

The Beauty 601

Chapter 601 The Furious He Ziyun

"Guest?"

Ling Chen paused, what guest.

Right! Ling Chen immediately remembered who had come. He had almost forgotten that it was he who made the call, just not expecting the other party to arrive so quickly.

Leaving the office, Ling Chen hurried to the reception room. Pushing the door open, he saw Zhu Xiaozhu sitting in a chair at first glance.

Zhu Xiaozhu had not changed much after several days, still as stunning as before.

Today, Zhu Xiaozhu was dressed simply, in a beige coat and light-colored jeans, her long hair cascading over her shoulders, black and soft, highlighting her fair skin. Her autumn-water-like eyes seemed to contain all the spirit. Her thin cherry lips exuded a beauty of gentleness and virtue.

"Xiaozhu."

Ling Chen smiled slightly and greeted her.

Seeing Ling Chen approaching, the corners of Zhu Xiaozhu's lips unconsciously curled into a beautiful arc.

"How have you been recently? Is everything alright with your master?" Ling Chen asked.

Back at the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, Shi Su had stolen his credit and shamelessly humiliated him, which resulted in a loss of face and he was too embarrassed to show his face. Since that night, Zhu Xiaozhu had left the luxury ship with Shi Su, and had not been seen for some time.

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded lightly and said, "Alright, my master... is also fairly well."

"I thought it would be a few days before you arrived."

"You said there was urgent business and needed my help, so I took a flight from Beijing overnight." At this, Zhu Xiaozhu asked, "What's the matter?"

"Come with me."

Leaving the reception room, Ling Chen took Zhu Xiaozhu directly to the courier company's backyard. Opening the dungeon hatch, Ling Chen leaped down from the edge of the hole.

Entering the dungeon, Zhu Xiaozhu's face was filled with surprise and confusion at the sight of Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun lying unconscious on the beds.

"What happened to them?"

"I injected them with a sedative; only by doing this can we prevent them from harming others." After a pause, Ling Chen briefly explained the situation of Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, omitting the intervening events.

"Mutations?"

Zhu Xiaozhu was taken aback, curiosity flashing in her beautiful eyes, and she walked directly to Jiang Yunkai's side, placing her hand on his pulse.

"The pulse is stable, no different from a normal person," Zhu Xiaozhu murmured to herself.

Ling Chen chimed in, "I've checked all that and there's nothing unusual. I was thinking, since you know many medical authorities, maybe you could help them recover normally."

Zhu Xiaozhu thought for a moment, then said, "How about this: I'll take some blood and cell samples to my friend for analysis first, and after we have the results, we can plan accordingly."

"You're the expert in this area; I'll leave the arrangements to you."

Although Ling Chen knew a bit of medicine himself, he was well aware of his own limitations, so it was still better to find someone reliable to help. All things considered, Zhu Xiaozhu seemed to be the only option.

After extracting the blood and cell samples, Ling Chen escorted Zhu Xiaozhu to the courier company's entrance and asked, "Are you staying at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall?"

"Yes! I've told Mr. He, I'm going to stay there tonight."

Hearing Zhu Xiaozhu mention He Ziyun, Ling Chen couldn't help but slap his forehead.

Seeing his gesture, Zhu Xiaozhu asked curiously, "What's the matter?"

"Nothing, let's go, I'll take you to the Martial Arts Academy."

With that, Ling Chen borrowed Jiang Hao's car keys and drove Zhu Xiaozhu directly towards the direction of Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

When the two arrived at the Martial Arts Academy, it was already past ten o'clock at night.

Little Hua had already gone to sleep, only He Ziyun was still in the hall, reading by the light of a lamp.

"Mr. He."

"Why have you come so late?"

"I've brought something for you." Ling Chen smiled faintly and presented the precious sword from the Han Dynasty with both hands to He Ziyun.

"This is..."

He Ziyun suddenly stood up, his cloudy old eyes shining with brilliance, and hurriedly took the precious sword, caressing the scabbard dearly.

"How did you find it?"

"I've found the main base of the God Organization, and the weapons we lost last time were all thrown in their warehouse."

"Oh?" He Ziyun's interest was immediately piqued, and he asked eagerly, "What have you achieved?"

"Don't mention it." Ling Chen sighed and recounted the events that had occurred in Yinan Village, including the experiences of the old General and his group.

After listening, He Ziyun's face turned frighteningly somber, the cold light in his old eyes bursting forth, carrying a chill as biting as the December wind. Vaguely, there was even a hint of murderous intent.

"Good, very good!"

He Ziyun spoke with deliberate emphasis: "I must meet this Tang Guoxiong and see what he's capable of. Even though I've been out of the Ghost organization for many years, this old skeleton of mine can still be of some use."

Hearing this, a thrill shot through Ling Chen's heart. His purpose in coming to the Qingyun Martial Arts Hall was to ask He Ziyun to come out of retirement. Although retired for many years, He Ziyun's identity was significant; he was well acquainted with many high-ranking officials and a national hero with considerable influence. As long as he was willing to act, matters would be much easier to handle.

"Ling Chen, just go ahead with this matter, I will bear all the consequences for you."

"Understood. I heard from Instructor Pang that Nanrong Yuan has regained consciousness, Tang Guoxiong will definitely return to Beijing, and I will rush over as soon as possible."

"The sooner the better. In any case, we can't let anything happen to Qiao Zhen and the others."

"I know."

...

After leaving the Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Ling Chen got into his car and took out his phone to dial a number. After the call, looking at his phone, Xia Mutong's image involuntarily popped into his mind.

Xia Mutong was also in Changling City two days ago, but when they returned to East Sea City, she was nowhere to be seen. He guessed she probably got bored there and came back earlier. That girl didn't even notify him.

In any case, Xia Mutong had given him considerable help in Changling City. He should invite her out for a meal to show his appreciation when he got the chance.

Since it was midnight, there was little traffic, and the streets were very clear.

Ling Chen drove the car, listening to the songs playing on the car radio, heading towards the Old City.

However, at that moment, three Buick cars suddenly sped out from a crossroads, one leading and two following, boxing in Ling Chen's Volkswagen in the middle, with nowhere for him to escape.

These guys... just won't give up haunting me!

Ling Chen frowned, having thought he had already shaken them off, only to be found by them so quickly.

Bang!

With a loud noise, the Buick driving behind accelerated fiercely and slammed hard into the rear of the Volkswagen.

Instantly, hit by the collision, the Volkswagen swayed uncontrollably. Seeing this, Ling Chen quickly straightened the steering wheel, trying to stabilize the car. But the Buick car did not give any chance and rammed again.

In a flash, the Volkswagen was thrown sideways and hit the roadside guardrail, with a loud 'bang', the body of the car was instantly deformed.

Chapter 602 Entering Lonely Wolf

As the three Buick cars stopped, six or seven men in suits got out and carefully approached the Volkswagen to check the situation inside.

In the driver's seat, Ling Chen's head rested on the steering wheel, his forehead bruised from a severe impact, and his cheeks still bore scratch marks from which blood profusely flowed, dripping down his neck.

"He's passed out."

One of the men in suits sighed in relief and gestured to his companion to pry open the deformed car door, then they dragged Ling Chen out of the driver's seat and transferred him to a Buick car.

...

It was unknown how long had passed when the groggy Ling Chen finally came to. He opened his eyes and struggled to sit up, looking around to observe his surroundings.

This was a small dark room, less than ten square meters, with an iron door at the entrance that featured a service window in the middle, but it was now closed. The room was pitch-black and dimly lit, but fortunately, Ling Chen's vision was good enough to see clearly.

He moved his arms and legs, noticing that his wrists and ankles were shackled with heavy chains. One end of each chain was connected to a wall fixture, and they were only two meters long, just enough to reach the iron door.

It seemed he had been detained at the Lonewolf Base.

In the darkness, Ling Chen's mouth curled into a faint smile. Regardless, his plan had been quite successful.

