

The Beauty 651

Chapter 651 Alcohol Immortal

It was still early, so Ling Chen took the opportunity to swing by Wealthy Manor. After being away for a few days, he needed to check in at home to keep Nanrong Wanqing and the others from worrying.

Upon arriving home, he coincidentally ran into Nanrong Wanqing just as she was getting off work.

However, aside from Nanrong Wanqing, he didn't see Su Lin at home. Upon asking, he learned that Su Lin had gone for an internship and it was unclear when she would return.

"Have you been very busy lately, not coming back for a whole week?"

On the living room sofa, Nanrong Wanqing lay in Ling Chen's arms, hugging his waist with an intimate gesture. With Su Lin not at home, they didn't need to be as cautious.

Ling Chen gently stroked Nanrong Wanqing's silky hair and said softly, "I've been pretty busy with a lot of things lately, but it will be over soon."

"Because of the God Organization?"

Upon hearing Nanrong Wanqing's question, Ling Chen hesitated for a moment but ultimately nodded. He didn't want to lie to Nanrong Wanqing about this matter since she would eventually find out about it. Rather than making strenuous explanations later, it was better to tell the truth now.

Getting an answer from Ling Chen, Nanrong Wanqing lifted her head from his chest, her expression filled with concern, "Can't you just back out of this fight with them? I know everyone from the God Organization are bad people, but even if you don't act, there will naturally be others who will deal with them. Besides, you aren't alone now, you should think about the people around you. What would I do if something happened to you, have you ever considered my feelings?"

"Alright!" Ling Chen comforted her: "Don't worry, I know how to take care of myself, nothing will happen."

After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "There are things I can ignore, but I'm already involved in this matter, and it's not so easy to extricate myself. Moreover, we've put in so much effort and finally made it this far. It would be too regrettable to give up now. This battle isn't just for me, it's for thousands of people. As long as the God Organization still exists, we are all in danger. Perhaps you don't know, but there are many behind me who will also be in danger if I withdraw. At this critical moment, I cannot abandon them. As a man, I must be brave enough to take on my responsibilities. Do you really want your man to be a coward?"

"No, that's not what I mean, I just..."

"No need to say further." Ling Chen pressed his finger against Nanrong Wanqing's lips, and said with a smile: "Anyway, I promise you, I will never put myself in danger."

Having said that, he lifted his finger and moved his lips closer, capturing Nanrong Wanqing's lips with his own.

...

At eleven o'clock at night.

Ling Chen sat in the driver's seat of an Audi sedan, looking at the time displayed in the car, then shifting his gaze towards the exit of the airport.

According to the flight information provided by Su Mei, the person should have arrived.

Just as he was thinking, a large number of passengers appeared at the airport exit.

Ling Chen pushed open the car door, stood beside the Audi sedan, and scanned the crowd, searching for the figure of the Heavenly List expert.

As the number of passengers exiting dwindled, the person Ling Chen was waiting for still didn't show up.

Strange, why haven't they come out?

While pondering, a faint aroma of alcohol suddenly drifted into Ling Chen's nose. He sniffed around and immediately realized that the scent was emanating from inside the car.

Startled, Ling Chen quickly leaned into the driver's cabin, and instantly, he saw an old man who had appeared in the back seat of the Audi sedan.

"Is it you?"

Upon recognizing the person's features, Ling Chen was immediately taken aback. The old man in the car was the same one who had captured him a few days ago at Yangxin Pavilion. Back then, he had been wondering who the old man was, and it turned out that he was a Heavenly List expert.

Tsk, no wonder. He had been standing outside for half a day and had not noticed how the other had slipped into the car. The fact that the old man had eluded his vigilance was a testament to his skill.

At this moment, the old man was sitting in the car, holding a wine gourd, savoring his drink with relish.

Ling Chen got into the car and with a smile greeted, "Elder, we meet again. I've offended you last time, please be magnanimous and don't take it to heart."

The old man waved his hand and said, "Forget it, there's no need to apologize to me, I'm not holding a grudge. The girl Su Lin has already told me about that night's events, you did well. It was thanks to you that we could expose those rascals from the God Organization."

"Elder, may I have the honor to know your name?"

"I'm Du Kang, people have nicknamed me Alcohol Immortal."

Du Kang? Isn't that the name of a liquor? No wonder he's called Alcohol Immortal, probably a person devoted to his drink.

"Elder Du, are you hungry? How about I take you for a bite to eat first?"

Du Kang took a swig, then shook his gourd a few times and with a sigh said, "No more wine."

Hearing this, Ling Chen clearly understood Du Kang's meaning and quickly started the car, while taking out his phone to dial Jiang Hao's number.

After more than half an hour, Ling Chen brought Du Kang to a restaurant in the Old City area.

It was almost midnight, and the restaurant at this hour had already closed. However, with Jiang Hao's intervention, nothing was a problem.

Entering the private room, the dishes and drinks were already prepared and steaming hot. A few bottles of Moutai were also placed on the table.

"Elder Du, please take a seat!"

Ling Chen brought Elder Du to his seat attentively and then opened a bottle of Moutai, filling a small cup and offering it to Elder Du. Looking at the small cup in front of him, Du Kang glanced at Ling Chen and then at the Moutai bottle in his hand, hesitating to pick up the cup.

