

The Beauty 611

Chapter 611 Mr. Li Asking for Trouble

However, the greater the hope, the greater the disappointment often is.

Ling Chen revealed his hidden cards, totaling eighteen points. Though not high, it was enough to beat Li Gang.

In a blink, Ling Chen's plate welcomed another thirty-plus million.

Looking at the chips piling up in front of him, a smile blossomed on Ling Chen's face. It seemed Hu Fei was right; this really was the fastest way to make money. In such a short time, not only had he made the needed forty million, but he also had several million surplus, enough to assemble a production line.

"Let's continue," said Ling Chen with a smile as he glanced at Li Gang.

"Don't be smug, those last two rounds were just dumb luck," Li Gang said coldly.

But even if it was dumb luck, it was still luck. And blackjack is all about luck. Seeing Ling Chen win two rounds in a row, the people following his bets had halved, leaving only over ten million in front of Li Gang.

Of course, that was not the point. Witnessing Ling Chen's luck in the first two rounds, some gamblers began to try their luck by placing their bets on Ling Chen. Before long, there were nearly ten million in bets in front of Ling Chen.

Seeing those chips, Li Gang's forehead involuntarily broke out into a cold sweat. At this point, how could he not be tense? If he lost this round, he would be down over ten million—that was no small sum.

Li Gang took a deep breath, turned over the hidden cards in his hand, and said, "Nineteen points."

"Sorry, but it's twenty-one again." Ling Chen flipped over his cards with a grin.

In that instant, Li Gang seemed to freeze completely, watching Ling Chen's points in disbelief, his mouth agape, unable to utter a word.

Twenty-one points meant he had to pay double the bet, nearly thirty million.

Looking at the less than ten million in chips he had, Li Gang's face turned very unsightly. At this time, a staff member brought over a tray of chips and a promissory note to Li Gang. This was originally prepared for Ling Chen, but now it was used on Li Gang.

With no other choice, the cash-strapped Li Gang had to sign the note, taking the eighty million in chips to clear his debts, still left with over fifty million in hand, enough to play a few more rounds.

However, in less than half an hour, Ling Chen's luck only seemed to improve, not having lost a single hand. Gamblers who were initially betting on Li Gang all switched sides to Ling Chen.

In a mere half-hour, Luo Haiou had ordered his men to deliver money to Li Gang twice, reaching over a hundred million, all on credit.

Li Gang wiped the sweat from his forehead and checked the time. There was still more than an hour until ten o'clock. If this continued, God knows how much he would lose. Even worse, the bets on Ling Chen were getting bigger and bigger, with almost every round wagering sixty to seventy million.

Just two more wins and he could clear all his debts!

Li Gang thought to himself.

"Another round!" Li Gang gritted his teeth in determination and told the dealer to continue dealing cards.

But once again, the scales of good fortune tipped in favor of Ling Chen. Not only did he win, but he also hit twenty-one points.

At this moment, everyone was overjoyed. Playing a game and cashing in hundreds of millions—it's not something that happens every day.

"Manager Luo, he's already borrowed almost three hundred million; are we still going to lend to him?" asked an underling in a low voice.

"What's there to fear," Luo Haiou responded lightly, "Don't you know Mr. Li is the son of Dongyu Group's chairman? Dongyu Group is worth over ten billion; this bit of money is nothing. Keep lending, as much as he wants, we're not afraid he won't pay it back."

At this time, Hu Fei, surrounded by mountains of chips, could not stop grinning. With so much money, not just one, but three production lines wouldn't be a problem.

Ling Chen, with a hand on his nose, watched the unaffected Li Gang with a smile and asked, "Mr. Li, what's wrong? Not playing anymore? It's still early, just after nine o'clock, don't forget our agreement."

Heated upon hearing Ling Chen's mocking words, Li Gang suddenly looked up, pointed at Ling Chen, and yelled, "You're cheating."

"Cheating?" Ling Chen was momentarily taken aback, but his smile grew wider as he replied, "Mr. Li, you can eat anything you want, but you can't just say anything. Which eye saw me cheating? Besides, with so many people around me, they would've noticed if I were cheating."

"That's right. Mr. Li, when you lose, you lose. The Li Family isn't short on money; don't lose your integrity too," someone immediately echoed from behind Ling Chen.

With one person taking the lead, naturally, there followed a second. They had all made money thanks to Ling Chen, so of course, they sided with him—who would be foolish enough to help Li Gang? That would be utterly self-defeating.

As the crowd began to berate him with various comments, Li Gang, holding back his rage, barked with a dark face: "If he isn't cheating, how could he possibly win every round? Even if his luck is good, it can't be to this extent." After speaking, Li Gang turned to Luo Haiou and said, "Manager Luo, you're the one in charge here, make a fair judgment. Do you think that's likely?"

Luo Haiou said with a smile, "Gambling naturally involves winning and losing. I've been watching you two gamble just now. Although my gambling skills are average, I'm confident in my eyesight, and if anyone dares to cheat in front of me, they absolutely can't get past me. Mr. Li, I assure you, Mr. Ling has not cheated unless his cheating skills are so advanced they've gone beyond what my eyes can detect."

Li Gang, not willing to concede, shouted, "If he's that skilled, wouldn't that mean I'm at a disadvantage?"

"There's nothing that can be done about that. If Mr. Ling's cheating has reached that profound level, then you have to accept your loss. Oh, right! Mr. Li, I forgot to remind you that it was you who suggested betting, not Mr. Ling. Since you've said it, you can't go back on your word. There's still an hour until ten o'clock; you can keep playing. If you need money, just tell me. With Dongyu Group's wealth, it wouldn't be a problem to loan you ten billion."

"No, I'm done playing. It's clear you're just after my money," Li Gang took two steps back, vigorously shaking his head, and shouted angrily, "I'm telling you, I'm not that easy to deceive." After saying this, Li Gang flung his sleeves and walked out indignantly.

"Mr. Li, where are you going?" Luo Haiou advanced two steps, blocking Li Gang's path, his smile unwavering. But those familiar with Luo Haiou knew that Li Gang was about to be in trouble.

Li Gang, frowning, said, "Get out of my way, Luo, I want to get off this boat."

"Mr. Li, we value integrity on this gambling boat. If you break your promise, you'll be added to the list of unwelcome guests."

"Tch!" Li Gang scoffed, his face full of disdain as he said, "You think I care about playing here? Move! Don't block my way like a dog in the manger."

Chapter 612 Making a Fortune

For Li Gang's insults, Luo Haiou didn't take them seriously; with a fake smile, he said, "Mr. Li, you can leave, but pay off the debt note from earlier first, then we can be clear."

Seeing Luo Haiou's subordinate handing over five debt notes, Li Gang's face changed, and he snatched those notes, about to tear them. However, seeing his action, Luo Haiou swiftly grabbed Li Gang's wrist and twisted it gently.

Crack!

Accompanied by a crisp sound, Li Gang's right arm was instantly dislocated.

Ah!

Amidst the screams, Li Gang's face turned pale, and he was in so much pain that tears were about to flow. As a wealthy second-generation, he had never experienced such pain from childhood to adulthood.

Luo Haiou snorted softly, let go of his hand, and Li Gang's body immediately collapsed to the ground.

"Mr. Li, if you don't find a way to settle the debt tonight, don't think about leaving this ship," Luo Haiou said coldly, leaving no room for negotiation.

"Drag him away, and release him only when the money is transferred."

Several staff members didn't hesitate and immediately picked Li Gang up from the ground and dragged him out of the VIP hall.