Pang Jiulin refused to disclose the location of the Lonewolf Base, so Ling Chen had thought it over—if he couldn't figure out the exact location of the base, he might as well let the Lonewolf people bring him in. After all, he was a wanted criminal, and Tang Guoxiong was eager to capture him.

Previously in East Sea City, it would not have been so easy for the Lonewolf people to catch him if he hadn't made a phone call with specific arrangements.

Pulling on the chain he held, Ling Chen turned his left hand over, then pinched the skin with his fingertips. With a motion of his arm, a thin wire was extracted from under the skin. This trick he learned from Liu Dongsheng: hiding a wire underneath the skin where nobody would notice.

When deciding to execute his plan, he had already made thorough preparations.

With the wire in hand, Ling Chen located the keyhole of the chain lock, inserting the wire and gently maneuvering it. Shortly after, the lock clicked softly, and the lock opened. After unlocking the handcuffs, he used the same method to unlock the shackles on his feet as well.

Now free, Ling Chen stood up from the bed, walked over to the iron door, and pressed his ear against it to listen carefully to the sounds outside.

Despite the barrier of the iron door, Ling Chen could still hear breathing, indicating someone was guarding the door.

Just one person... Ling Chen felt relieved and nodded silently.

If there were multiple guards, it might be troublesome, but one guard... that made things much easier.

Immediately, Ling Chen took a couple of steps back, then forcefully kicked the iron door. Instantly, the door made a loud 'clang' and trembled slightly. Ling Chen did not pause, continuously kicking the door, creating sufficient noise.

Finally, after a minute or two, the guard outside became impatient, pulled open the door's service window, and looked down into the dark room shouting, "Behave yourself."

However, as the guard's head appeared outside the window, Ling Chen swiftly extended his arms through the window, tightly gripped the man's neck, and forcefully pulled back, pinning him against the iron door.

For a moment, only hoarse screams could be heard from the guard as he frantically struggled, trying to break free from Ling Chen's grip. Unfortunately, facing a prominent fighter on the Dragon List, he was no match.

"Hand over the keys," Ling Chen leaned in and said coldly.

The moment the words fell, seeing that the guard remained indifferent, Ling Chen increased the force in his hands a bit more.

"Hand over the keys in exchange for your life, isn't that worth it?" Ling Chen coaxed.

No one doesn't cherish their own life, even the members of Lonewolf cherish life. Finally, unable to endure the pain, the guard reached towards his waist, unclipped the keys, and handed them to Ling Chen.

After receiving the keys, Ling Chen pulled the man's hands toward him, causing the back of the man's head to smash against the iron door, knocking him out cold.

As he escaped from the dark room, Ling Chen glanced at the corridors on both sides, and stepped toward the left. Lonewolf Base was different from the previous Ghost Base; it was his first time here, and he had no understanding of the environment, so he could only try his luck.

However, Ling Chen hadn't gone far when he heard a voice coming from one of the dark rooms.

Someone?

Ling Chen approached, knocked on the iron door, and asked, "Who's in there?"

"Is that you, Tang Yuan?"

Hearing the voice from the dark room, Ling Chen's spirits lifted, and he quickly took out the keys to unlock the iron door.

Indeed, the person imprisoned inside was Tang Yuan.

"Old Tang!" Ling Chen exclaimed with a smile: "I finally found you."

"Forget about catching up, let's get this thing off me first," Tang Yuan pointed towards the chains on his wrists and feet with his mouth.

A few days had passed, and Tang Yuan's face looked somewhat haggard, but his eyes were bright and gleaming with energy. Judging by his bruised face, it seemed he had endured brutal torture.

"Old Tang, are you okay?" Ling Chen asked with concern. If it weren't for him, Tang Yuan wouldn't have had to suffer this way.

Feeling Ling Chen's guilty gaze, Tang Yuan nonchalantly patted his shoulder, smiling, "Do I look like I'm in trouble? Come on, stop looking at me that way; although we are close, I'm not into that sort of thing."

"Get out of here."

After joking for a moment, Ling Chen put on a serious face and asked, "Old Tang, where are Mr. Han and the General? Where are they?"

"Mr. Han was imprisoned next to me but was taken away yesterday and hasn't returned since; as for the General... I don't know his whereabouts, he wasn't imprisoned with us. The General's identity is different from ours; even if he did something wrong, Tang Guoxiong wouldn't dare treat him as a common prisoner."

"You're more familiar with this place, what should we do next?"

Tang Yuan thought for a moment and then said, "Let's go find Mr. Han first. Tang Guoxiong is a vicious bastard, and I'm afraid he might brutally torture Mr. Han. I can withstand it, but Mr. Han can't endure that kind of torture."

Ling Chen nodded: "You lead the way, I'll follow."

Leaving the cell, Ling Chen closely followed behind Tang Yuan, heading directly toward the secure passageway. Along the way, the observant Ling Chen noticed that there were few surveillance cameras in the base, with only a few important junctions equipped with cameras, which undoubtedly made their operation more convenient.

After hearing Tang Yuan's explanation, Ling Chen learned that since the base was newly constructed, security measures had not yet fully covered the area. It was precisely because of this that they had so many loopholes to exploit.

Chapter 603 Scapegoat

With Tang Yuan, a person familiar with the environment, leading the way, Ling Chen and his companion saved a lot of time. Not long after, they arrived at the second floor of the base. According to Tang Yuan, the interrogation room was located here.

Previously, in the basement cells, there weren't many people around, just a few guards, easy to avoid. However, the second floor of the base was different; the hallways were bustling with office workers in suits, among which were formal members of Lonely Wolf, many of whom Ling Chen and Tang Yuan knew—comrades they had fought alongside.

Hiding in a corner, they waited until a group of office workers nearby had left, then Ling Chen and Tang Yuan hastened their steps, darting toward the interrogation room.

However, before they reached the door of the interrogation room, Ling Chen, with his keen hearing, detected the sound of footsteps coming from around the corner ahead.

Without time to think, Tang Yuan shoved open the closest room door and pulled Ling Chen inside.

Upon entering, the room fell immediately silent, all eyes fixated on Ling Chen and Tang Yuan.

Seeing the few people inside smoking, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan's faces were instantly filled with embarrassment, momentarily unsure of what to do.

"Uh..." After being startled for a moment, Ling Chen forced a stiff smile on his face and raised his hand, saying, "Long time no see."

Hearing his greeting, the few people in the room looked at each other, a hint of amusement in their eyes. Then, they continued to smoke and chat, ignoring Ling Chen and Tang Yuan altogether.

Seeing this, Ling Chen felt a warmth in his heart and his tension eased considerably.

Luckily, the few people in the room were former members of the Ghosts, later promoted to Lonely Wolf by the Old General. They were all acquaintances. By acting this way, they were undoubtedly helping them indirectly.

"Tang Yuan, the people outside have gone."

Ling Chen nodded and turned to leave. But at that moment, he heard someone whisper from behind, "Be careful of Tang Guoxiong."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's brow furrowed.

Of course, he knew to be wary of Tang Guoxiong, but his former comrade's particular warning suggested that the situation was not so simple.

Leaving the room, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan hurried to the front of the interrogation room and pushed the door open to enter.

Upon entering the interrogation room, Ling Chen didn't have time to check the situation before he was stunned by the scene before him.

In the interrogation room, Han Bing was tied to a chair, wearing a special device with his right hand raised, holding a gun pointed directly at his own head. Due to the constraints of the special device, his position was forcefully fixed, and he had no way to struggle free.

What's more, his finger was on the trigger, and with a slight pull of a string by someone else, his finger would pull the trigger, sending a bullet into his own brain.

All of this was no doubt set up to fake a suicide scene!

How cruel!

Seeing this, Ling Chen was furious, his pupils instantly replacing the rage with icy coldness.

"Bastards!" Ling Chen shouted thunderously, immediately rushing forward, knocking down two men in suits on the side.

"Mr. Han."

Tang Yuan hurriedly went to Han Bing's side and began to remove the special device from his body.

"Ling Chen, Tang Yuan... you've arrived just in the nick of time. If you were any later, my life..." Here, Han Bing's complexion was pale, and he was clearly still frightened.