Ling Chen was puzzled and hurriedly asked, "Elder Du, is this wine not to your taste?"

"The wine is fine, it's just this cup..."

Hearing this, Ling Chen instantly understood and immediately exchanged the small cup for a big bowl, directly pouring a bowl of wine.

Looking at the brimming bowl of wine, a satisfied smile finally appeared on Elder Du's aged face, as he praised, "Young man, you catch on quick." With that, Du Kang picked up the bowl of wine and downed it in one gulp, tilting the bowl upside down.

Seeing the bottom of the bowl, Ling Chen immediately poured another full bowl.

"Alright, no need to be so formal, I, this old man, am not particular about this, you take a seat too, join me for a few drinks."

"Yes."

Ling Chen sat beside him, originally wanting a small cup, but with Elder Du's gaze on him, he immediately switched to a big bowl as well.

"Elder Du, I raise this bowl to you, thank you for your assistance."

"You helped the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and I'm helping you, it's only right." Saying this, Du Kang looked at Ling Chen and asked, "How much do you know about Ji Gang?"

Ling Chen shook his head and replied, "Not very much."

The mention of Ji Gang brought a tinge of nostalgia to Du Kang's eyes.

"Speaking of which, Ji Gang can be considered an old friend of mine too. It's just a shame... alas, fate is unpredictable, I never expected that we would end up as enemies in the end."

Chapter 652 Reminiscing the Past

Ling Chen looked at Du Kang in surprise, not understanding why he would say that.

"Master Du, did you know Ji Gang before?"

Du Kang nodded and said, "Back in the days when I was young, I traveled to learn from various esteemed masters. When I went to visit a reclusive expert, I found someone kneeling at the doorstep; it was Ji Gang. Ji Gang hoped that the reclusive expert would take him as a disciple and teach him advanced Martial Arts. But the reclusive expert was unwilling as he felt Ji Gang's temperament was unsuitable for inheriting his Martial Arts. Ji Gang, however, was not someone who gave up easily; he

knelt outside the reclusive expert's door without eating or drinking for ten full days, eventually fainting from exhaustion."

"I happened to be there at that time and couldn't bear to see him perish, so I healed his body. From then on, he was immensely grateful to me and treated me as a friend. However, good times didn't last long. At that time, the reclusive expert actually took an interest in me, saying he wanted to pass on all his knowledge to me. For Ji Gang, this was a heavy blow. Although he didn't say it, I could distinctly feel his alienation. Shortly afterwards, Ji Gang took his leave, stating he wanted to continue traveling and learn from different masters. He proposed that once both of us had made accomplishments in our martial arts, we would compare our skills and see who was superior."

"After Ji Gang left, I stayed with my master to practice Martial Arts, and before I knew it, over twenty years had passed. I was over forty when I completed my martial arts training and never saw Ji Gang during that period. However, when I traveled in the Martial Arts world, I heard many rumors about Ji Gang. After becoming a disciple of his master, he immediately challenged the Sect Leaders of various sects, nearly undefeated; even some reclusive experts were no match for him. However, Ji Gang was very ruthless; anyone who lost to him either had an arm severed or their Martial Arts crippled, without exception."

"Because of this, people in the Martial Arts world were extremely fearful of Ji Gang, especially those with high martial arts skills, for fear that Ji Gang would come to challenge them. For a time, Ji Gang became a terrifying figure. Although I hadn't seen him in decades, I thought perhaps based on our old friendship, I could persuade Ji Gang to change. It wasn't long before I found Ji Gang through friends in the Martial Arts world and tried to talk him round. Yet, I was too naïve. I thought Ji Gang was still the same person from those years ago. I didn't realize that more than twenty years were enough to change a person's heart and temperament."

"When I tried to persuade Ji Gang, he proposed a challenge, wanting to test his skills against mine. If I won, he would listen to my advice and no longer harm lives easily. Out of compassion, I agreed to his request, trying my best to persuade him towards goodness."

Du Kang then took a swig of his drink, sighing heavily, "Unfortunately... I underestimated Ji Gang's strength, or, perhaps, I placed too much trust in our old friendship. In that battle, I held back and didn't use my full strength. But Ji Gang showed no mercy at all. Eventually, at the hundred and thirtieth move, I was provoked and adopted a mutually destructive technique. However, at the last moment of executing the move, I still chose to hold back. What I didn't expect was that Ji Gang did not hold back and instead seized the opportunity to severely injure me, nearly costing me my life."

"Since then, I've realized that Ji Gang had long since ceased to be the brotherly Ji Gang I knew; he had completely changed. Fortuitously, at that time, I was severely injured yet saved by passing disciples of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and that saved my life. However, due to my serious injuries, I was left with a hidden condition that requires alcohol to suppress. That's why I'm known as the Alcohol Immortal."

After listening to Du Kang's story, Ling Chen said solemnly, "I didn't expect Ji Gang to be so sinister and ruthless."

"It's a case of knowing the face but not the heart; I misjudged him and paid a painful price. Therefore, my willingness to help you this time is partly to repay your kindness to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and partly to settle past grievances."

After a pause, Du Kang continued, "Ji Gang is a very proud person; no matter what it is, he always wants to be the best. For that goal, he is willing to pay any price. I guess that's why he agreed to work with the God Organization."

"For what? To be the number one?"