Watching Li Gang's screams disappear outside the VIP hall, Ling Chen looked at Luo Haiou in surprise; he didn't expect this guy to be a martial artist. Moreover, given the speed of Luo Haiou's actions, his skills were clearly strong. It's really surprising that a manager of a gambling ship had such capabilities.

"Mr. Ling, everyone, I apologize for earlier, and thank you for your understanding," Luo Haiou said with a smiling face and a pleasant tone.

Ling Chen politely said, "Not at all, we should be thanking Manager Luo for your help."

"Mr. Ling, please come this way, I'll take you to exchange the chips."

"Thanks!"

After exchanging the chips, Ling Chen realized that during his bet with Li Gang earlier, he had won more than one hundred million. It hadn't taken long, yet a large sum of money had been credited to his account. However, this was all thanks to Li Gang. If it weren't for his proposal to bet, letting others place their bets even with his good techniques, he wouldn't have been able to win such a large amount of money so quickly.

Of course, Hu Fei was the happiest. This guy is just a money lover, especially when it's such a large sum.

"Mr. Ling, your chips have been exchanged into cash and deposited into your bank account. Please check your phone."

"No need." Ling Chen said with a smile: "I trust Manager Luo wouldn't deceive me."

"Mr. Ling, if you don't want to continue gambling, I can arrange a guest room for you to rest overnight, and the ship will be docked early tomorrow morning."

"Can't we leave now?"

Ling Chen didn't really want to stay on this luxury cruise ship; since his goal had already been achieved, staying any longer would be a waste of time.

Luo Haiou smiled slightly: "If Mr. Ling wants to return, I can prepare a speedboat for you."

"That would be great, thank you."

"Mr. Ling, please keep this well, if you ever want to come back, just show this card, and our staff will surely take good care of you."

Ling Chen glanced at the VIP card handed by Luo Haiou, didn't refuse, and simply pocketed it. Whether he would return in the future didn't matter; he would keep it just in case.

Not long after, Ling Chen, Hu Fei, and Yang Chengfeng boarded the speedboat prepared by Luo Haiou, and headed straight for the port of East Sea City.

"Mr. Ling, what was today's performance all about?" With no outsiders present, Yang Chengfeng spoke much more freely. Plus, he had also made a fair amount of money by betting with Ling Chen. Although it was only a few million, it was still a happy occasion.

Winning money makes everyone happy.

"President Yang, you really can't escape your keen observation," Ling Chen said with a smile.

Previously on the luxurious cruise, both he and Hu Fei were acting. Of course, he didn't inform Hu Fei beforehand; it was a spontaneous decision. Luckily, Hu Fei was smart enough to quickly catch on and cooperated with him in the act.

Their initial quarrel was just to draw people's attention; subsequently, Luo Haiou being attracted was also within expectations. Later, when they entered the VIP room, Ling Chen deliberately showed weakness, losing every round just to arouse others' greed, making them think that his money was easy to win.

As for Li Gang's proposal, that was unexpected. However, it played right into Ling Chen's hands, making his earnings even easier.

"Mr. Ling," Yang Chengfeng hesitated and then couldn't help but ask, "Is your luck really that good, to win every time?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen smiled without responding.

Luck?

He was here to make money; relying solely on luck would have likely left him broke long ago. Without some tricks, how could he have been so successful?

As an expert on the Dragon List, secretly switching cards was a skill everyone should have. As long as one's hand speed and some concealment techniques were good enough, no one could detect it. Although Luo Haiou was also skilled, fortunately, his capabilities were far from matching his own, so there was no need to worry about being exposed.

"President Yang, who owns that gambling boat?"

Yang Chengfeng shook his head and said, "I really don't know, the gambling boat has been operating for a long time. All I know is that Luo Haiou is the manager; as for the shadowy owner behind the scenes, no one has ever seen him."

While they talked, the motorboat was already approaching the port of East Sea City.

Yang Chengfeng had a company car for pick up and drop off, while Ling Chen drove himself. After saying goodbye to each other, Ling Chen and Hu Fei immediately took a car back to the Old City.

Upon entering the office, Hu Fei immediately sat down at the computer, eagerly opened his account, and gawked at the eight-figure sum, laughing foolishly.

"Fatty, transfer ten million out as repayment for my previous debt; use the rest to purchase equipment. Remember, this matter cannot be delayed, it must be handled quickly, I urgently need that equipment."

"Don't worry, I know." After saying that, Hu Fei happily transferred ten million to his own account.

After sleeping in the courier company for one night, early the next morning, Ling Chen drove back to Wealthy Manor alone.

Now that his arrest warrant had been withdrawn, he no longer had to worry about Lonely Wolf's people harming him.

Upon entering the villa, there was no one in the living room. Ling Chen called out twice, but neither Nanrong Wanqing nor Su Lin responded.

Strange, why is there no one at home, where have they all gone?

Ling Chen thought to himself, noticing even Nanny Wang was nowhere to be seen.

Right away, Ling Chen went to the villa next door where Nanrong Hao lived. He knocked on the door and saw Nanrong Hao leaning against the sofa, feet up on the coffee table, holding a game controller and playing video games.

"Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen enter, Nanrong Hao dropped his controller, stood up with a face full of surprise.

"When did you come back?"

"Just entered. By the way, where are your sister and the others, why is there no one?"

Nanrong Hao said in surprise, "Chen, don't you know?"

"What should I know?"

"Oh!" Nanrong Hao slapped his forehead and said with an embarrassed smile, "I nearly forgot, you weren't at home these past few days, you might not know about this."

Chapter 613 Technology Transfer

Ling Chen looked at Nanrong Hao with a puzzled expression and asked, "What's the matter? Make it clear."

"They've all gone to the company. I heard from my cousin that it seems a very important guest has arrived at the company, and they got there yesterday. Since yesterday until now, both sister and cousin have stayed at the company and haven't come back."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen thought it odd. What could be so important that neither of them has gone back home.

"I'll go to the company to check on them. Do you want to come with me?"

"Let's go, I'll drive."

Leaving the Nanrong residence, Ling Chen and Nanrong Hao got into the car and drove straight out of Wealthy Manor towards the headquarters of Hongyu Group.

In about half an hour, the two arrived at the underground parking garage.

Ding!

The elevator doors opened, and Ling Chen, with Nanrong Hao, arrived at the company's top floor, only to find the office desk by the wall empty. Usually, Wang Lan works there, but today is not Sunday, nor is it mealtime yet—Wang Lan was unexpectedly missing, with no clue where she might have gone.

As they pondered, the two approached the CEO's office door and reached out to push it open. However, at that moment, the door of the office was opened from the inside.

"Mr. Ling, Mr. Nanrong!"

Ling Chen looked at Wang Lan inside the door, cracked a slight smile, and said, "I thought you had taken the day off. Is the CEO and Miss Su in there?"

"Miss Su is tending to matters with the guest; the CEO is resting in the room," replied Wang Lan, stifling a yawn and rubbing her dark circles, "We've all been busy overnight and hardly slept. Miss Su is worried about the CEO's health, so she let her rest first."

Ling Chen curiously asked, "What guest?"

It must be a significant matter if they were busy all night.

Wang Lan shook her head, "I don't know who that person is, but the CEO is being very polite to them, not daring to offend at all. Moreover, that person is so rude, acting as if this place belongs to them, bossing people around without any disregard for the CEO."

Hearing Wang Lan's complaints, Ling Chen grew even more curious about the guest's identity. Who could it be that even Nanrong Wanqing would show deference to and not dare to offend?

After a moment of thought, Ling Chen said, "Haozi, you wait outside for a bit; I'll go in and check on your sister."