Ling Chen frowned and asked, "Mr. Han, what exactly happened? You just violated Lonely Wolf's rules, there's no need to kill you, right?"

Han Bing sighed and said, "Tang Guoxiong wants a scapegoat."

"Scapegoat?" Ling Chen and Tang Yuan exchanged a glance, full of confusion as they asked, "What do you mean?"

Han Bing explained, "Although they found the main base of the God Organization this time, they got nothing out of it and instead lost a lot of personnel. When the higher-ups found out about this, they were furious, believing that the leader lacked leadership ability, not only missing a good opportunity but also causing so many deaths and injuries. You should know that the leader of this operation was Tang Guoxiong himself. If he's held accountable, not only will he lose his current position, but he will also be held responsible and investigated. So, he needs someone to take the fall for him."

"Elder Han is staunch and with his General title, Tang Guoxiong doesn't dare touch him lightly, so he had to choose me as the scapegoat. They wanted to forge my suicide scene, and then claim that I led poorly, causing the death of so many colleagues, so I swallowed a bullet. This way, all the blame would be on me, and they would be off the hook."

After hearing Han Bing's words, Ling Chen couldn't help clenching his fists, veins on his forehead throbbing, wishing he could find Tang Guoxiong right now and tear that bastard to pieces.

To dare use such a treacherous method, calling him scum would be a compliment.

"Mr. Han, where is Elder Han?"

"I don't know, Elder Han is personally detained by Tang Guoxiong, only he knows Elder Han's whereabouts. Ling Chen, you better be cautious, don't act rashly without solid evidence," Han Bing warned.

Tang Yuan spoke up, "Mr. Han, don't you count as a witness?"

Han Bing said with a bitter smile, "What good am I? Don't forget, I'm currently deemed guilty. If I step forward to testify, it will be ineffective and Tang Guoxiong could bite back, claiming I am framing him. In short, to topple Tang Guoxiong, we must find evidence."

Evidence!

Ling Chen shook his head silently to himself, easy to say, but someone as cunning as Tang Guoxiong wouldn't easily reveal anything.

"Old Tang, take Mr. Han to a safe place first."

Tang Yuan said helplessly, "The base is full of Tang Guoxiong's people, there's no such thing as a safe place."

Hearing this, Ling Chen thought for a moment, and a flash of inspiration struck him.

"Follow me."

After leaving the interrogation room, Ling Chen took Han Bing back to the same room they had mistakenly entered before.

Seeing Ling Chen and Tang Yuan return and even bringing Han Bing with them, several members of Lonely Wolf were dumbfounded.

"Ling Chen, what are you doing?"

"Gentlemen, for old times' sake, do me a favor and let Mr. Han lay low here. Once Old Tang and I get things settled, we'll come back for Mr. Han."

"This... This is a bit troublesome, isn't it?" Everyone seemed a bit troubled.

Tang Yuan glared, disgruntled, "We're comrades who've been through life and death together. Now that Elder Han and Mr. Han are in trouble, are you really unwilling to help out even a little? Don't forget how Elder Han has treated you, are you all a bunch of ingrates?"

After being rebuked by Tang Yuan, several Lonely Wolf members blushed and nodded, "Alright then, leave Mr. Han here, we'll do our best."

Chapter 604 Tough Measures

After tending to Han Bing, Ling Chen and Tang Yuan expressed their thanks and then left the room.

"Old Tang, where is Tang Guoxiong's office located?"

"The very top floor. Why, are you thinking of going straight to him?" Tang Yuan shook his head and said, "I advise you to drop that idea. Tang Guoxiong is more cautious than any of us. Outside his office, there are designated people responsible for security, and they are all armed. When Tang Guoxiong took over, no one was allowed to enter the top floor without his orders."

"Carrying weapons inside the base?" Ling Chen seemed surprised.

Tang Yuan shrugged and said, "Tang Guoxiong knows that Lonely Wolf was established by the General himself. He's worried about internal dissatisfaction towards him, hence such security measures to protect himself. Not to mention, do you know how many people he has transferred from the military to join Lonely Wolf? Over two hundred, and all are special forces, battle-hardened and experienced. He intends to use this force to secure his position in Lonely Wolf and replace the General's influence."

"Fear nothing," Ling Chen said nonchalantly. "I've already informed Mr. He, and he told me to just go for it and that he would bear all consequences."

"Really?" Tang Yuan's eyes lit up and he grinned, saying, "Since Mr. He's got our back, then we need not worry too much. Good, I've suffered enough from him recently; I need to give him a good thrashing later. Come on, I'll take you to his office."

With those words, the two went straight to the elevator and stepped inside.

As the elevator reached the top floor of the base, Ling Chen leaned against the elevator's side wall, watching as the elevator doors slowly opened without stepping out immediately.

At that moment, a man in a suit peeked into the elevator from outside, intending to check the inside. Seeing Ling Chen and Tang Yuan hiding, his expression suddenly changed, and he hastily reached for his waist and opened his mouth to shout.

However, Ling Chen reacted faster. Before he could yell, Ling Chen, with quick reflexes, threw a punch that harshly landed on the man's cheek, forcibly silencing him.

Pfft!

Accompanied by a spray of fresh blood, the suited man fell rigidly at the elevator entrance, unconscious, with the elevator doors opening and closing, pressing against his body.

Stepping out of the elevator, Ling Chen glanced down the corridor, over forty meters long. In this forty-meter-long corridor, there were more than thirty men in suits.

At that moment, those suited men had already noticed Ling Chen's appearance, each moving towards the sides of the walls, seeking cover.

Hearing the sound of bullets being chambered, Ling Chen raised his eyebrows and his expression turned stern as he said in a low voice, "Old Tang, stay inside, I'll handle this."

As soon as he finished speaking, Ling Chen tapped his toe and his body shot forward like a gust of wind, moving so fast that only a blur could be seen when he reached full speed.

Bang!

The crisp sound of a gunshot rang out. Sitting in his office, Tang Guoxiong immediately jumped up from his chair and asked the staff beside him, "What's happening?"

The staffer picked up the internal phone, asked a few questions, and hurriedly replied, "It's Ling Chen, he's stormed up here."

With a dark expression, Tang Guoxiong said, "Wasn't he locked up? How did they let him escape? Hmph! Truly a bunch of good-for-nothing trash. Pass my orders, whether it's Ling Chen or anyone aiding him, kill on sight, no one spared." After a pause, he changed his tone and asked, "What about the matter with Han Bing? It's been so long, why haven't I received any news?"

"Yes, I'll call right now to ask about the situation."

"No need to ask."

With that said, a hand pushed open the office door.

Seeing Ling Chen walking in vigorously, Tang Guoxiong was startled and quickly pulled open the desk drawer, ready to grab a gun. However, before he could pick up the gun, he heard a 'bang'. A bullet instantly flew past his arm and into the wall behind him.

"Tang Yuan?"

Seeing who the shooter was, Tang Guoxiong's face immediately turned extremely unsightly.

"Tang Guoxiong, I advise you to behave yourself, don't make any rash moves, or the next bullet won't miss," Tang Yuan walked through the door, speaking as he moved.

"You... you..." Tang Guoxiong pointed at Ling Chen and Tang Yuan, with a fierce face he cried out: "Do you know what you're doing? This is a national secret agency, you dare to openly oppose me, this is mutiny. Someone! Someone, arrest them!"

"Enough, stop shouting, save your saliva," Ling Chen said indifferently, "Don't count on those people outside."

What?

Hearing this, Tang Guoxiong's face was full of horror.

He had arranged more than thirty people outside his office, each armed. From the first gunshot to Ling Chen entering, how much time had passed? Could it be that he has taken care of all the security?

Is he even human?

Ling Chen glanced at the stunned Tang Guoxiong, then casually walked to the front of the desk and sat down, crossing his legs and said: "Don't worry, they are all fine, they'll just be bedridden for a few days. But just because they're fine doesn't mean you are. Tang Guoxiong, Lonely Wolf was originally the backbone of resistance against God Organization, yet you've turned it into a mess, do you admit your guilt?"