Du Kang nodded and said, "To my knowledge, Ji Gang once lost badly to someone. After that, he vanished, his whereabouts unknown. It was around that time that he joined the God Organization."

Ling Chen curiously asked, "Who did he lose to?"

"That person... even if I told you, you wouldn't know; for you right now, that person is too far away. However, I can tell you that this person ranks in the top five on the Heavenly List."

Hearing this, Ling Chen instinctively gasped.

Top five masters on the Heavenly List!

Indeed, such people were unreachable for him.

"Master Du," Ling Chen changed the subject and asked, "What is your rank on the Heavenly List?"

"Me? I'm similar to Ji Gang, at the bottom. Huaxia has hidden dragons and crouching tigers. A few years ago, there were less than five people on the Heavenly List, but now, it's already full. This shows how many masters are hidden in Huaxia. In my view, the number of masters on the Heavenly List is definitely more than the ten listed; many just don't wish to come forward. Ling Chen, you are still young, and there's great potential ahead of you; as long as you dedicate yourself to practice, a place on the Heavenly List will eventually have your name."

Ling Chen hurriedly waved his hand and said, "Master Du, please don't say that. I'm not ambitious; as long as I can comfortably enjoy life, that's enough. Someone like me is better off staying in the mundane world."

Du Kang took a sip of his drink and chuckled, shaking his head, "Many things are not for you to decide. Maybe you don't want to do something, but reality forces you to."

"Let's talk about that when the time comes. Master Du, come, have a drink!"

After downing two bowls of Moutai, a flush appeared on Ling Chen's face, and his eyes grew slightly tipsy.

Seeing Ling Chen's condition, Elder Du smiled slightly, "You can't handle your drink well; you need more practice."

"That's true. You're the Alcohol Immortal, I can hardly compare to you. I can barely handle one bottle of this drink, no more." Upon saying that, Ling Chen suddenly remembered something. Taking advantage of his slight inebriation, he asked, "Elder Du, there's something I'd like to know. The other day when I went to the Yangxin Pavilion, why did Huang Zheng and Liang Tian rush to take me as their disciple?"

Du Kang smiled significantly and said, "They rushed to take you as a disciple for their benefit. As for what kind of benefits... you are not a member of the Yangxin Pavilion, so it's not appropriate for me to tell you. Let's not talk about it! You didn't agree to their requests after all, so it's better not to know about these things. Besides, it's better you're not involved, lest you lose your life later."

Chapter 653 Guidance from a Heavenly List Expert

"Lost my life?" Ling Chen was stunned and asked in surprise, "Is it that serious?"

Elder Du solemnly said, "Although Yangxin Pavilion is a part of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the complexity of Yangxin Pavilion far surpasses that of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Never underestimate Yangxin Pavilion, there aren't many people, but the internal strife is extremely severe and very few people truly spend their elderly years there. As the saying goes, the sea of knowledge is boundless, and so is martial arts. With effort, improvement is endless. Especially for older people, they wish even more to reach a higher level and enhance their cultivation."

"Why?" Ling Chen asked, puzzled, "They are already in their eighties or nineties, why do they need to be so fierce? They won't live much longer anyway."

Hearing this, Elder Du couldn't help but laugh, shaking his head and saying, "Saying this only shows that you don't yet understand real masters. When you reach that level, you will naturally understand the reasons." He paused, then without waiting for Ling Chen to speak again, Elder Du changed the subject, "Young man, you have good potential, and if you were under the guidance of a famous master, your progress would be even faster."

Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "Elder Du, do you mean... I should take Huang Zheng and the others as my masters?"

"Not at all. I spoke of a famous master, not people like Huang Zheng and Liang Tian. They are eager to take you as their disciple not for your sake, but for their own. If you really take them as your masters, once they get what they want, they will kick you away or carelessly teach you a few martial arts techniques and send you off. Young man, reality is cruel, sometimes don't think people are so good."

"Then where should I go to find a famous master?" As soon as the words left his mouth, Ling Chen's gaze immediately locked onto Elder Du. This old man in front of him was a top ranked master on the Heavenly List, incomparably stronger than Huang Zheng and the others—if he isn't a great master, who is?

Elder Du intentionally mentioned a famous master, could it be he was thinking... As these thoughts flashed through his mind, a fiery look suddenly surged in Ling Chen's dark pupils. If he could become a disciple of a Heavenly List master, wouldn't he be able to stride across the world?

Thinking this, the burning desire in Ling Chen's eyes grew even stronger, he was almost ready to immediately kneel down in front of Elder Du and kowtow three times to acknowledge him as his master.

"Um..." Ling Chen suppressed his inner excitement and cautiously asked, "Elder Du, do you already have disciples?"

"Yes," Elder Du nodded and said, "He is my closed-door disciple." As the words fell, Elder Du seemed to guess what Ling Chen was about to say next and continued, "I only plan to take one disciple in this lifetime. It's hard for me, I'm getting old and don't have the energy like before."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen felt extremely disappointed. He had thought Elder Du was considering taking him as a disciple—alas, he was excited for nothing.

Seeing the look of disappointment in Ling Chen's eyes, Elder Du put down the wine bowl in his hand and said with a smile, "You are a good young man. If it were ten or so years earlier, I would definitely take you as my disciple, but now I really can't. Firstly, I don't have enough energy and secondly, I've become lazy. If I took you, I would only delay your future—but..."