With that, Ling Chen pushed the door open and went into the office, heading straight for the private rest area at the back. Upon opening the room's door, he saw Nanrong Wanqing lying on the single bed, covered with a thin blanket, beside which a wheelchair was placed.

According to Wang Lan, Nanrong Wanqing had not been resting for long and was already deep asleep, indicating she must have been extremely tired the night before.

Ling Chen walked on tiptoe to the bedside and admired the delicate features of Nanrong Wanqing's beautiful face. The sleeping Nanrong Wanqing looked just like a three-year-old child, with rosy cheeks like tempting red apples, inciting the desire to take a bite.

Listening to her faint breathing, Ling Chen pulled the blanket up a bit to cover her exposed body and then took a few fleece coats out of the wardrobe to lay over the blanket, preventing Nanrong Wanqing from catching a cold.

Originally, he wanted to ask Nanrong Wanqing for a clear explanation, but seeing that she was already asleep, Ling Chen didn't have the heart to disturb her. After a night of hard work, she deserved a good rest.

Leaving the rest area, Ling Chen stepped outside the office and asked, "Lan, where did Miss Su take the guest?"

"It seems like they went to the finance office."

Ling Chen nodded, then called Nanrong Hao and went straight to the elevator to the floor where the finance office was located.

Before entering the finance office, Ling Chen saw Su Lin through the transparent glass of the finance office. At that moment, Su Lin was talking non-stop beside two middle-aged men in suits and leather shoes. Nearby, several finance staff members were typing on their keyboards, printing documents.

Nanrong Hao took the lead, pushed open the door of the finance office, and welcomed Ling Chen in.

"Ling Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen's arrival, Su Lin was a bit surprised and hurried over, asking, "What brings you here?"

"I heard you've been busy all night and haven't gone home, so I brought Haozi to check on you." After speaking, Ling Chen's gaze shifted, sizing up the two men in suits. At that moment, they were also observing him, their eyes revealing a sharpness.

"Who are these two?"

"They are from the military."

The military?

Ling Chen was taken aback, a hint of surprise flashing in his Mo Che-like pupils. What were military people doing here?

With thoughts racing, Ling Chen strode forward and asked, "Gentlemen, which department do you belong to?"

One of the men in suits looked down his nose at Ling Chen with an air of arrogance, responding indifferently, "What's it to you?"

"The chairman of Hongyu Group is my future wife, so tell me, does it concern me?"

"So, you are that Ling Chen."

"You know me?"

"Not personally, but when we came here, we were instructed that if we encounter you, to convey a message: don't meddle in things you shouldn't. We are handling national affairs. If you do something harmful to the national interest, don't blame us for not being polite."

"National interest?"

Ling Chen frowned and looked back at Su Lin, asking, "What are they trying to do?"

Su Lin didn't say anything, just handed a document to Ling Chen. After skimming it for a moment, Ling Chen's face fell. He turned back sharply to face the two men in suits, his tone growing colder as he said, "This is your so-called national interest? This looks more like robbery to me."

Originally, under Ling Chen's intermediation, Hongyu Group and the military had signed a contract to share exoskeleton armor technology. According to the contract, the military allowed Hongyu Group to build a military factory to produce exoskeleton armors for military equipment. However, for some reasons, Nanrong Wanqing abandoned the idea of establishing the military factory and instead transferred the production rights to the military, with Hongyu Group only responsible for collecting a certain profit each year.

But the document Su Lin had just given to Ling Chen was a transfer contract. Hongyu Group was transferring all the rights to use and produce the exoskeleton armor technology to the military, essentially letting the military buy out this technological patent in one go. If the military's price was reasonable, Ling Chen would have no objections. But the problem was that the price on the transfer contract was just a few billion. Given the advanced nature of the exoskeleton armor technology, this price was practically daylight robbery.

"No, I cannot accept this."

One of the men in suits coldly said, "Ling Chen, whether you accept it or not doesn't matter to me. What's key is that Miss Nanrong has already agreed."

Agreed?

Ling Chen looked at Su Lin baffled, asking, "Is this true?"

Su Lin nodded helplessly and said, "Wanqing did indeed agree." As she spoke, Su Lin glanced at the two men in suits, leaned slightly forward, and whispered faintly, "Originally Wanqing didn't agree, but I don't know what they said, and she actually accepted."

Chapter 614 Military Threats

"Do you know what they told Wanqing?"

"I'm not sure, they sent me away at that time. Later, I went to ask Wanqing, but she didn't mention a word about it, and there was nothing I could do."

Ling Chen frowned secretly and his gaze towards the two men in suits turned very unfriendly, with a faint glint of cold light in the depths of his eyes.

Threat!

These two bastards must have threatened Nanrong Wanqing to force her compliance with their demands.

Feeling the chill in Ling Chen's eyes, one of the older men in suits spoke up sharply, "Ling Chen, don't forget your previous identity. As a soldier, even though you are now retired, you should still prioritize national interests."

Ling Chen said indifferently, "I have never compromised national interests, but if it really was the intention of the nation, I believe they wouldn't be so stingy. Wanqing has agreed to your terms, but as long as the contract hasn't been signed, nothing is final. Haozi!"

"Chen, what do you need?"

"Take them to the reception room, get Wei to send a few people over, make sure to keep a close watch on these two. Without my permission, no one is allowed to let them go." After speaking, Ling Chen turned and walked towards the finance office.

Watching Ling Chen's departing figure, the two men in suits looked at each other with somewhat ugly expressions, and in the depths of their eyes, there was a hint of panic.

"Ling Chen, stop right there!"

However, Ling Chen seemed deaf to their rebukes and slammed the door shut with a 'bang'.

Back in the chairman's office, Ling Chen didn't want to disturb Nanrong Wanqing's rest, but he couldn't let her unknowingly transfer the exoskeleton armor technology at a throwaway price. Over the years, Nanrong Wanqing had invested enormous sums of money in this technology; even several billion in transfer fees wouldn't cover the costs.

"Wanqing." Ling Chen gently pushed her, whispering her name in her ear.

In a daze, Nanrong Wanqing fluttered her eyelashes, her eyes glittering like stars slowly opened, and seeing Ling Chen's distinctively featured face, her sleepiness vanished mostly at once, and she sat up in bed, exclaiming with surprise, "You're back!"

Ling Chen nodded and asked, "Let's not talk about that first. I heard from Su Lin that you're planning to undersell the patent rights for the exoskeleton technology?"

"They are from the military..."

Hearing this, before Nanrong Wanqing could continue, Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "What about the military? Does being in the military justify cheating and deceiving? If we're doing business, we should be sincere. Whatever the price should be, it should at least not cause us to lose money. You have been the chairman for so many years, don't you understand this?"

Nanrong Wanqing said softly, "It's not that I don't understand, it's just..."

"Just what?"

Nanrong Wanqing hesitated for a moment, then shook her head, "Nothing."

But her hesitating expression couldn't escape Ling Chen's eyes. Seeing that she was reluctant to speak, he said, "Su Lin told me that those two men had a private conversation with you, what exactly did they say to you?"

"I can't say."

"Why? Is there something you can't say in front of me?"

"No, I didn't mean that," Nanrong Wanqing said anxiously, "Just don't ask, I've already agreed to it. Besides, whether it's several billion or tens of billions, for Hongyu Group, it's just a drop in the bucket, the amount doesn't matter."

"That's unacceptable."

Ling Chen could see that there was definitely a problem with this situation, but Nanrong Wanqing refused to say. Clearly, whatever made her do this was not simple.

Threat!

A thought flashed through Ling Chen's mind. It must have been those two men threatening Nanrong Wanqing, making her fearful and unwilling to disclose it to him.