Tang Guoxiong sneered and said, "What crime have I committed? The guilty ones are you. Ling Chen, don't blame me for not reminding you, I am the appointed leader of Lonely Wolf by the authorities. If you dare touch a hair on my head, none of you will have a good end."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen said with a smirk, "I've heard that you've lost quite a few operatives in this operation, and the higher-ups are very much doubting your capabilities. So you sought a scapegoat to have Mr. Han take the blame for you, didn't you?"

Tang Guoxiong narrowed his eyes, and said coldly, "Ling Chen, don't slander people, there's no such thing."

"You are a man with a status, only in charge of giving orders, but someone has to deliver these orders for you, right?" As he finished, Ling Chen, ignoring Tang Guoxiong's sudden change of color, turned his gaze to another man in the office and said, "You are his close aide, you must know the most about his deeds. Just cooperate with us and turn state's witness, and I can plea for your sentence to be reduced or exempted."

The man waved his hands quickly, "I haven't..."

"Don't rush to answer me," Ling Chen slowly said, "Friend, I advise you to think this through, this has to do with your future. Let me put it this way, whether you admit it or not, Tang Guoxiong is doomed today. If you're smart, you'll take this opportunity, don't regret it when it's too late."

"Ling Chen!" Tang Guoxiong couldn't sit still anymore, he shouted angrily, "You dare to threaten my people."

"So what? If you are capable, you can threaten me too."

Chapter 605 Trial

"You..."

Before Tang Guoxiong could finish speaking, Ling Chen, impatient, waved his hand and interrupted him, saying, "Old Tang, take him down. Let me have a good chat with this friend."

Tang Yuan nodded, pointed a gun at Tang Guoxiong, and gestured for him to walk outside.

With the black muzzle pointed at him, Tang Guoxiong, no matter how courageous, didn't dare disobey and had to obediently leave the office.

After Tang Guoxiong and Tang Yuan left, Ling Chen got up, walked to the coffee machine, ground some coffee beans, and then brewed himself a steaming cup of coffee.

Watching Ling Chen leisurely making his coffee, the man felt somewhat uneasy, neither sitting nor standing, feeling as though there were needles on his seat.

Holding the coffee, Ling Chen savored it by himself, showing no intention of chatting with the man.

"Um... Mr. Ling..."

Finally, the man, feeling the oppressive atmosphere, couldn't help but speak.

Ling Chen, with a slanted glance, looked at him and asked, "What is it?"

The man, trying to ingratiate himself, said, "Mr. Ling, I... I don't know much, everything was ordered by Tang Guoxiong, it has nothing to do with me."

"And so?"

"I'm willing to turn state's evidence and help you testify against Tang Guoxiong. I know clearly about the matter of him making Han Bing take the fall; it was all orders delivered by me, and moreover..."

"That's enough." Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "I don't want to know so many details, nor am I interested. You should save those words for the higher-ups."

After speaking, Ling Chen put down his coffee cup, stood up, and walked to his desk, casually flipping through the items on it. Soon, a magnetic card caught Ling Chen's attention.

He picked up the magnetic card and asked, "What's this?"

"That's Tang Guoxiong's identity card, which grants access to any area within the base."

Hearing this, a sharp glint flashed in Ling Chen's eyes as he subtly pocketed the magnetic card and then turned to leave the office.

With Tang Guoxiong's subordinate as a witness, even the formidable backing behind Tang Guoxiong couldn't reverse the situation. But this time, it still turned out to be a win for Tang Guoxiong. Given Ling

Chen's temperament, he really wanted to kill that bastard and avenge the General and Han Bing. However, some matters must follow legal protocols, and personal punishment must be avoided, or it would eventually bring harm to oneself.

Considering Tang Guoxiong's network, Ling Chen could foresee his end. Lonely Wolf certainly couldn't stay, and even if he went to prison, it wouldn't be for long.

Reaching the second floor of the base, Tang Yuan was escorting Tang Guoxiong in the interrogation room, quietly waiting for Ling Chen's arrival.

"Old Tang, have you found out where the General is?"

"I asked. The General isn't in the base; he was taken to the military headquarters for interrogation."

Military headquarters?

At least, he wasn't in Tang Guoxiong's hands.

"Old Tang, keep an eye on him. I'll contact Mr. He to wrap things up here."

"Alright."

After leaving the interrogation room, Ling Chen found a cell phone and called He Ziyun to inform him of the situation. Fortunately, after meeting with He Ziyun the night before, He Ziyun had arrived in Beijing the next day and was currently in a high-level meeting discussing the matters concerning Lonely Wolf.

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen did not return directly to the interrogation room but instead went alone to the third floor of the base.

The third floor of the base was vital with labs and storage, shielded by several thick steel doors. However, this was no issue for Ling Chen. He took out the magnetic card he had found in Tang Guoxiong's office, swiped it gently on the reader, and the tightly closed door immediately opened.

After passing through three doors, Ling Chen finally entered the storage area of the base. Following the signs posted inside the warehouse, it took only a few minutes for Ling Chen to find several heavy boxes.

Upon opening the boxes, he saw that they neatly housed more than a dozen square metallic objects, emitting a faint luster.

At last, they were found!

A glimmer of joy appeared on Ling Chen's face; these were the materials needed to make exoskeleton armor. However, the materials were too numerous and cumbersome to carry. He could not realistically walk out with several boxes to Lonewolf Base without raising suspicion.

After much deliberation, Ling Chen found some bags nearby and stuffed all the metallic materials into them.

After he had packed everything, Ling Chen dragged the bags out of the storeroom, securely closed the gates, and then found a relatively safe room to temporarily store the materials. He planned to transport them later when the opportunity arose.

He Ziyun arrived quickly, and besides him, about forty or fifty military personnel came.

Watching Tang Guoxiong being escorted from the interrogation room, He Ziyun sneered coldly, and without saying anything, slapped Tang Guoxiong squarely across the face.

Slap!

Accompanied by a loud slap, Tang Guoxiong's left cheek immediately swelled up, and blood trickled down from the corners of his mouth. Had He Ziyun not controlled his strength, that slap could have been fatal.

"Take him away. Do not let him appear before me again," He Ziyun said coldly.

With a resentful glare at He Ziyun, Tang Guoxiong spat out a mouthful of bloody saliva and was escorted away by several military personnel.

Once they had left, Ling Chen asked, "Mr. He, what about the general? Why didn't you bring him back?"

He Ziyun sighed and shook his head, "Couldn't bring him back."

"What do you mean by that?"

"Rules are rules. With Qiao Zhen assisting you in stealing government property, he has breached military regulations. No matter what Tang Guoxiong has done, it does not change the fact that Qiao Zhen violated the rules. I just came from there; the military has already judged him. He'll retain his general title but retire from active duty. He won't lead Lonewolf anymore."

Ling Chen was shocked and quickly asked, "Then who will take charge of Lonewolf?"

"It's not clear yet, but they asked for my opinion, and I suggested they choose someone from the inside. After all, only Lonewolf's own people understand it best and won't mess things up like Tang Guoxiong did."

That's good!

Ling Chen nodded; there were very few people at Lonewolf Base qualified to replace the old general, and they were all trustworthy people. Whoever it was, they would be more reliable than Tang Guoxiong.

"Ling Chen, if you don't have anything else, you can go with me."

Hearing He Ziyun speak, Ling Chen hesitated for a moment and said, "Mr. He, I haven't caught up with the brothers for a long time. You go ahead, and I'll come to find you later."

"The choice is yours," He Ziyun wasn't insistent.

After sending off He Ziyun, Ling Chen immediately found Old Tang and pulled him into the room where he stored the metallic materials.

"Old Tang, we are brothers; you have to help me this time."

Old Tang asked suspiciously, "What is it?"

Ling Chen chuckled mischievously, rummaged through a corner, and pulled out several large bags, then started taking out the metallic materials.

"This is..." Old Tang's face changed, surprised, he said: "You're stealing?"