Hearing the last two words, Ling Chen's eyes brightened, and he hastily asked, "Elder Du, but what?"

"Although I can't take you as my disciple, that doesn't mean I can't give you some guidance. Today is our second meeting and we clearly have some fate. Since that's the case, I might as well teach you a Martial Arts Heart Method I created myself."

"Really?" Ling Chen was overjoyed and immediately stood up from his seat, ready to kneel in front of Elder Du. But just as he was about to kneel, Elder Du waved his hand and two chopsticks shot out from the table, precisely supporting Ling Chen's legs and preventing his knees from touching the ground.

Ling Chen was stunned and asked Elder Du, "Elder Du, what is this?"

"I'm just giving you a bit of guidance, no need for such grand gestures."

"This..."

"Don't be indecisive." Du Kang said with some impatience. "If you dare to kneel down, then I'll take back my words."

"Yes, I understand." Ling Chen, fearing that Du Kang would change his mind, quickly stood up and sat back down in the chair, adopting an attentive posture as he looked at Du Kang, waiting for his guidance.

"My Martial Arts Heart Method is not a conventional mental method. To be precise, it should be considered a unique cultivation technique. Because I was severely injured by Ji Gang, I developed a hidden ailment and had to rely on drinking alcohol daily for treatment. Over time, I devised a mental method that could temporarily stimulate the body's potential and unleash powerful attack strength. However, this method must be used in conjunction with strong alcohol, the stronger the alcohol, the better the effect." Du Kang took a small gourd from his waist and said, "This is purely brewed liquor, very strong. Do you want to try it?"

Ling Chen nodded and immediately passed his own drinking bowl forward. However, Du Kang smiled and pushed the bowl away, substituting it with a small cup, filling only half of it.

"This liquor isn't something your Moutai can compare to. One bowl of this, and you probably wouldn't be able to handle it. Come on, try it!"

Ling Chen took the cup with both hands, tilted his head back, and drank the strong liquor in one gulp.

The liquor passed through his throat, instantly turning into a fierce fire burning inside him, his internal organs felt as turbulent as a flipping river, an indescribably uncomfortable taste. Moreover, once the liquor reached his stomach, Ling Chen felt his whole body turn red, with heat emanating outward as if he was in a sea of fire. His head felt dizzy, and he just wanted to collapse and sleep.

After several minutes, Ling Chen's condition began to improve, and his complexion gradually returned to normal.

"How do you feel?"

Looking at the smile on Du Kang's face, Ling Chen grimaced and said, "Elder Du, your liquor... It's indescribable, too powerful. If I were to drink more, I probably wouldn't be able to go back tonight."

"I told you, you can't hold your liquor. If you want to learn this heart method, you must improve your drinking capacity. Drink more when you have the chance to strengthen your body's resistance to alcohol. Only then can you use this method flexibly."

Saying this, Du Kang handed the small gourd to Ling Chen, saying, "Consider this gourd of liquor a welcoming gift, use it sparingly and don't waste it. If you want more in the future, you can find me at the Yangxin Pavilion; I have brewed quite a bit. Since it's not convenient to carry a lot when going out, I only bring this little to use for emergencies."

"I understand. Elder Du, I'm grateful for your guidance."

"You're welcome. Now, let's continue drinking!"

They continued drinking until 2 AM, after which Du Kang left satisfied.

When he returned to the hotel, Ling Chen, completely inebriated, was too lazy to go back, and directly booked a room for himself. Once inside, the aftereffects of the alcohol surged up, and he felt as though he was floating when he walked, seeing numerous double visions. He didn't even bother to shower; he immediately collapsed onto the bed.

In no time, he fell into a deep sleep.

Chapter 654 Rescuing the Porridge Girl (1)

The next day.

Ling Chen, hungover, didn't wake up until 10 o'clock in the morning.

Upon checking the time upon awakening, Ling Chen's face changed, and he immediately jumped out of bed and hurried out of the room.

Leaving the hotel, Ling Chen got into his car and, while starting the engine, he took out his mobile phone, ready to dial Hu Fei's number. However, when he took out his phone, Ling Chen found that there were more than ten missed calls, all from Hu Fei, from 7 o'clock in the morning until just now.

It must have been that little cup of Du Kang's wine that caused the trouble.

Ling Chen thought helplessly. He wasn't a stranger to getting drunk before, but he had never missed hearing his phone ring like this time.

He dialed Hu Fei's number, and it only rang once before being picked up.

"Hey! Where did you run off to? I've practically smashed my phone calling you and still no answer," Hu Fei berated him.

"Ah, drinking and its troubles. Let's not talk about it. Tell me, what's the emergency for looking for me?"

"There's been trouble at the manor. A few cars suddenly arrived this morning, all entering the manor, and they haven't left since. I'm worried that Lin Jiawei and his people might be planning to leave East Sea City."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's heart relaxed. If that was the case, there wasn't as much reason to worry about Porridge Girl's safety. If Lin Jiawei wanted to leave East Sea City, he would surely use Porridge Girl as a hostage. So, her safety was temporarily ensured.

"Fatso, you gather people and head over immediately, I'll join you in a moment."