Thinking this, a wave of nameless anger surged in Ling Chen's heart.

Damn it! Having spent so many years with the Ghosts, I was part of the military, and now they're bullying me? Do they really think I don't have a temper?

"Wanqing." Ling Chen looked directly into Nanrong Wanqing's eyes, pausing on every word, "Tell me the truth, what exactly did they say to you?"

"I..."

Before Nanrong Wanqing could finish, Ling Chen cut her off, saying sternly, "Just remember, no matter what they said, it's not enough to threaten you or me."

After speaking, Ling Chen watched Nanrong Wanqing, quietly waiting for her to speak.

After a while, Nanrong Wanqing, deep in thought, finally chose to be honest.

"They came to me and said, if I didn't agree to their demands, they would have you arrested."

"Arrest me?" Ling Chen felt amused and asked, "Did they mention why?"

"They said you were guilty of murder. Recently, many bodies were discovered in East Sea City, and apparently, they're all related to you. They told me they have sufficient evidence to prove that you killed those people."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately understood.

Recently, the God Organization had repeatedly sent people to cause trouble, all of whom he had dealt with. Murder, he indeed had committed, but those he killed were deserving of their fate. Previously, with the old general's protection, even after committing murder, no one dared to touch him. Now that the old general had stepped back, it seemed someone was using this as an excuse to trouble him.

Who could it be?

Ling Chen thought to himself. He knew most of the high-ranking officials in the military, although he hadn't interacted much with them, he at least had a rough understanding; there was no reason for those people to trouble him.

After thinking, Ling Chen took out his phone and directly called Tang Yuan.

"I wasn't aware of this; I haven't even heard about it," Tang Yuan expressed surprise over the phone after learning of the situation.

"Tang Yuan, are you sure those two are people sent by the military?"

"That shouldn't be a problem. I checked their IDs; they are all genuine. With my eye for detail, if the credentials were fake, I could spot them instantly; there's no way they could deceive me."

"That's strange then; we didn't receive any news on our end. Besides, the collaboration with Hongyu Group was initiated by the Ghosts, and although Ghosts have disbanded, Lonely Wolf is still around. If there's any negotiation to be done, it should be Lonely Wolf taking the initiative, not some military personnel acting on their own. Hang on, let me go find Mr. Han; he was the person who negotiated initially, he might know the situation."

"Alright, hurry up, let me know once you find out anything."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked at Nanrong Wanqing and said, "Don't worry about this matter; just rest here peacefully, I'll handle it."

Nanrong Wanqing, concerned, said, "Try not to conflict with them, I don't want you to get into trouble."

"There's no need to worry for me. Those two guys... huh! They're not worthy enough to conflict with me."

Chapter 615 Where Did It Go

After leaving the rest room, Ling Chen went straight to the reception room. Upon entering, he saw the two men in suits whispering to each other at the long table under the supervision of Wei Jun and others, discussing something unknown.

When they saw Ling Chen entering, the two men in suits immediately looked up, their faces displaying their displeasure at his arrival.

"Ling Chen, we are military officials. By arbitrarily restricting our freedom, we can completely sue you, you..."

"Shut up!" Ling Chen snapped coldly. After speaking, he gestured with his eyes to Wei Jun and Nanrong Hao to take the people out first.

Once they left, Ling Chen brought a chair over and sat down in front of the two men in suits. He asked, "Speak, who exactly instructed you to do this? Don't give me any talk of national interest, those lies might deceive others, but not me."

The slightly older man in a suit frowned and said, "Ling Chen, what kind of attitude is this? Don't think that just because you spent a few days in the military before, you can act recklessly in front of us. I'm telling you, you'd better be polite, otherwise don't blame us for not being courteous."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen's mouth curled into a half-smile as he looked at them both, saying, "In that case, I'd like to see what exactly you plan to do to me."

"You..." The man's face darkened as he suddenly stood up and glared at Ling Chen, as if he was about to reach out and grab Ling Chen's collar. However, before his hand touched Ling Chen, his companion stopped him. The companion grabbed his hand and shook his head at him, indicating he should not act rashly.

With his companion's reminder, the man seemed to realize something and his gaze shifted towards Ling Chen, now tinted with a hint of fear.

Seeing the other party sit down again, Ling Chen said with a hint of disappointment, "I thought you guys were more capable than that." Before Ling Chen could speak again, a pleasant ringtone suddenly rang out from his pocket.

Pulling out his phone, Ling Chen looked at the incoming caller ID and immediately smiled. Standing up from the chair, he walked over to the window of the reception room and answered the call.

"Tang Yuan, I just inquired with Mr. Han."

"What's the situation?"

"The military high command didn't make this decision and did not send anyone to East Sea City to talk to Miss Nanrong."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's frown deepened and he said, "But I've checked their IDs and documents; they're all real."

"I looked into it for you. Those two you mentioned, one is called Wang Tong and the other, Tang Wei, have worked in the military office for many years. They took leave the other day, claiming they were going home to visit family."

"Going home turns out to be coming to East Sea City? Heh! How interesting."

"Tang Yuan, this matter is probably not simple. Those two are just cannon fodder; the real mastermind must be someone else. I think, to get their hands on legitimate documents, there must be a person of immense power and influence backing them."

"Old Tang, you're not suggesting..."

"You should understand what I mean."

"Got it."

In a flash, Ling Chen understood what Tang Yuan was implying.

God Organization!

Ling Chen was all too aware of the capabilities of the God Organization. In other countries, the organization's influence had already penetrated both military and political spheres, but only Huaxia had been covertly on guard, hence avoiding infiltration so far. However, considering the current situation, Ling Chen couldn't help but suspect that the mastermind behind all this might be the God Organization.

What puzzled Ling Chen, however, was that by doing this, the God Organization would expose itself. Besides, the God Organization already had the technology for exoskeleton armor, so why go through all this trouble? It didn't make sense.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen glanced at the two men in suits and asked, "How should we deal with these two guys?"

"I've notified the police. Leave it to them, and you don't have to worry about it. When it's time, they will be brought back for Lonely Wolf to interrogate."

"Okay." After that, Ling Chen suddenly remembered something and asked, "By the way! One more thing, has the leader of Lonely Wolf been chosen yet?"

"Not yet, a few candidates have been selected, but they need to pass the scrutiny of the higher-ups."

"Mr. Han must be on the list, right?"

"No," Tang Yuan replied with a hint of resignation. "Mr. Han didn't make any major mistakes last time in helping you, but there was still a misstep. Considering this, the upper echelons revoked his candidacy. I guess he might continue as the second-in-command."

Ling Chen sighed, "I let him down."

"Stop worrying about it, Mr. Han doesn't blame you. He was willing to help you. Alright, that's it for now, I have other matters. We'll talk later."

After ending the call, Ling Chen put his phone back into his pocket and turned to leave the reception room.

"Ling Chen!"

Wang Tong and Tang Wei, seeing Ling Chen ignore them and leave directly, couldn't help but call out. However, Ling Chen didn't stop at all, and as the door closed, their voices were left behind inside the room.

Since Tang Yuan had already clarified the truth, there was no need for him to waste further words on these two men.

Back at the lobby of the Hongyu Group headquarters, Ling Chen saw several policemen arriving from outside. Tang Yuan was efficient; he must have informed the police even before giving him a call.

Seeing the leading policeman walking towards him, Ling Chen greeted him with a smile.

Ling Chen had been to the police station quite a few times, and the policeman in front of him often accompanied Xia Mutong, so he recognized him.

"Officer Xiao, why are you leading the team today? Where's Officer Xia?"

"I don't know, we haven't seen Captain Xia for quite a few days."