Chapter 606 Financial Difficulties

"What theft? Don't put it so harshly, I call it 'borrowing'," Ling Chen emphasized.

"What's the difference?"

"You don't have to return what you steal; borrowed items have to be returned. Alright, stop asking so many questions; this thing is very important to me. We're brothers, please do me a favor and help me get this stuff out."

Tang Yuan, rubbing his forehead, said helplessly, "You kid... I don't even know what to say about you. Fine, fine, fine, it's my bad luck to have a brother like you. Let's hurry and go before we're discovered."

Ling Chen grinned, he knew Tang Yuan would help.

With Tang Yuan leading the way, it didn't take long for Ling Chen to arrive at another exit of the base with several large bags, where a few Lonewolf special off-road vehicles were parked.

Leaving the Lonewolf Base, Ling Chen sat in the car, looking back at the base's exterior, finally knowing where this new base was located.

In the suburbs of Beijing, there was a military camp, and the Lonewolf Base was built behind the camp. With so many soldiers for protection, the defense of the base was impregnable, nearly impossible for God Organization to threaten unless they wanted to fight a tough battle.

"Drop me off here."

Tang Yuan drove the car into Beijing city and pointed to the taxi parked not far away, saying, "You better be careful, kid. Don't let anyone discover you; I don't want to take the fall for you again."

"Rest assured with my work. Thanks!"

After saying this, Ling Chen cheerfully transferred the several large bags of metal materials from the off-road vehicle to the taxi. This metal material definitely couldn't pass the airport security check; it had to be transported back via the highway.

Without delay, Ling Chen called He Ziyun, mentioning only that he had urgent matters to attend to in East Sea City and didn't have time to meet. He Ziyun didn't suspect anything, told him to take care, and then ended the call.

...

A day later, Ling Chen arrived back in East Sea City.

Traveling day and night, the exhausted Ling Chen didn't even bother to eat upon reaching the Old City area and headed straight for the couch. In less than ten seconds, his snores filled the entire room.

He slept until the next morning when he comfortably stretched and left the office.

Just out the door, Ling Chen saw a beautiful figure in his sight.

"Xiaozhu?"

Ling Chen's lips curled into a smile as he quickened his pace and cheerfully asked, "When did you get here?"

"Just arrived."

While speaking, Zhu Xiaozhu set down her suitcase on the table, opened the lid, and handed two reports to Ling Chen, saying, "These are the test reports of your two friends; take a look for yourself."

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "I won't look at them; I don't understand all those technical terms. Just tell me the situation directly."

"The test results are the same as your guess. Both of your friends' blood and cells have undergone varying degrees of mutation, which is very rare in medical history. Although there have been cell mutations before, those were within controllable limits."

"You're saying their mutations are uncontrollable?"

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded gently and said, "That's roughly the meaning. Their bodies' cells have a miraculous self-healing capability; damaged cells heal rapidly. Others might need ten days or half a month to recover from injuries; they only need a few hours or even minutes. Such cases have never appeared before from ancient times to today. I personally feel they've stepped beyond the realm of normal humans."

Hearing Zhu Xiaozhu's serious tone, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry about the safety of Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, asking, "Do they still have a chance to recover?"

"It's difficult. Even if they can return to their former state, it's a massive and lengthy task. We must thoroughly research their bodies first, then devise strategies and create the appropriate drugs. It might take a year or ten; nobody can promise. Moreover, even if someone is willing to participate in this research, it would require a substantial amount of funding."

Ling Chen frowned. Funds and time were things he lacked. Could it be that there was really no hope for Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun?

As he pondered, he listened to Zhu Xiaozhu asking, "Ling Chen, what exactly did your two friends go through to end up like this? If you know the cause, perhaps it could reduce our research time."

The cause...

Hearing this, Ling Chen smacked his forehead. Darn! He had almost forgotten; there was a very important thing he didn't do during his trip to Beijing, which was to meet Nanrong Yuan. He had been so focused on quickly transporting the metal materials back that he had neglected this matter.

If he could meet Nanrong Yuan, perhaps he could tell the cause.

At this thought, Ling Chen immediately took out his phone from his pocket and dialed He Ziyun's number.

This matter still required He Ziyun's help.

After explaining for a while, Ling Chen was almost out of breath, but He Ziyun finally agreed to help and would temporarily transfer Nanrong Yuan to East Sea City. However, Nanrong Yuan was a major criminal; transferring him from Beijing to East Sea City would require a lot of procedures and probably take three or four days.

Regardless, as long as Nanrong Yuan could be brought to East Sea City, that was enough.

In this matter, Ling Chen had his own personal motives; he hoped to take this opportunity to let Nanrong Wanqing meet with her father and fulfill one of her wishes.

After discussing Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun's matter with Zhu Xiaozhu, since Zhu Xiaozhu had other urgent matters and couldn't stay long, Ling Chen had to see her out and set a time for their next meeting.

Now that Tang Guoxiong had been captured, the warrant for Ling Chen had been revoked, and he no longer had to worry about anyone harming him.

Having been away from home for a few days, Ling Chen originally wanted to check on Wealthy Manor, but he was too busy with urgent matters and had to put off going home for another time.

...

"Chubby, I've given you the data, how is it, any problems?"

In the office, Ling Chen was eating steaming hot instant noodles while looking at Hu Fei busy in front of the computer.

Hu Fei gave an 'OK' gesture and said, "No problem, the data is very detailed. As long as we follow the process and add the metal materials you brought back from Beijing, I'm 90% confident we can produce exoskeleton armor, but..."

"Alright!" Ling Chen immediately gestured for Hu Fei to stop and said, "I know what you want; I've already talked to Jiang Hao and the others. If you need money, just ask them."

"I've estimated that we need at least thirty million to set up a production line for exoskeleton armor, and that's excluding labor costs."

"That much?" Ling Chen was stunned. He thought a few million would do, but it turned out to cost ten times more.

"Nonsense, what do you think! We must purchase high-end precision equipment to make exoskeleton armor, and if it weren't for my connections and relations, thirty million wouldn't be enough even at current market prices."

Chapter 607 The Fastest Way to Make Money

Thirty million!

Ling Chen was truly shocked by this figure.

If it were just a few million, he wouldn't care at all. Jiang Hao and his crew had controlled the underworld in East Sea City for some time now, and pulling together a few million was easily feasible. However, thirty million was equivalent to all of Jiang Hao's current assets.

Whether it was Jiang Hao or Zhao Zhengxiong, they operated many storefronts and needed a large amount of capital for turnover. It was already not easy to pull out a few million, so thirty million was undoubtedly a challenging problem.

According to Hu Fei, the thirty million was only for the cost of purchasing equipment, and it did not even include labor and venue costs. If all were counted together, it might be about forty million.

Ling Chen touched his nose, staring blankly at the instant noodles in front of him.

Thirty million, where to get that!

There was not no solution, as long as he asked Nanrong Wanqing for help, she would definitely not refuse. However, unless absolutely necessary, Ling Chen did not want to seek help from Nanrong Wanqing for this matter, as it would only make him appear incompetent as a man.

"Fatso, you're always full of bad ideas, do you have any good solutions?" After a lot of thinking, Ling Chen finally had to ask Hu Fei for help. This guy had wide connections and might be able to find a way to make money quickly.

Hu Fei's eyes lit up, and he chuckled: "I do have a way to make money. We can start tonight, and if all goes well, we should be able to gather thirty to forty million by tomorrow."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he asked impatiently, "What way?" As the words came out, he suddenly became wary and looked at Hu Fei, saying, "You're not suggesting anything illegal, are you? I must say in advance, I won't touch anything illegal, that's my bottom line."

"Come on! Everyone knows you're a righteous person," Hu Fei retorted sarcastically, then switched back to the main topic, "There are many ways to make money, but if we are talking about the fastest and most convenient, there's only one way, gambling!"

"Gambling?" Ling Chen immediately shook his head, "No, that's not possible, I've emphasized to you, we can't do anything illegal."

"Hey hey!" Hu Fei expressed his displeasure, "Gambling also varies between illegal and legal. In our country Huaxia, there are many legally protected forms of gambling, like the lottery and sports betting, which are actually a form of gambling just under a nicer name."