After hanging up, Ling Chen stopped the car and went back to the hotel, planning to call Du Kang for help. However, upon reaching Du Kang's room, he found it completely empty, the sheets in perfect order without a single sign of having been slept in.

Where is he?

Ling Chen stared blankly, full of surprise. He had definitely booked a room for Du Kang last night and had seen him enter, yet there was no sign of him after just one night. Besides, Du Kang had specially come to East Sea City to help; if he was leaving, he should at least have said goodbye.

Ah! What a nuisance.

Ling Chen, anxious, ran his fingers through his hair and hurried back out of the hotel. With Du Kang missing, he had to find another way.

Half an hour later, outside a manor in the suburbs of East Sea City, Ling Chen drove his Audi rapidly to the scene. Without even taking the time to close the car door properly, he quickly dashed into a box truck parked by the roadside.

Inside the truck, Hu Fei and a few other staff members sat in front of computers, monitoring the surroundings of the manor.

"Fatso, how is it, have they left yet?" Ling Chen asked urgently.

"Don't rush. They haven't left; they're all still inside the manor. I sent people over but there's someone guarding all around the manor. I was afraid of revealing their location, so I didn't dare let them get too close." As he said this, Hu Fei glanced behind Ling Chen and asked, "Why are you alone? Didn't you say you were bringing backup?"

Mentioning the backup, a bitter smile appeared on Ling Chen's face. Du Kang had vanished without a trace, and he didn't even know where to look for him, lacking even a phone number to contact.

"Never mind the backup; it's the same whether he comes or not. In any case, we need to figure out a way to rescue Porridge Girl." After saying this, Ling Chen looked at the surveillance footage on the computer screens, observing the situation around the manor.

Not long after, the gate of the manor slowly opened, and a Cadillac took the lead driving out.

"They're leaving!"

Ling Chen's heart sank and he said, "We need to find a way to stop them."

"Don't worry, I've been prepared for a while now. I won't let them escape East Sea City."

As the first Cadillac drove out, it was closely followed by three more Cadillacs, forming a convoy that sped towards the airport at eighty miles per hour. Hu Fei kept his eyes fixed on the screen, holding a walkie-talkie in his hand.

As the four Cadillacs were about to reach the intersection, Hu Fei immediately issued commands through a walkie-talkie: "Take action!"

At that command, seen through surveillance footage, seven or eight vehicles suddenly burst out from all around the crossroads, blocking the Cadillacs' driving route. At the same time, several other vehicles came from behind, cutting off their way of retreat.

With over a dozen cars collaborating, all four Cadillacs were trapped inside, unable to leave.

"Drive there immediately."

As Hu Fei's voice fell, the box truck immediately started moving towards the location of the Cadillacs.

"That's odd."

Watching the four Cadillacs on the surveillance screen, Ling Chen frowned slightly, feeling a bad hunch.

"What's odd?"

Ling Chen pointed at the monitor and said, "It's been so long and not a single person has gotten out of the cars. Don't you find that strange? They should be getting out immediately since they are surrounded, not staying inside." After finishing, Ling Chen spoke gravely, "Fatty, notify everyone to stay

alert and tell the people at the manor not to evacuate for now. I'm worried the enemy is trying to draw the tiger away from the mountain."

"Understood!"

Soon, the box truck arrived close to the four Cadillacs.

Ling Chen pushed open the rear doors of the truck, jumped onto the road, and observed the four Cadillacs from behind the vehicle. Until now, there was still no sign of movement from the cars.

Seeing this, Hu Fei issued orders through the walkie-talkie. Two men in western suits got out of a vehicle and cautiously approached one of the Cadillacs.

When they got closer, one of the men in suits picked up an iron rod and fiercely smashed it against the car window glass.

Clang!

With a crisp sound, the window glass shattered instantly. However, at the very moment the glass broke, a dagger suddenly flew out from inside the car, striking the man in the suit directly in the body.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen's face changed abruptly, his body leaned forward quickly, ready to take action for the rescue. However, before he could move, Hu Fei suddenly grabbed his shoulder and shook his head at him, indicating not to move rashly.

Ling Chen looked at Hu Fei, puzzled, then turned his attention back to the man in the suit.

Though hit by the dagger, the man in the suit didn't seem to be in life-threatening danger. He calmly grasped the hilt of the dagger and pulled the blade out from his body. The tip of the blade had no blood on it, clearly not having penetrated his flesh.

"No need to worry about them. I made ample preparations before we came."

Hearing Hu Fei speak, Ling Chen nodded and then felt relieved.

At that moment, the man in the suit threw the dagger onto the ground and called out to the people inside the car, "All of you, get out!"

As his voice faded, the doors of the Cadillac finally opened. With the passenger side man descending from the car, Ling Chen's gaze sharply focused.

Yi Shuiyan!

It was him.

He didn't expect this guy had actually come to East Sea City.

"Be careful!"

Ling Chen shouted loudly, without hesitation, he quickly started rushing over.

Even though the men Hu Fei brought were equipped with exoskeleton armor, Yi Shuiyan was no ordinary person—his strength was such that the exoskeleton armor wouldn't be much of a deterrent.

Chapter 655 Rescuing the Porridge Girl (2)

Watching Ling Chen suddenly burst out, a cold light flashed in Yi Shuiyan's eyes. He quickly stepped back to avoid Ling Chen's assault.

