.

Seeing this, Ling Chen exerted force with one hand, flinging Wu Jun's body directly at Yi Shuiyan's steel sword.

In an instant, the Sword Force burst forth, splitting Wu Jun's body in two, blood splattering everywhere.

Wu Jun probably never imagined he would die at the hands of his own people.

Uncle Mu, Mrs. Chen, your revenge is finally avenged!

Ling Chen silently recited, refocusing his attention on the key.

However, just as he was about to make his move, suddenly, a loud 'boom' came from outside the control room, and the floor even trembled slightly.

Chapter 590 Mutation

What's going on?

With the sound of that explosion, everyone in the control room was stunned, looking at each other, clueless about what had just happened.

Suddenly, the sharp-eyed Ling Chen noticed that the surveillance feed monitoring the laboratory had turned to static, while the other feeds were still functioning normally.

Could it be... could it be that there's been an incident in the laboratory?

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen glanced around and saw that Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan were both distracted by the loud noise. He immediately moved his legs at a high speed, dashing between the gap of Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan, and pressed his hand on the red button.

Before Zhu Jin and the others could react, Ling Chen quickly pulled out the key and then retreated swiftly.

"Don't let him get away!"

Zhu Jin shouted angrily, reaching out to grab Ling Chen.

Hiss!

Instantly, a rip appeared in Ling Chen's shirt. Noticing his shirt being pulled, Ling Chen flung his arms, quickly shedding his shirt and immediately rushed towards the exit of the control room.

Upon leaving the control room, Ling Chen casually closed the main door behind him, blocking Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan's pursuit, and quickly fled outside.

After crossing a passage, Ling Chen abruptly halted his rapid steps, frowning at the smoke filling the air in front of him.

On both sides of the corridor, cracks had formed on the walls, the ventilation duct had broken, and smoke billowed through the space. Moreover, faintly, one seemed to hear screams from the end of the corridor, creating a terrifying atmosphere.

Could the explosion just now be related to this place?

Ling Chen thought to himself.

If he remembered correctly, this corridor should lead to the laboratory. Perhaps an accident occurred there, causing this mess.

In a flash of thought, Ling Chen cautiously moved forward, paying attention to the changes in his surroundings.

As he entered the smoke-covered area, the alert Ling Chen immediately noticed a pool of blood on the ground. The blood hadn't coagulated yet; it must have been fresh. However, there were no bodies nearby.

"Kai!"

Ling Chen called out loudly, hoping to get a response from Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun.

But the surroundings were silent, dead silent.

At this moment, the sound of hurried footsteps came from not far away. Ling Chen turned to look behind him, thinking to himself that this was not good—Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan had caught up.

Without hesitation, Ling Chen quickened his pace, running straight ahead through the corridor.

After about twenty meters, Ling Chen's expression suddenly turned sharp with a hint of amazement. He saw a person in a white lab coat lying next to the corridor, drenched in blood, with disheveled hair, already dead. There was a large hole in their chest, through which blood was pouring out—a fatal wound.

Ling Chen observed for a moment, his face looking rather uneasy. The hole seemed to have been made with a blunt instrument, even the breastbone had caved in.

And judging by the twisted expression on the person's face, they must have endured inhuman torture before death.

What on earth happened here?

Full of suspicion and confusion, Ling Chen didn't know who had killed these scientists, or why the methods were so brutal.

While pondering, Ling Chen cocked his ear to listen, as the footsteps behind him gradually slowed down. Clearly, Zhu Jin and Yi Shuiyan had both noticed something off about this place, which was why they did not dare to quicken their pace and chase after him.

He let out a sigh of relief in his heart, Ling Chen composed himself, and continued walking forward.

In the short distance of just over ten meters, Ling Chen saw one after another, six to seven corpses, including those of scientific researchers in white coats and security personnel in suits. Without exception, all of them had died horribly, with some having half of their heads smashed in, brains scattered all around.

Seeing the sorry state of these dead, Ling Chen's heart couldn't help but leap to his throat, his gaze becoming increasingly grave.

Without a doubt, the deaths of these people were definitely man-made.

As he walked on, Ling Chen arrived in front of a blast-resistant door that had been broken open.

Entering the blast door, he saw a spacious laboratory inside. However, perhaps due to a short circuit, the lighting inside was flickering on and off, creating the kind of terrifying atmosphere one might find in a horror movie.

Eh?

At that moment, Ling Chen suddenly noticed that in the center of the laboratory, there were two beds laid out with bloodstains on them. And at the corner opposite the beds, a surveillance camera was installed. However, for some unclear reason, the surveillance camera had been damaged.

That's it!

Ling Chen immediately remembered the scene he had seen on the security monitor. At that time, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun were both bound on the two beds, unable to move.

Now, the staff in the laboratory were all dead, with only Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun missing. Could it be that they, too, had encountered some misfortune?

No, that's not right! Ling Chen shook his head secretly. If Jiang Yunkai and others had faced danger, why weren't their bodies found?

With this thought in mind, Ling Chen immediately left the laboratory and walked straight along the corridor. He had not encountered Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun on the way he had come, and with no one in the laboratory, they should be ahead.

While moving forward, it wasn't long before Ling Chen suddenly heard a rustling noise coming from up ahead. The sound was very strange, like the low growl of a wild animal, sending shivers down one's spine.

Ling Chen took a deep breath, trying to tread as lightly as possible, and moved toward the corner ahead. As he got closer, the sound became clearer and clearer.

At the end of the corner, Ling Chen reached for his waist, only to find that there was nothing there.

He had almost forgotten that during the confrontation with Zhu Jin, he had thrown his dagger away.

Without a weapon, Ling Chen had no choice but to steel his nerves, clenched his fists, and stealthily cast his gaze around the other end of the corner.

Instantly, under the dim light, he saw two bloodied figures standing in front of the wall, their backs to him, shoulders twitching slightly, doing something unknown.

Gazing at the two's silhouettes, Ling Chen carefully stepped closer, and softly called out, "Kai..."

As soon as his voice sounded, without waiting for Ling Chen to call out Bai Huanjun's name, the two people standing in front of the wall turned around abruptly, their cold eyes fixed on Ling Chen, their beast-like, icy gaze causing Ling Chen's heart to skip a beat, and he couldn't help but take a couple of steps back.

The two people in front of him were Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, but their conditions seemed somewhat peculiar.

At this moment, they appeared to have lost their senses, their eyes cold and filled with a bloodthirsty desire, especially the intense murderous aura emanating from their bodies, chilling one to the bone.

"Kai... it's me, don't you recognize me?"

Ling Chen backed away while speaking. Unfortunately, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun seemed deaf to his words, showing no response at all.

Growl!

All of a sudden, a low growl came from their throats, their legs lightly sprung, and their bodies instantly soared more than two meters in the air, pouncing straight towards Ling Chen.