Hearing this, Ling Chen showed interest and asked, "Do you have a way to guarantee winning?"

"That's not the case, gambling is purely about luck, unless you cheat. Many places offer horse betting, sports betting, and there are legitimate casinos; I think we can give those a try. With your abilities, winning a few million shouldn't be a problem. It's a decent option, you should consider it. From what I know, there's a luxury cruise ship around East Sea City's coastal area that primarily focuses on gambling and is frequented by the wealthy. This luxury cruise ship will dock at the port at five o'clock in the afternoon and depart at six-thirty, returning to the port the next morning. There's still time now, if you're going, you need to prepare early."

Ling Chen didn't hesitate much and agreed quickly. As long as it wasn't illegal, earning money through a legitimate casino was indeed an option.

"Hey! Fatso, lend me some of your bank savings. If I win tonight, I'll return it to you with interest."

"Come on! Why don't you ask Jiang Hao and them for money? That's all my hard-earned money, what if you lose?" Hu Fei was clearly reluctant.

This guy... Ling Chen shook his head helplessly. When it came to money, this fatso just transformed into a different person.

"Cut the crap, just prepare five million, and you'll come with me." After saying that, without waiting for Hu Fei to refuse, Ling Chen had already picked up his instant noodles and left the office.

Afternoon.

Three o'clock.

Ling Chen, dressed in a crisp suit and accompanied by Hu Fei, drove to the port of East Sea City.

Just as Hu Fei mentioned, a luxury cruise ship was docked at the port, with luxury cars parked, and men in suits with accompanying ladies streaming continuously, boarding the cruise ship.

Ling Chen and Hu Fei arrived at the boarding ramp, ready to board. However, they were stopped by a staff member.

"Gentlemen, you seem unfamiliar, is this your first time here?" The staff member asked politely, with a smile.

"That's right."

"Are you gentlemen familiar with our rules?"

Ling Chen puzzled, asked, "There are rules?"

"Of course, we only accept clients introduced by acquaintances, do you gentlemen have a referral?"

Ling Chen turned his head to look at Hu Fei, why hadn't he mentioned this. Hu Fei innocently shook his head, indicating he wasn't aware either.

"Can't you make an exception?" Ling Chen asked hopelessly.

"Sorry, these are the rules, we don't have the authority to make exceptions, please understand."

Just as he said that, Ling Chen sighed quietly, thinking his idea of getting rich through gambling might not work out.

"Let them on, I'll vouch for them."

Just then, a hearty voice came from behind.

Ling Chen and Hu Fei turned their heads, looking at the middle-aged man who spoke, a smile immediately appearing on their faces.

"President Yang, long time no see," Ling Chen greeted with a smile, quickly moving forward.

The middle-aged man in front of them was none other than Yang Chengfeng, the chairman of Silver Star Entertainment. Ling Chen had met him a few times; though not very close, at least they weren't strangers.

"Mr. Ling, it has indeed been a while since we last met, I've been waiting for you to visit me," Yang Chengfeng said politely.

"I'll definitely come and bother you next time. President Yang, are you a regular here?"

"I suppose, the pressure is too much sometimes, I occasionally come here to relax. Mr. Ling, I haven't seen you here before, how come you suddenly became interested today?"

Ling Chen casually replied, "Just bored, so I came to play with a friend."

"Let's go, it's rare to meet friends. I'll cover tonight's expenses... however, I'm not shouldering the gambling, haha!"

Amid laughter, the three of them stepped onto the luxury cruise.

Since it was a luxury cruise, it naturally lived up to the 'luxury' name. Upon entering the lobby, it immediately dazzled visitors, much like a splendid palace, with crystal chandeliers, marble floors, and

gold walls as reflective as mirrors, everywhere exuding luxury. No wonder this place was popular among the wealthy, it truly was a place to flaunt one's status.

Ling Chen took a glass of champagne from a passing waiter and followed Yang Chengfeng around, exploring the types of gambling available.

Being a major casino, it encompassed almost every type of gambling, a feast for the eyes.

"Mr. Ling, which type are you interested in?"

Ling Chen looked around, then pointed to a gambling table not far away, saying, "I'll play the simplest one."

Chapter 608 Losing Control in Anger (1)

Ling Chen chose the blackjack table, a relatively simple gambling game that mainly relies on luck, with not much skill involved.

"Fatty." Ling Chen patted Hu Fei on the shoulder and said, "Go get me two million in chips."

With a face full of resentment, Hu Fei glanced at Ling Chen. Out of consideration for Yang Chengfeng who was still beside them, he suppressed his heartache, didn't say a word, and obediently ran to the chip exchange to get two million in chips.

Seeing Ling Chen exchange so much in chips at once, Yang Chengfeng couldn't help but advise, "Mr. Ling, small bets make for good fun, but big bets harm the body. It's fine to play, but there's no need to bet so big."

"President Yang, what's the usual bet size here?"

"It depends on the person. There are ones in thousands, tens of thousands, and commonly in hundreds of thousands. If it's winning or losing over a million, then you have to go to the VIP room. There, the minimum bet starts at a million, with no ceiling. As long as you have money, you can bet as big as you want. However, to play in the VIP room, you must receive an invitation from the host. My usual betting is around several hundred thousand, I've never been to the VIP room, and I'm not interested in burning money in that kind of place."

After hearing Yang Chengfeng's explanation, Ling Chen immediately lost interest in the game before him. Winning or losing just tens of thousands, when would that be enough to gather forty million? Since he was here, he had to bet big.

Hu Fei could understand Ling Chen's thoughts and said, "Try your luck first, and if it's not working out, I'll take over."

"Alright then." Ling Chen glanced at the just-started betting round on the table, and casually threw down a chip. Fifty thousand!

The dealer dealt the cards, one face-up and one face-down.

The face-up card was a King, and the face-down card was a seven, totaling seventeen points. Although not yet twenty-one, it was not far off, neither good nor bad.

Blackjack is about who has the total value of cards nearest to twenty-one, and going over means busting out, losing straight away.

After dealing two cards, Ling Chen, as the player, could choose to draw more cards or not. After some thought, he decided to pass, not taking any more cards. Seventeen points was already quite high; now it was just a matter of what the dealer had.

When no one else wanted more cards, the dealer began to reveal his hand: a ten, a three, and another seven, totaling twenty points, higher than all the other players at the table.

In less than two or three minutes, fifty thousand was gone, causing Hu Fei, who was watching, to feel incredibly pained.

In less than half an hour, Ling Chen played five rounds, losing each and every one without a single win, whittling down the two million in chips by two to three hundred thousand.

"Why don't I take over, your luck is awful." Hu Fei couldn't stand to watch anymore; at this rate, two million wouldn't be enough to lose.

"Enough, stop nagging. If you didn't talk so much, would I lose?" Ling Chen responded, clearly irritated.

With that said, not waiting for Hu Fei to say anything more, Ling Chen, clutching the remaining chips, headed straight for the one hundred thousand betting table.

He threw down two hundred thousand in chips without even blinking and immediately asked the dealer to deal the cards.

However, even after changing tables, Ling Chen's luck didn't turn, and he continued to lose. In less than half an hour, the chips had dwindled by four-fifths.

Looking at the mere thirty thousand chips he had left, Ling Chen gritted his teeth and threw them all onto the table.

"Don't do it..."

"Shut up!" Ling Chen snapped at Hu Fei.

Damn it! His luck today was truly terrible. He'd come here aiming to win money, but kept losing instead; even the usually composed Ling Chen couldn't help but get anxious.

Hu Fei held no hope for Ling Chen's rash move, staring intently at Ling Chen's hand. A nine and a seven, totaling sixteen points, a very small chance of winning.

Ling Chen swept a glance at the calm croupier and said in a deep voice, "Deal again!"

The croupier smiled faintly and passed a card over to Ling Chen. The card was revealed—a Queen. That made twenty-six points, busted. Two million all lost in an instant.