"Not seen her?" Ling Chen's expression changed abruptly, asking, "What do you mean, didn't she go to work?"

"No, I've tried contacting Captain Xia everywhere, but she hasn't shown up, and nobody's at home, don't know where she went. Captain Xia has been on duty for many years and has never taken leave. Suddenly disappearing like this, everyone's worried."

This was new!

Ling Chen frowned, thinking... had Xia Mutong not returned to East Sea City after their trip to Changling City? If that were the case, then where did she go? Surely, someone like her couldn't just get lost.

This thought caused Ling Chen to become concerned.

It had been a week since he came back from Changling City, which meant Xia Mutong had been missing for a week.

"Officer Xiao, as far as I know, Officer Xia went to Changling City a while ago. Maybe you should check with colleagues there and see if you can find any clues."

"Changling City? Okay, I got it!"

Returning to the chairman's office, Ling Chen's mind was still preoccupied with Xia Mutong's matter. Xia Mutong had helped him a great deal; if anything happened to her, he would be to blame.

Chapter 616 Genetic Mutation

"Ling Chen, what about those two people?"

Upon hearing Su Lin's inquiry, Ling Chen snapped back to reality and casually said, "Those two were swindlers and have already been taken away by the police."

"Swindlers?"

Ling Chen nodded, "Enough about them. You've been busy all night, better get some rest."

As he spoke, his phone rang again from his pocket.

Looking at the incoming caller ID, Ling Chen's eyes brightened as he quickly answered, "Mr. He, have you returned? Good, I understand, I'll be there shortly."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen turned to Nanrong Hao and said, "Haozi, take care of your sister, I need to step out for an urgent matter."

With those words, Ling Chen hurriedly ran out of the office and took the elevator straight to the underground parking garage.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen drove quickly to Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

Upon entering, he saw several fully armed men in suits walking around the spacious courtyard, securing the entirety of the Martial Arts Hall tightly.

As Ling Chen appeared, the suited men scrutinized him and after ensuring there was no threat, they let him pass.

Entering the main hall, Ling Chen looked at He Ziyun, sitting there, and asked, "Mr. He, what's the deal with those men outside?"

"They are here to protect Nanrong Yuan. Although I was allowed to bring Nanrong Yuan to East Sea City, he's a high-risk criminal and they don't fully trust the security here, thus they sent protection. Let's not worry about them for now, come with me, I'll take you to meet Nanrong Yuan."

Following Mr. He, soon Ling Chen found himself outside a room. Observing the security stationed at the door, he thought to himself how seriously they were taking Nanrong Yuan's security, which likely meant Nanrong Yuan would struggle to regain his freedom.

Entering the room, Ling Chen glanced around and his gaze instantly landed on Nanrong Yuan.

At the moment, Nanrong Yuan lay on a bed covered with a thick blanket, looking somewhat pale with an IV needle in his hand.

Around his head, a bandage was wrapped, indicating his injuries weren't fully healed.

"Mr.... Mr. Nanrong," Ling Chen almost called him Mr. Yun, but quickly corrected himself after remembering Nanrong Yuan's true identity.

"Take a seat," said Nanrong Yuan, pointing to a chair nearby. Though he looked weak, he appeared to be in good spirits.

"How's Wanqing?"

"She's fine."

Nanrong Yuan smiled in relief, "That's good to hear. I was told by Mr. He that it was you who requested to transfer me from Beijing to East Sea City?"

"Yes, there's something I need to consult you about."

"Go ahead."

"When you defected from the God Organization, it was because they discovered you had developed a new technology and wanted to seize it for themselves."

"That's right."

"Where did you hide that technology's data? Is it on Wanqing?" Ling Chen asked, looking at Nanrong Yuan.

Nanrong Yuan nodded, "I've warned you before, Wanqing is the key, and I think you might have guessed it." He paused, then continued, "Do you remember, a few months ago, I tricked Wanqing onto that island and injected her with a serum that cured her legs?"

"I remember."

"Actually, by that time, I had already mastered that new technology. For safety, while Wanqing was unconscious, I had someone implant that technology into her body. This way, as long as my identity remained hidden, no one would discover the new technology."

"Unfortunately, you miscalculated," Ling Chen remarked.

Hearing this, Nanrong Yuan's expression changed, and he straightened up from his reclined position.

"What do you mean?"

"Not long ago, the God Organization captured Wanqing and conducted some sort of experimentation on her. By the time I rescued her, her legs had reverted to their original state. Not only that, but the God Organization also conducted a new experiment on two of my friends, causing them to lose their minds and turn into terrifying killing machines. So, I believe the God Organization must have obtained the data of that new technology. You are most familiar with it since it was developed by your team."

Nanrong Yuan pondered for a while and then said somberly, "If that's the case, you might be in great danger. Although the technology is powerful, it still has its flaws. Of course, these flaws are only in terms of what my technology could perfect. The God Organization is different; they've been researching this area for decades and are far more experienced, with far superior facilities and team. Given enough time, they could perfect that new technology."

"After all this discussion, you haven't told us what this new technology is used for."

"Genetic mutation."

Genetic mutation?

Ling Chen and Mr. He exchanged glances, both filled with shock.

"Human weakness mainly arises from genetic issues. If genes are enhanced, it unlocks limitless possibilities. However, gene fusion has always been an insurmountable challenge that few have succeeded in overcoming. Until last year, my research team discovered a molecule that could neutralize human genes with other genes, achieving a breakthrough in gene fusion."

Continuing, Nanrong Yuan picked up a cup of tea, took a sip, and went on, "To put it simply, human genes and animal genes are difficult to merge, but after searching millions of organisms, we finally found a special gene variant in a deep-sea worm. This gene could act as a neutralizer, perfectly combining the two types of genes. As genes are fortified, human physical capabilities can be significantly enhanced. Now do you understand the key point of this new technology?"

Ling Chen nodded, his expression turning grave.

"Mr. Nanrong, if someone undergoes this genetic mutation experiment, can they ever revert to their original state?"

"This... I cannot be certain. When this new technology was first developed, I conducted a few experiments. Although the subjects successfully underwent genetic mutation, all of them died during our attempts to reverse the procedure, so I cannot guarantee recovery."

"From what you're saying, does that mean my two friends are beyond help?"

"I can't give a definitive answer. However, I personally believe that if anyone could reverse the experiment, it might only be possible by the God Organization."

The God Organization again!

Ling Chen frowned, considering his and the God Organization's relationship, they were unlikely to help him.

What a troublesome matter.

In contemplation, he suddenly heard Nanrong Yuan ask, "Ling Chen, about Wanqing now..."

"She already knows about your identity."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Yuan's face changed instantly, and he asked nervously, "Then... did she say anything?"

Chapter 617 Strange Incoming Call

Facing Nanrong Yuan's expectant gaze, Ling Chen was at a loss for words momentarily.

"Mr. Nanrong, you and Wanqing are father and daughter. Regardless of whether she can understand your actions, I believe she will forgive you," Ling Chen considered his words for a moment before speaking.

"Then... when can I see her?"

"Don't worry, when the time comes, I'll naturally bring her to you." As he said this, Ling Chen's tone shifted, asking, "Mr. Nanrong, what other intelligence do you have about the God Organization?"

Nanrong Yuan thought for a while, then shook his head and said, "That's all, I've said everything I know. But the God Organization is cunning with many hideouts, especially that mysterious leader, whose real identity no one has discovered to this day. Without finding him, it would be difficult to completely eradicate the God Organization."