"Kill them all; leave no one behind!"

Following Yi Shuiyan's command, three to four people rushed out of each Cadillac, charging toward the men in suits. Seeing this, Hu Fei, who had been watching, sneered and shouted into the intercom: "Catch those you can, kill the rest – no need for pleasantries."

As his words fell, more than a dozen men in suits stepped out of the cars. Together with the two from before, there were exactly twenty.

"Let's all charge together and finish those bastards off," Hu Fei bellowed.

At this moment, Ling Chen's gaze was fixed on Yi Shuiyan, relentlessly pursuing him. He had let Yi Shuiyan escape in the secret base last time, failing to resolve him. This rare encounter today meant Ling Chen couldn't easily let go.

Yi Shuiyan swiftly turned around, brandishing his steel knife and forcing Ling Chen back a few steps.

"Ling Chen, don't think you can escape today."

Hearing this, Ling Chen smiled and replied, "Yi Shuiyan, look around – who exactly can't escape today, me or you?"

Yi Shuiyan snorted dismissively, "Do you really think your ragtag bunch can stop us?"

While speaking, Ling Chen glanced around and his pupils shrank. At this moment, he finally understood why Yi Shuiyan was so confident.

The men Yi Shuiyan brought with him were all Dangyang Sect disciples, each proficient in Martial Arts, unlike ordinary security personnel.

"Ling Chen, don't forget, your friend is still in our hands. If you don't want her to die, you'd better surrender obediently."

"If you want me to surrender, then let's see if you've got the ability," Ling Chen said. His toes lightly touched the ground, instantly increasing his speed like a gust of wind, pressing Yi Shuiyan in the blink of an eye with a fierce punch that roared out.

Yi Shuiyan quickly raised his steel knife in defense against Ling Chen's heavy punch.

As the fist neared, Ling Chen noticed a sinister smile appearing on Yi Shuiyan's lips.

This is bad!

In a flash, a sense of imminent danger surged in Ling Chen's heart.

Without hesitation, he aborted his attack and retreated. As he pulled back, two piercing gusts of wind suddenly attacked, targeting his vital points.

Fortunately, Ling Chen had sensed the imminent danger early enough to dodge swiftly, thus avoiding injury.

Having evaded the threat, Ling Chen scanned the area and spotted two middle-aged men, each around fifty, burly with cropped hair, muscles bulging, exuding power.

Seeing the gravity surfacing on Ling Chen's face, Yi Shuiyan laughed proudly, "Ling Chen, let me introduce you to our Dangyang Sect's protectors, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian."

Protectors?

A heaviness settled in Ling Chen's heart, his gaze towards the two men growing colder.

Although they had not yet clashed, the aura emanating from the two men indicated that their strength was formidable, likely among the high-ranked masters on the Dragon List.

As Ling Chen pondered, Yi Shuiyan, Wei Bo, and Gan Chutian closed in step by step, attacking from three different directions, entrapping Ling Chen in the center.

Feeling the sharp knife wind slicing the air, Ling Chen leaned back, his right leg lifting high in front, kicking precisely at Yi Shuiyan's wrist, neutralizing the steel knife's threat.

At this moment, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian both charged from behind, on either side, with a punch and a palm strike, one external and the other internal, one forceful and one gentle, two different powers violently assailing him.

Ling Chen turned his head and saw the rapidly approaching enemies, his eyes full of sternness.

At this point, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian were less than half a meter away from Ling Chen. It was already too late to dodge; the only option was to clash head-on.

Without hesitation, Ling Chen twisted his body, his hands clenched into steel fists, and he fiercely smashed towards the two men.

Bang! Bang!

Accompanied by muffled sounds, the three men backed away from each other. However, compared to Wei Bo and Gan Chutian, Ling Chen took five steps back before he could stabilize his footing.

How strong!

Ling Chen was shocked, his face filled with astonishment as he looked at Wei Bo and Gan Chutian.

He had originally thought that these two protectors from the Dangyang Sect were at most masters from the Dragon List, but he had not expected them to be even more formidable than Zhu Jin, the former Sect Leader of Dangyang Sect.

Seeing Ling Chen at a disadvantage, Yi Shuiyan smiled even more triumphantly, laughing loudly, "Ling Chen, didn't expect that, did you? I don't mind telling you, these two protectors are the anchors of our Dangyang Sect. Even my master is respectful in their presence. You think you can handle them... huh! Protectors, on my command, kill Ling Chen."

"Yes, Sect Leader."

Sect Leader? What Sect Leader?

Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, then immediately realized. The Sect Leader they referred to was none other than Yi Shuiyan. It made sense, after all, with the death of the former Sect Leader Zhu Jin, the Dangyang Sect must have chosen a new leader.

As Zhu Jin's direct disciple and a key figure in the Dangyang Sect, aside from being rather young, Yi Shuiyan was indeed the most suitable candidate for Sect Leader.

No wonder this guy was so confident; he had brought the elite masters of the Dangyang Sect.

At this moment, the twenty men in suits brought by Hu Fei were engaged in a fierce battle with the disciples of the Dangyang Sect.

In terms of sheer skill, the twenty security guards trained by Jiang Yunkai were naturally no match for the disciples of the Dangyang Sect. However, with the help of the exoskeleton armor made by Hu Fei, their strength was amplified several times over, making them rival the Dangyang Sect's disciples in both strength and speed.