"Damn!" Ling Chen raised his fist and hammered down hard on the table, cursing, "I just can't believe I can't win even a single hand today. Go, get me another three million."

Hu Fei couldn't help but advise, "Maybe you shouldn't, your luck today..."

Before he could finish speaking, Ling Chen suddenly raised his foot and kicked fiercely at Hu Fei while cursing angrily, "Just go when I tell you to. What's with all the nonsense? If you keep whining, do you believe I'll slap you?"

For a moment, the attention of everyone in the casino was drawn by Ling Chen's voice. Everyone looked over, pointing and discussing animatedly.

Seeing Ling Chen red-eyed from his losses and picking a fight with his friend, Yang Chengfeng hurriedly said, "Mr. Ling, it's just for fun, no need to get angry. You've been playing for so long; you must be tired. How about we sit at the bar for a while, and have a drink to quench your thirst?"

"I'm not going!" Ling Chen raised his arm and brushed Yang Chengfeng's hand away, pointing at Hu Fei and continuing to scold, "I'm giving you one minute to bring me ten million in chips. If you give me any more lip, don't blame me for turning on you. President Yang, how much I lose is my business, it's not for you to worry about."

Hearing this, Yang Chengfeng's expression stiffened, surprised by Ling Chen's lack of courtesy.

At this moment, Hu Fei patted the spot where Ling Chen had kicked him and, with a dark expression, walked over to the chip exchange. Shortly after, ten million in chips were delivered to Ling Chen.

"Another round!"

Ling Chen shouted at the croupier, directly tossing down a million in chips.

"This..."

The croupier said embarrassedly, "Sir, the maximum bet for this table is five hundred thousand. We can't take a million."

"Damn! What are you trying to say? Say that again." Ling Chen bellowed, face flushed with anger, "I've got plenty of money. I'll bet as much as I want. If you can't handle it, then don't run a casino here and just get the hell out."

After being berated by Ling Chen, the croupier's face turned quite sour. He had seen gamblers lose their cool before, but never one so lacking in manners.

At this point, the other gamblers around were watching the commotion with interest, wondering how the casino would handle it.

"President Yang."

At that moment, a genial middle-aged man approached with a smile, coming up to Yang Chengfeng.

"Manager Luo."

Recognizing the newcomer, Yang Chengfeng immediately identified him as the person in charge of the casino, Luo Haiou.

"President Yang, I've been told by the staff that the gentleman is a friend you brought?"

Yang Chengfeng nodded with an embarrassed look, apologetically saying, "Manager Luo, I'm really sorry. My friend has a bit of a temper, I hope you can forgive him."

"It's okay," Luo Haiou said with a smile, "I've seen many guests like him. President Yang, your friend looks familiar; I feel like I've seen him somewhere. Could you introduce me?"

"He's Ling Chen, he works for the Hongyu Group."

"Ling Chen..." Luo Haiou muttered to himself, a glint of recognition flashing in his eyes, as the smile on his face grew even brighter.

"Is he the boyfriend of Miss Nanrong, the Chairman of the Hongyu Group, Ling Chen?"

Chapter 609 Losing Red-Eyed (2)

"Yes," Yang Chengfeng nodded and asked, "Manager Luo, you also know him?"

"Of course I do. Miss Nanrong is so famous, who hasn't heard of her boyfriend? It's just that I never had the chance to meet him." After saying this, Luo Haiou looked at Ling Chen, who was still arguing with the dealer, took a few steps forward, and smiled, "Mr. Ling."

Ling Chen turned around, looked at Luo Haiou who was speaking, and said displeasingly, "Who are you? Move aside, don't disturb me from gambling."

Luo Haiou didn't mind Ling Chen's tone at all, and said amiably, "Mr. Ling, the maximum bet at this table cannot exceed five hundred thousand. There's no need to make it hard for him. How about this, if you want to gamble big, I can take you to the VIP room, how does that sound?"

"VIP room? What place is that?"

"The minimum stake there is one million, as long as you have the money, you can bet as much as you want," Luo Haiou said with a smile.

"Money?" Ling Chen snorted lightly, "Do I look like someone who lacks money?"

Hearing the dialogue between Ling Chen and Luo Haiou, Yang Chengfeng's expression became a bit strange. He had clearly explained the rules of the VIP room to Ling Chen, why would he pretend not to know in front of Luo Haiou, could it be that he... Suddenly, Yang Chengfeng seemed to understand something.

Luo Haiou said with a smile, "Of course Mr. Ling doesn't lack money. This way, please, let me take you to the VIP room." After speaking, Luo Haiou turned his head to look at Yang Chengfeng and asked, "President Yang, do you have any interest in joining for fun?"

"Playing is out of the question, but to see and learn is possible."

"Then please come along."

Under Luo Haiou's lead, Ling Chen, Yang Chengfeng, and Hu Fei arrived at the luxurious cruise ship's VIP room. The so-called VIP room was actually not much different in decoration—just that the stakes were higher than outside. Moreover, there weren't many gambling tables here, only five in total. After all, not many people were eligible to gamble here.

Upon entering the VIP room, Ling Chen glanced around casually, and his gaze was immediately captured by a young man in a suit.

Li Gang!

Ling Chen narrowed his eyes, a faint smile playing at the corners of his mouth. Although he had met this man only once, he had a deep impression of him. During Nanrong Wanqing's birthday banquet, Li Gang had tried to embarrass him several times. If he remembered correctly, this guy seemed to be the son of the chairman of Dongyu Group, a wealthy second-generation, very rich.

While Ling Chen was sizing up Li Gang, the latter also felt his gaze, slowly raised his head, and met Ling Chen's eyes. Eyes locked, Li Gang's expression darkened, and a cold glint flashed in his eyes. After staring each other down for a few moments, Li Gang concealed his expression and continued playing cards without betraying anything.

"Mr. Ling, the minimum bet here is one million, no upper limit, you can enjoy to your heart's content. If you need any help, just speak up, and I will try my best to meet your needs," Luo Haiou said with a smile.

Ling Chen waved his hand impatiently, "Alright, I know." After saying that, he walked straight to a nearby gambling table. Hu Fei glanced at Yang Chengfeng and hurriedly followed.

Standing in front of the table, it was still Blackjack.

"Ling Chen, let's try a different game," Hu Fei whispered, "You're not lucky with this, you've already lost several million outside and haven't won a single hand."

Although he spoke softly, it was loud enough for everyone around the table to hear. For a moment, everyone turned to look at Ling Chen, their eyes filled with intense interest.

"Why so much nonsense, get back up where you fell down. I refuse to believe that I can't win even one hand tonight." After speaking, Ling Chen directly threw two million worth of chips.

"Deal."

Two cards were dealt to him, Ling Chen looked at the face-up card, Old K, then held his breath, both nervous and anticipant, as he flipped over the face-down card.

It was a Queen of Hearts!

The two cards together added up to exactly twenty, infuriatingly close to twenty-one.

Seeing this hand, Ling Chen couldn't help but grin with confidence. Hearing Ling Chen's smug laughter, the surrounding gamblers couldn't resist shaking their heads and snickering to themselves.

This kid really doesn't know how to play cards; even if he gets a good hand, he shouldn't show it off. Otherwise, if the dealer notices, it would only decrease his winnings substantially.

Sure enough. Watching the radiant smile on Ling Chen's face, the dealer with an expressionless face flipped over his hole card and subtly furrowed his brow. Clearly, the number on that hole card was less than ideal.

"Reveal!" Seeing no one else wanted a card, Ling Chen immediately called out, then eagerly flipped over his two cards for everyone to see.

"Twenty." Ling Chen said with a grin, "Anyone have more than me?"

The other idle players didn't show much reaction, having anticipated Ling Chen's cards. It wasn't twenty-one, but it was still very good.

"Reveal your cards, what are you waiting for?"

Seeing the dealer hesitating to reveal his card, Ling Chen urged him immediately. Suddenly, everyone's attention focused on the dealer's hole card.

The dealer's face-up card was a ten; if his hole card was a face card, then he would tie with Ling Chen.