"However, apart from knowing that this mysterious leader is Huaxian, we have no other information. Even with numerous intelligence agencies at our disposal, we don't know where to begin." After speaking, Ling Chen seemed to think of something, his eyes suddenly brightening, and he hurriedly asked, "Right! There's one more thing. There is a very important high-ranking member of the God Organization named Lin Guodong. Do you remember him?"

"Lin Guodong?" Nanrong Yuan nodded, "I know him, I've spoken with him a few times on the phone. You're right, among the high-ranking members of the God Organization, he's indeed an important member. Back when I was with the God Organization, unless there were particularly important matters, generally, it was he who represented the leader in presiding over phone conferences."

"If that's the case, then you should know what he looks like," Ling Chen pressed further.

"He's about one meter seventy-five tall, has a southern accent, about forty years old, with very fair skin..."

Listening to Nanrong Yuan's description, Ling Chen hurriedly cut him off, saying, "Wait a moment, I'm going to call someone over."

Half an hour later, Hu Fei arrived at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, clutching a laptop.

With Nanrong Yuan's description, Hu Fei started to model and simulate on the computer. In about ten minutes or so, Hu Fei had constructed a rough facial model.

Ling Chen, unable to wait, picked up the laptop and held it in front of Nanrong Yuan, asking, "Is this the man?"

Nanrong Yuan examined it closely for a moment and nodded, "That's about right, it's him."

"Fatty."

"Got it, I'll handle it." Hu Fei took the laptop, expertly tapping on the keyboard, uploading the portrait to the matching system, searching for the man's identity.

"How soon can we get a result?" Ling Chen appeared somewhat anxious. Finally having a lead on Lin Guodong, he was eager to arrest the other party. If he could deal with Lin Guodong, it might be possible to capture the entire core high-ranking members of the God Organization, including that mysterious leader.

"That's hard to say, I've already accessed the Ministry of Public Security's system. To locate that person among all the nationwide records might take a long time. Don't worry, I'll let you know as soon as we have results."

Because Nanrong Yuan's injuries had not yet fully healed, Ling Chen didn't linger too long. After clarifying Lin Guodong's appearance, he left the room with Hu Fei and He Ziyun.

"Mr. He, you are going to be quite busy lately."

"It's no trouble, no one dares to cause trouble here anyway."

"If there's nothing else, we will be on our way back."

"Alright, be safe on the road."

Upon coming out of the Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Hu Fei, sitting in the passenger seat, looked at Ling Chen and asked, "The God Organization has always believed that Nanrong Yuan is dead. If they find out he's still alive, will they take action?"

"No. Nanrong Yuan has told us everything he knows, and that new technology has also fallen into the hands of the God Organization. They don't need to go through more trouble. What I'm concerned about now isn't Nanrong Yuan's safety, but rather..." Thinking about what could happen when Nanrong Wanqing meets Nanrong Hao, Ling Chen suddenly grew worried.

After dropping Hu Fei off in the Old City, Ling Chen called Nanrong Hao and found out that Nanrong Wanqing had returned home. He immediately drove towards Wealthy Manor.

Back at the Nanrong Family's home, Ling Chen felt an involuntary twinge of pain inside as he saw Nanrong Wanqing seated in a wheelchair.

He had already urged Hu Fei to quickly set up the production line and start manufacturing the exoskeleton armor.

"What were you just doing?" Seeing Ling Chen return, Nanrong Wanqing asked.

"I had some things to take care of."

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment but still did not mention Nanrong Yuan. Given all the events that had unfolded recently, it was best to give Nanrong Wanqing a chance to recuperate, waiting for the right moment to tell her this news.

...

A day went by.

The next day.

At eight o'clock in the morning, just as Ling Chen had woken up, he received a call from a stranger.

"Ling Chen?"

"Yes. Who is this?"

"One hour from now, I'll be waiting for you at East Sea City's port. Remember, come alone."

After the call disconnected, with the tone sounding through the line, Ling Chen sat up from his bed and frowned as he looked at the unfamiliar number. The voice on the phone was very unfamiliar, definitely not someone he knew.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen dialed the number back. However, the line indicated that the user had already powered off their phone.

Whatever, I'll check it out first.

It was still early, and after washing up, Ling Chen had breakfast with the early-rising Nanrong Wanqing. About half an hour before the appointed time, he left alone by car.

East Sea City port.

It was now nine o'clock in the morning, and the port was a bustling hub of activity, crowded with people. Ling Chen, wearing a baseball cap he'd just bought on the side of the road, weaved through the crowd, his sharp gaze sweeping around, searching for any suspicious targets.

Several minutes passed, and Ling Chen checked his phone for the time. An hour on the dot. Just as he was about to put his phone away, the screen suddenly displayed an incoming call – it was that same unfamiliar number.

After answering, Ling Chen got straight to the point: "Who are you?"

"The address is in your pocket. See you there." With that, the other party hung up again.

In my pocket?

Ling Chen was startled and quickly reached into the pocket of his jacket. Indeed, there was a boat ticket inside.

Impressive!

Looking at the boat ticket in his hand, Ling Chen's expression turned serious. He hadn't noticed anyone approaching him while moving through the crowd, which meant the other party was very quick, quick enough to escape his detection.

Considering this, Ling Chen became even more cautious.

The ticket showed a time of ten minutes past eight. After waiting a few minutes at the port, Ling Chen saw a boat slowly approaching the shore.

After boarding the boat, Ling Chen glanced around before taking a seat.

Not long after, when the tour boat was full, it left the port, heading into the blue ocean.

"Nice weather today."

Suddenly, a voice came from behind Ling Chen.

Without thinking, Ling Chen instinctively turned to look back, but before his gaze could settle on the person's face, he was stopped by the other party.

"Don't move!"

Chapter 618 Suspect

Ling Chen isn't the type to simply listen to what others say. Even though the man had spoken, Ling Chen still turned his neck, trying to get a clear look at the person behind him. However, just as Ling Chen's gaze was about to meet the man's face, he suddenly felt a gust of strong wind sweep across his face.

Then, the brim of his flat cap was pressed down, blocking his line of sight.

"I advise you to listen to me, do not look at my face. Otherwise, our conversation ends here."

The man's voice came again.

A thought crossed Ling Chen's mind, and through this voice, he instantly thought of the man's identity.

The last time he was wandering around Wealthy Manor, Ling Chen unexpectedly met a middle-aged man in the garden who claimed to be a friend of his father and also a member of the Secret Society. He never expected it to be him.

Now sure of the man's identity, Ling Chen finally relaxed a bit.

"If you wanted to meet me, a phone call would have sufficed. Why go through all this trouble?" Ling Chen asked, puzzled.

"The circumstances are different now, the situation at the Secret Society is quite dangerous."

"Dangerous? What's going on?"

"God Organization has started targeting the Secret Society comprehensively. These few days have been a disaster for the Secret Society, with over sixty percent of its bases destroyed. Hundreds have either been killed or injured, effectively crippling both arms of the Secret Society. This danger isn't limited to the rank and file— even the higher-ups are constantly at risk."

Hearing this, Ling Chen spoke in a deep voice, "Someone's tracking you?"

"Correct. God Organization has already dispatched additional manpower to find my whereabouts, and you know the person too— Ji Gang."

Ji Gang!

Ling Chen's expression changed; dispatching a top ranker of the Heavenly List to hunt someone meant this person had a very high status within the Secret Society.

Could it be...? Suddenly, a thought popped into Ling Chen's mind.

"What's the reason you wanted to meet? Is it because you want my help?"

"With just you alone, what help could you offer?" the man indifferently said, "I asked you here mainly to share some confidential information with you. This information concerns not only you but also God Organization. I am concerned I may not survive this crisis, so I had to find an outsider to pass on these secrets, to prevent my long years of effort from being wasted."