Moreover, thanks to the unique features of the exoskeleton armor, Hu Fei's men not only avoided defeat but gained the upper hand.

"Go, smash those bastards."

Not far away, Hu Fei shouted loudly, cheering on his men.

"You guys, take care of that fatso." A Dangyang Sect disciple, unable to bear it any longer, directed several Junior Brothers to shift their focus to Hu Fei.

Seeing them charge over, a tremor went through the fat on Hu Fei's face, and he hurriedly ran towards the back. However, his bulky figure was far too slow compared to the Dangyang Sect disciples.

In no time, Hu Fei was caught up by the disciples of the Dangyang Sect, with no escape routes left.

Seeing the steel sword thrusting towards his head, Hu Fei was frightened, his face turning pale as he desperately pleaded, "Don't, don't kill me... I..."

Clang!

Suddenly, a crisp sound rang out, and the steel sword snapped in two, with the tip falling to the ground.

Seeing this scene, the Dangyang Sect disciples were stunned, staring dumbfounded at Hu Fei, their faces filled with disbelief.

Chapter 656 Rescue Porridge Girl (3)

Facing their shocked stares, Hu Fei let out a smug chuckle, lifted his head proudly, and crooked his finger at several Dangyang Sect disciples, provocatively saying, "Come on, if you've got the guts, keep coming at me. Like I'm scared of you guys."

Upon hearing this, the faces of those Dangyang Sect disciples immediately turned exceedingly grim, and they said in a deep voice: "Let's all attack together; I refuse to believe this fat pig is that incredible."

As soon as these words were spoken, everyone flicked their wrists, and their long swords thrust straight at Hu Fei's vital points. The three long swords converged from above, below, and straight ahead, almost leaving Hu Fei no room to fight back. Plus, Hu Fei was just an ordinary person and didn't know martial arts. Seeing the three long swords coming at him, he had no idea how to dodge and could only watch helplessly as the sword tips drew closer.

But at that moment, an eerie smile suddenly appeared on Hu Fei's chubby face.

Seeing that smile, for some reason, the Dangyang Sect disciples suddenly felt an intense unease.

Boom!

Suddenly, there was a loud bang from Hu Fei's body, like fireworks exploding, and thick smoke billowed from his arms, instantly shrouding his figure.

With the appearance of the smoke, the Dangyang Sect disciples immediately lost sight of Hu Fei in their vision.

Where is he?

Just as they were bewildered, a large net suddenly fell from above, trapping all of them inside it. Taken by surprise, the Dangyang Sect disciples immediately struggled. However, the more they thrashed, the tighter the net wound around them, making it impossible to escape.

"Hehe!" A smug laugh came, drawing the attention of the Dangyang Sect disciples straight to Hu Fei.

At this time, Hu Fei walked out from the other side, a wicked grin on his plump face, and said: "Little guys, you really thought you could bully me that easily?" With that, he pulled open his collar and revealed the exoskeleton armor he was wearing underneath, proudly laughing and boasting, "I knew it wasn't safe, so I prepared a suit of exoskeleton armor for myself. Come on, let's see how powerful this suit is."

After speaking, Hu Fei lifted his right arm towards the Dangyang Sect disciples caught in the net.

In an instant, several cold glints flew out, piercing through the bodies of those Dangyang Sect disciples.

Looking at the Dangyang Sect disciples who fell to the ground and couldn't get up, Hu Fei snorted haughtily, raised his head proudly, and turned to walk towards the battle that was still unresolved.

More than ten minutes had passed, and the battle between the two sides had reached a fever pitch. Both sides suffered injuries, but Hu Fei's side had gained a slight advantage. Although they didn't kill many, they captured quite a few Dangyang Sect disciples.

Hu Fei surveyed the battlefield, his mouth brimming with a joyous smile. This exoskeleton armor, after his modifications, had several added features. One of them, the fishnet, was an unexpected piece of

equipment. This fishnet was made from a special material that was both light and soft, yet extremely tough and hard to cut with ordinary swords.

Earlier, it was with this fishnet that they had captured quite a few Dangyang Sect disciples.

"Boss."

At this moment, a young man hurriedly jumped down from a box truck, saying anxiously, "Boss, something's wrong."

Hu Fei turned his head to look at the young man, displeased, and said, "What are you making a fuss for?"

"Boss, there's movement at the mansion."

"What?" Hu Fei's expression changed, and he rushed into the box truck, staring at the surveillance footage on the computer screen.

At this moment, a Mercedes-Benz sedan drove out of the mansion and accelerated in the opposite direction.

"Damn it!" Hu Fei said solemnly, "They're trying to escape. Quick, drive and catch up, tell the people near the mansion to block that car; don't let them get away."

Having said that, Hu Fei quickly jumped into the vehicle, and yelled towards Ling Chen who was still in combat: "Ling Chen, Lin Jiawei is trying to escape."

Hearing Hu Fei's shout, Ling Chen abruptly turned his head and looked towards the waving Hu Fei, his brow instantly furrowing.

Lin Jiawei is trying to escape!