Feeling everyone's gaze, the dealer, expressionless, suddenly smiled, reaching out and flipping over his hole card.

Ace of Spades!

In an instant, the smile on Ling Chen's face froze and Hu Fei beside him started sweating profusely, continuously wiping his forehead with his sleeve.

In Blackjack, an Ace can either count as one or eleven, without any restrictions, and one can freely choose the value. Therefore, with this Ace and the ten, the dealer scored exactly twenty-one, decisively beating Ling Chen.

Furthermore, by hitting twenty-one, the bet doubles. Ling Chen had placed two million, so he owed the dealer four million, instantly losing half of his ten million chips.

"Dammit!" Ling Chen cursed unhappily, "Go again! Bet bigger this time." Saying so, he threw all six million onto the betting table.

"Are you crazy!" Hu Fei's eyes widened in disbelief as he looked at Ling Chen. This guy just bet all his remaining chips.

"Deal."

Ling Chen ignored Hu Fei, his gaze fixed intently on the cards dealt to him, fingers tapping lightly on the table surface to ease his inner tension.

Dozens of seconds passed.

Ling Chen flipped his cards: twenty-two points, busted. In just two rounds, he had lost all ten million.

"Damn it, I don't believe this bad luck." Ling Chen grabbed at his hair, his face flushed red as he said, "Go get me another twenty million."

Hu Fei said with a troubled face, "We... didn't bring that much money."

Ling Chen annoyed, "Don't you even have a card on you?"

"How would I know you'd lose this much?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't be bothered with Hu Fei anymore and turned his head to Yang Chengfeng, saying, "President Yang, can you help me out? Lend me a few million first. I'll pay you back after we get off the boat."

Chapter 610 Won a Game

"This..." Yang Chengfeng hesitated for a moment, unable to read Ling Chen's intentions, so he dared not agree casually.

At this moment, Luo Haiou came over from the side and said with a smile, "Mr. Ling, if you didn't bring that much money, it's okay, we can provide some loan."

Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he asked, "How much can I borrow?"

"With Ling Chen's status, naturally, as much as you want, but, we need to issue an IOU."

"Okay, give me eighty million first."

"No problem." Luo Haiou agreed very readily, immediately had someone bring over eighty million in chips, and handed over the prepared IOU for Ling Chen to sign and put his thumbprint on.

Ling Chen didn't say anything further, he signed his name directly and pressed his red thumbprint. After completing the IOU, carrying a tray with eighty million chips, he squeezed back to the gambling table, ready to throw a five million chip onto the table.

Seeing this, Hu Fei hurriedly grabbed Ling Chen's arm and said with a pained expression, "Don't bet so much at once, your luck isn't good now, start with less, don't lose it all in one go."

After hearing this, Ling Chen seemed to think it made sense, and he reduced the chips from five million to two million.

However, in three consecutive rounds, Ling Chen lost them all, not winning even once.

The gamblers around shook their heads secretly, with a look of staring at a fool on their faces. Knowing his own bad luck and still continuing to bet, and betting more and more, this is nothing if not foolish. Anyone with a bit of intelligence and self-control would not do this.

At that moment, only to see Li Gang make his way through the crowd, he leaned on the gambling table and said with a laugh, "Mr. Ling, since you are in such a mood tonight, how about I join you for a game?"

Ling Chen glanced at Li Gang, and asked indifferently, "How do you want to play?"

"Just the two of us alone bet, others can bet freely on either of us, how's that?" Li Gang looked provocatively at Ling Chen. He had seen Ling Chen continuously losing and he also heard that Ling Chen hadn't won a single game outside, having very bad luck. It just so happened that he had lost several tens of millions himself, and if he could win the chips from Ling Chen's hands, it would indeed make up for his losses.

"Fine." Ling Chen agreed without thinking.

Seeing Ling Chen agree so readily, Li Gang cautioned, "Let's get it straight first, no one is allowed to default on their debts later."

"Don't worry, if anyone is going to default, it would be you, not me," said Ling Chen, as he pointed at the clock on the wall and continued, "It's eight o'clock in the evening now, let's play till ten. Until the game ends, no one can withdraw. Do you have the guts?"

Li Gang was slightly stunned, not expecting Ling Chen to set that condition.

"Hmph!" Ling Chen scoffed disdainfully, "If you don't have the guts, just get lost, stop embarrassing yourself in front of me."

Upon hearing this, Li Gang frowned, stood upright, and said coldly, "Let's do it, I'm not afraid of you."

"Good, deal the cards."

As soon as his words fell, more than ten gamblers immediately pushed their chips towards Li Gang. All these people knew about Ling Chen's bad luck and thought of trying their luck to make a few million.

Fortunately, everyone was just trying out, the bets placed weren't large, only a million or two each. Together with Li Gang's own stake, the total bets on the table were eighteen million. If Ling Chen lost, he would have to pay out eighteen million at a one-to-one rate. Conversely, if he won, he could take all eighteen million.

The profit was huge, but the risk was equally great.

Two minutes passed.

The chips in Ling Chen's tray were reduced to less than forty million, having lost over thirty million in just two rounds.

Seeing Ling Chen's money was so easy to earn, the surrounding onlookers couldn't help it and successively placed their bets on Li Gang's side.

In the blink of an eye, the bet in front of Li Gang had reached over 40 million.

This scene caught the eye of Luo Haiou, who immediately called an underling and whispered something into his ear. Soon, the underling was waiting nearby with chips and IOUs. If Ling Chen lost this round, these chips and IOUs would be sent over immediately.

After all, with Nanrong Wanqing backing Ling Chen, Luo Haiou wasn't worried about Ling Chen defaulting on his debts.

"Open! Open! Open!"

At this moment, everyone held their breath, intently watching the face-down card in Li Gang's hand. As the corner of the card was flipped, a picture card was revealed.

Twenty points!

Seeing this score, everyone relaxed. Now there was nothing to do but wait to collect the money.

Ling Chen, with a solemn expression, picked up the face-down card on the table, pressing it into his palm, and gently lifted a corner with his thumb. Hu Fei, with a tense expression, leaned in trying to get a clear view of the card. However, before he could even see it, Ling Chen pressed the card back down to the table.

"I don't want a card."

Hearing Ling Chen speak, Li Gang smiled and said, "I don't want one either." With that, he flipped over his face-down card and laugh proudly: "Twenty points, time to collect the money."

Luo Haiou glanced at Li Gang's card, a slight smile curling at the corners of his mouth, and he winked at his underling to pass over the chips that were prepared ahead of time.

However, as the underling approached the table and was about to speak, Ling Chen suddenly grinned and laughed: "Twenty points is high, but unfortunately, I have just a bit more than you."

With that, Ling Chen flipped over his card underneath.

A King and an Ace, exactly twenty-one points.

The bet doubled, and the 40 million in front of Li Gang instantly increased to 90 million.

With just one hand, Ling Chen not only recouped all his losses but also won several million more.

Looking at the twenty-one points on the gambling table, Li Gang's face instantly turned sour. Not only him, but the other gamblers were also stunned. What was thought to be a guaranteed win was turned around by Ling Chen.

However, although Ling Chen won this hand, nobody felt regretful. After all, they had won two to three hundred million just a while ago, and now it was as if they were simply returning it to him. There was still plenty of time and opportunities to turn the tables.

As the game started again, there were still over 30 million in bets in front of Li Gang.

Adjusting his state, Li Gang pulled out a cigarette, lit it, and said to the dealer, "Deal."

One face-up card and one face-down card, three and nine, making twelve points in total—too low for a strong chance to win. Holding his cards, Li Gang looked around at the people beside him, as if asking whether to continue drawing cards or not.

"Draw."

Almost everyone shouted in unison.

Li Gang nodded and signaled the dealer, who promptly delivered a card to him.

However, as soon as the card was revealed, Li Gang's eyes widened and his face became extremely ugly.

It was a King!

Direct bust.

Seeing this, Li Gang forced himself to stay calm, looking at Ling Chen across the gambling table. If Ling Chen also bust, then it would be a tie for everyone.