Ling Chen nodded, "Speak, I'm listening."

"First about God Organization, I think you should know, decades ago, God Organization was defeated by a ghost, their leader killed, causing their forces to scatter across the world, barely surviving. But not many know how the originally weakened God Organization managed to rise again. According to what I know, more than twenty years ago, remnants of God Organization in Huaxia formed a company to mask their real identities. Later, they met someone. When that person learned about God Organization, he showed great interest and agreed to fund the rebuilding of God Organization."

"It was because of that person's involvement that God Organization's remnants regrouped and progressively regained strength until today. However, that person acted very cautiously, fully aware of God Organization's background, thus he protected his own identity well. Once God Organization grew sufficiently, that person arranged for all members who knew his identity to be killed, leaving behind only a few loyal subordinates. Since then, that person has retreated from the public eye, and apart from a very few, no one else knows of his identity."

Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "Who is that person?"

"With over a billion people in Huaxia, finding that person without any clue is undoubtedly difficult. However, after over a decade of investigation, I've found some traces. You know the magnitude of God Organization, reviving such a force requires substantial funds. This funding is certainly not just a few billion — even a large conglomerate like Hongyu Group wouldn't have the means to finance God Organization. Therefore, the financier not only has money but is extremely wealthy. Through this point, the scope can be narrowed down significantly."

"I carefully investigated the people on the Huaxia billionaire list and found one particularly suspicious."

"Who?"

"Strictly speaking, it's not one person, but a family. This family is deeply connected to you — the Ling Family."

"The Ling Family?" Ling Chen's pupils shrank, he asked incredulously: "Are you sure?"

"Can't say with one hundred percent certainty, but at least sixty percent. Because of this, over the years I have focused my investigation on the Ling Family."

"What findings did you have?"

"I once told you, the Ling Family were originally a Martial Arts family and later switched to business, developing into the leading enterprise in the south in just a few decades, with assets spread across all cities in the south and very substantial funds. Compared to the Ling Family, Hongyu Group is nothing, not even half its equal. The Ling Family's business developed rapidly, but starting twenty years ago, their growth suddenly slowed down. I spoke to an employee who served in Ling Family's corporation back then; he told me that at that time, the Ling Family had laid out many business plans involving another few hundred billion in funds. But for some reason, the plans that were already finalized were all overturned, nearly all plans were shelved."

"I wonder if it might be that the Ling Family used that money to fund God Organization, thus having to halt business plans to alleviate financial pressures."

Hearing the man's analysis, Ling Chen nodded and said, "What you said does make sense, but it's just a guess, there's no evidence to prove it."

"I know. It's just one part, and there are many aspects that corroborate my suspicions. Hence, among all those I've investigated, the Ling Family carries the greatest suspicion. As I said, I can't be one hundred percent certain, but there's sixty percent confidence."

"Are you telling me this because you want me to continue investigating the Ling Family?"

"No. The reason I'm telling you this is quite the opposite, I'm warning you to avoid dealing with the Ling Family in the future. If I didn't tell you the reason, you wouldn't believe it."

Ling Chen was stunned and frowned, "Then am I supposed to ignore everything?"

"That's right. Some things are better left untouched, someone else will handle them. I know a bit about the things you've done in East Sea City. From now on, don't put yourself in danger; just mind your own

business. So long as you keep tight control over East Sea City, God Organization won't easily provoke you. They have more important issues to deal with than targeting you."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "You knew?"

Chapter 619 Research Base

"What do you know?" The man retorted.

"God Organization has already obtained the new technology from Nanrong Yuan and is currently conducting experiments. My two friends are victims." Saying this, Ling Chen recounted the experiences of Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun.

"Is that so?" The man's tone instantly became grave.

"Where are those two friends of yours?"

"I've already had them brought to East Sea City. According to my friend, their condition is quite troublesome, and recovery seems difficult unless there is sufficient financial and facility support."

"I can help you with the funds and equipment." As he spoke, Ling Chen immediately felt something extra in his pocket. He reached into his pocket and found an additional bank card.

"Although there isn't a lot of money in here, it should suffice for your research. Moreover, Secret Society has a research base in East Sea City. I will have it evacuated and let you use it."

Ling Chen was grateful, but he couldn't help but ask, "Why are you helping me?"

"Because your father was a friend of mine. If I don't help you, then who will? Remember, be very careful. You've destroyed both the primary and backup bases of God Organization, resulting in huge losses. If you pressure them too hard, be wary of their retaliation."

"I understand." After a pause, Ling Chen added, "What about Secret Society? If you have such good relations with Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, why not seek their help?"

"There is a cooperative relationship between Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Secret Society, but we can't rely on Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for this matter. God Organization has already set their sights on us, we can't just hide in Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Moreover, they have already offered their help; I can't ask for too much. Alright, I've said all I need to, take care of yourself."

"Hey!"

Ling Chen hurriedly turned around, wanting to stop the man. However, when he turned back, he found nobody behind him, the man had disappeared.

He's escaped again!

Ling Chen sighed resignedly. He still had many questions to ask, but the man had left so quickly.

Returning to the port, Ling Chen got into his car and phoned Hu Fei. After giving his instructions, Ling Chen recalled the man's words as he drove towards his destination.

At noon.

A truck slowly drove along the road, stopping outside a five-story building in the city center of East Sea City.

This building was a residential building, quite old with faded walls and several cracks scattered throughout.

As the truck stabilized, two people, Jiang Hao and Hu Fei, jumped down from the driver and passenger seats, respectively. They approached the rear of the truck, opened the cargo bay, and then climbed up to bring down two stretchers.

The stretchers were carried to the entrance of the residential building. With a beep, the iron door immediately opened. Following Jiang Hao and Hu Fei inside, the iron door shut once again.

"Everything went smoothly? No one tailing us?"

At that moment, Ling Chen appeared from nowhere, took over the stretcher from Hu Fei, and asked.

"You can count on me." After saying this, Hu Fei looked around curiously and asked, "Ling Chen, what place is this?"

"A research base provided by the Secret Society."

As they spoke, the three of them carried the two stretchers straight upstairs. On the second floor, Ling Chen stood in front of a door, lifted a corner of the Buddha painting on it. Suddenly, a metal cylinder slowly extended from behind the painting.

Ling Chen brought his eye close for a retinal scan, and immediately a numeric keypad popped out in the middle of the door.

After entering a long string of passwords, the tightly shut door finally opened.

Entering the room, Jiang Hao and Hu Fei were instantly dazzled and shocked.

This... Hu Fei stared blankly around, too surprised to even speak.

Watching their stunned expressions, Ling Chen grinned. He had reacted the same way when he had first arrived.

From the outside, this was a five-story residential building. But in reality, the inside of the building was an integrated whole, the exterior merely serving to deceive others.

The building, covering thousands of square meters, was filled with various kinds of facilities, from medical to military equipment, and was very well-resourced.

"Great place!" Hu Fei exclaimed, dropped the stretcher, looked around excitedly, his face full of thrill.

"Ha ha!"

Hu Fei laughed, clapping Ling Chen on the shoulder, and said, "After hanging around for so long, we finally have a decent base."

"Enough! Don't get too excited yet. I've told you, this research base is lent to us by the Secret Society and will need to be returned eventually."

"Think they'd want it back once it's in our hands? No way. Since you have good relations with the Secret Society, just let them gift this place to you."

Without waiting for Ling Chen to speak, Hu Fei had already rushed to the main control room of the base and started up the main computer.

Looking at the list displayed on the big screen, Hu Fei laughed joyfully: "Not bad, the folks from the Secret Society are quite generous, they left us quite a few good things."

"Here, this is for you." Ling Chen threw a bank card at Hu Fei.

"What is this?"

"Funds provided by the Secret Society. I've checked it; not much, just 230 million. Considering Kai and their condition, it's unclear how long their recovery might take. You'll need to be frugal and not spend it all at once."

Hu Fei's eyes gleamed as he nodded, "Don't worry, don't worry."

"I am worried about your money-loving ways, that's why I mentioned it twice," Ling Chen said gruffly.

"Chen, should I bring more people to secure this place?" asked Jiang Hao.

Hearing Jiang Hao's question, Ling Chen shook his head, "No need. The location of this research base is very secret, and it's difficult for ordinary people to find. Plus, the more people know about it, the less secure it becomes. I've considered this; this research base will be our main headquarters in the future, and we must ensure its safety and secrecy. Unless absolutely trustworthy, it's best not to let anyone else know."

"Alright, I'll call Xiong and Haozi later and have them come over for a visit."

"No." Ling Chen stopped him: "Just call Haozi, don't call anyone else."

Jiang Hao paused, puzzled, and asked, "Why not invite Xiong, he..."

Before Jiang Hao could finish, Ling Chen glared at him, discontentedly saying: "Just do as you are told, why ask so many questions. Remember what I said, don't tell anyone about this place without my permission."

"Okay." Although full of questions, Jiang Hao didn't dare to ask further because of Ling Chen's firm words, and just complied.

"Fatty, go ahead and get busy, someone will come later to take over the research of Kai and Bai Huanjun."

After finishing the instructions, Ling Chen left the research base alone, ready to drive back to Wealthy Manor. However, just as he got into the car, Ling Chen received a phone call. After listening for a few moments, his expression suddenly changed drastically, and his eyes emitted an intense brilliance.

Chapter 620 News about Xia Mutong

"If you dare to touch a single hair on her head, don't blame me for being impolite." Ling Chen gritted his teeth and said.

"Do you think I care about your threats? Ling Chen, you overestimate yourself. In my eyes, you are nothing but a pawn that still has some usefulness. In conclusion, I have made my conditions clear, whether you can fulfill them is up to you. That's all I have to say, as for what to do... think it through carefully. Don't forget, you don't have much time."

The person on the phone finished speaking and immediately hung up.

Putting down his phone, Ling Chen's face turned extremely livid, rage burning in Mo Che's pupils.

After a while, Ling Chen took a deep breath, slowly calming the rage in his heart, his gaze regaining its composure.

These past few days, his worries had finally become reality.

Last time in Changling City, he thought Xia Mutong had returned, but didn't expect that she had sneaked off to Yinan Village alone. Unfortunately, on the way there, she encountered members of the God Organization who were evacuating and was captured.

He didn't know how the God Organization knew about his relationship with Xia Mutong, but they even called to threaten him.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen started the car and returned directly to Wealthy Manor.

...

Three days passed in the blink of an eye.

During these days, Ling Chen had not a moment to rest, spending all day at the research base, busy with this and that. After three days of hard work, the production line for the exoskeleton armor was finally completed. Simultaneously, the research personnel hired by Hu Fei had also arrived and started working.

For safety and confidentiality, Hu Fei used his connections to recruit seven or eight researchers from abroad. To attract these people, Hu Fei offered a very generous compensation. If not for the money, those researchers would never have crossed the ocean to come here.

Besides the exoskeleton armor production line being operational, Zhu Xiaozhu's medical research team had also started working.

Zhu Xiaozhu's network was vast, and responding to Ling Chen's request, not only did she personally get involved, but she also invited several authorities from the medical field. Their goal was clear: to help Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun recover.

In addition to this, Ling Chen centralized the intelligence agency at the research base, with Hu Fei responsible for overseeing and coordinating.

Although a broad intelligence system was established in East Sea City, due to various reasons, this system was somewhat loose and could not be tightly connected. This time, Ling Chen, collaborating with Hu Fei, selected suitable personnel for intelligence work, expanding the team and perfecting the entire intelligence system.

Medical research, technology equipment production, intelligence system—these three areas were nearly established, marking a slight leap forward, significantly enhancing the overall strength.

After a day of testing and various adjustments, the first set of exoskeleton armor was finally produced.

Ling Chen donned it and tested it for himself; it was quite good, not much different from the exoskeleton armor previously made by Ghost. This set of exoskeleton armor was not equipped with a weapon system because it was meant for Nanrong Wanqing's use, so it didn't need to be so complicated.

"Miss Kaelina, you'll have a hard time ahead."

Before leaving the research base, Ling Chen found Kaelina and expressed his gratitude.

Since Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun had both lost control and were unconscious, there weren't many capable people around Ling Chen. Therefore, to make up for the shortage of manpower, Ling Chen invited Kaelina in the name of friendship, hoping she would help manage the security of the research base and ensure everyone's safety.

More than one translation estimated: "You don't need to be so polite; remember, I'm not helping for free."

Hearing this, Ling Chen cracked a smile and nodded, saying, "Don't worry, you won't be shortchanged."

Leaving the research base, Ling Chen hastily rushed back to Wealthy Manor and delivered the set of exoskeleton armor to the Nanrong Family.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing standing up again, Ling Chen finally breathed a sigh of relief. Although he couldn't completely cure Nanrong Wanqing's legs, Ling Chen wasn't in a hurry. Since Nanrong Yuan had a way to treat Nanrong Wanqing's condition with a strengthening serum, Ling Chen was sure he could find another way.

The night fell!

After taking a bath, Ling Chen sat on the living room sofa in loose pajamas, accompanying Nanrong Wanqing by her side, holding her hand, watching the entertainment program on TV.

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Nanrong Wanqing's voice, Ling Chen turned his head, looked at her delicate face, and asked, "What's wrong?"

Nanrong Wanqing blinked her beautiful eyes, looking worried, and said, "I don't know why, but I've been feeling restless lately, like something big is going to happen."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, gently patting her soft hand, comforting her, "You're overthinking. I know some unpleasant things have happened recently, but don't worry, all that's behind us now, no one will threaten you in the future."

After finishing his words, Ling Chen pointed at Nanrong Wanqing's eyes and said, "Look at you, even bags under your eyes are almost showing. You must have been worrying too much, not resting well. How about..."

Seeing Ling Chen's speech dragging on, Nanrong Wanqing curiously asked, "How about what?"

Ling Chen blinked, leaned closer, and chuckled, "How about I stay with you tonight? That way, you won't have the mind to think about other things."

Teased by Ling Chen, a rush of blush rose on Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face, as radiant and enchanting as flowers. Enduring the shyness, she lightly pounded Ling Chen's arm, reprimanding him, "You're never serious, having known each other for so long, yet you're still as bad as before."

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Why be so serious. Besides, what era are we living in now? Being honest only makes one suffer, only being bad has a future, how about we go to your room and discuss in-depth just how bad I am?"

"I don't want to." Saying so, Nanrong Wanqing pulled her hand from Ling Chen's, intentionally leaning away, her face blushing as she said, "Stay away from me in the future, I don't talk to bad people."

"No matter, I'll do the talking." Ling Chen, wearing a mischievous smile, closed in again, ignoring Nanrong Wanqing's struggles, and hugged her petite body tight into his arms.

"Protes... Mmm!"

Before she could finish her sentence, Nanrong Wanqing felt her lips invaded by a passionate heat.

Feeling Ling Chen's tenderness and passion, Nanrong Wanqing's body instantly yielded, falling into Ling Chen's hands, letting him caress as he pleased.

Mmm...

A series of soul-stirring moans resounded, like sparks igniting Ling Chen's passion.