His guess was right; Yi Shuiyan and the others' appearance was merely to distract their target, and then to draw the tiger away from the mountain, allowing Lin Jiawei to escape from East Sea City with ease.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen glanced at Wei Bo and Gan Chutian who were closing in, lightly tapped his toes, and vaulted over their heads, stepping on the roof of a Cadillac and rushing towards Hu Fei's position.

"Quick, drive."

At this moment, Hu Fei, sitting in the passenger seat, urged loudly.

The driver didn't dare to delay, quickly turned the van around, stepped on the accelerator, and drove rapidly towards the direction of the manor.

At this time, Ling Chen had already pushed his speed to the limit, weaving through the crowd. Seeing the van gaining speed, Ling Chen gathered all his strength into his legs, and with a powerful push, his hands immediately latched onto the tailgate of the van.

"Don't run!"

Yi Shuiyan and the other two, seeing Ling Chen speeding away, hurriedly quickened their steps to follow closely behind.

"Drive faster, even faster..."

Hu Fei, looking through the rear-view mirror at the pursuing Yi Shuiyan, Wei Bo, and Gan Chutian, kept urging.

As the van's speed increased, the distance between it and Yi Shuiyan's trio quickly widened.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen, hanging off the van's rear door, let out a sigh of relief, having finally shaken off those guys.

The three from Yi Shuiyan were indeed formidable, but although Ling Chen couldn't handle them, they also couldn't injure him.

Two minutes later, the van finally arrived outside the manor. However, the manor's gates were wide open, already devoid of people.

"They're up ahead."

The passenger, Hu Fei, pointed forward and shouted loudly.

Ling Chen looked up and only saw a Mercedes sedan parked in the middle of the road, blocked by two other vehicles. However, around the car lay seven or eight people, covered in blood, either lifeless or passed out.

At this moment, in the midst of those seven or eight people, a man with his hands behind his back, sporting a mocking smile, looked down at the people at his feet, then turned and walked towards the Mercedes.

Seeing the man's face, Ling Chen's eyebrows raised, and an inexplicable sense of crisis filled his heart.

He did not recognize the man, but just one glance was enough to send a shiver up from the soles of his feet.

This person... must be no ordinary individual!

As Ling Chen observed the man, the latter also noticed the approaching van.

Seeing the van nearly reaching him, Ling Chen patted the cargo hold, then ran over the top of the van, leapt to the ground, and looked at the strange man.

"Ling Chen?" The other party looked at Ling Chen, a smirk playing at the corners of his mouth.

"Who are you?"

"Lin Tong."

"Lin Tong?" Hearing the other person's self-introduction, Ling Chen frowned, filled with doubt.

Another Lin... How come the God Organization has so many people surnamed Lin.

By now, being closer, Ling Chen could roughly make out Lin Tong's age—about twenty-seven or twenty-eight, still a young and handsome youth.

Chapter 657 Rescuing the Porridge Girl (4)

"Where is porridge girl, hand her over."

Mr. Lin pointed at the Mercedes-Benz and said indifferently, "The person you're looking for is inside the car, but it depends on whether you have the ability to take her away." As he spoke, Mr. Lin's tone shifted, looking meaningfully at Ling Chen, "I've heard about you for a long time. They say you're skilled, ranking first on the Newcomer List. I've always wanted to find an opportunity to test my skills against yours, but there was never a chance. Now that you're here, let's see how capable you are."

With that, Mr. Lin raised his hand and beckoned Ling Chen with a finger, his face full of provocation.

Ling Chen frowned slightly at Mr. Lin's mocking smile, turned his head to look at Hu Fei inside the van, and gestured for him to retreat, signaling him to leave quickly.

Not to mention how formidable Mr. Lin was, there was also Ji Gang, a master from the Heavenly List in that Mercedes. Ling Chen knew Hu Fei and the others staying there would only increase their peril.

Hu Fei was quite cooperative; upon seeing Ling Chen's gesture, he immediately urged the driver to reverse.

However, a 'clang clang' sound suddenly came from above the vehicle. Before Hu Fei could react, Yi Shuiyan leaped down from the front of the vehicle, landing behind Ling Chen. Along with him, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian also followed. With their addition, Ling Chen was immediately besieged by four men, plunging into an extremely dangerous situation.

Seeing this, Hu Fei, seated in the passenger seat, could not help but worry about Ling Chen's safety.

"Ling Chen, I'd like to see where you could flee today," Yi Shuiyan said with a cold laugh.

Facing the four menacing men, Ling Chen was calm and collected, though the pressure on him surged. Dealing with just Mr. Lin was already uncertain, let alone now with the addition of Yi Shuiyan and the other two, he was undoubtedly in a perilous situation.

"Mr. Lin, if you don't mind, why not let us handle Ling Chen?" Yi Shuiyan spoke politely, his tone very courteous yet with a hint of respect. Clearly, Mr. Lin had a not-so-low status in the God Organization. Otherwise, with Yi Shuiyan's arrogance, he would never use such a respectful title for a peer.

Mr. Lin indifferently said, "I did want to see the skills of the top ranker on the Newcomer List, but since you want to make a move, I shall let you."

"Ling Chen, you murdered the Sect Leader of Dangyang Sect. Today, I must kill you to avenge the Sect Leader."

Hearing Wei Bo's ice-cold voice, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, then turned to look at him, "I'm saying, could you have made a mistake? Zhu Jin wasn't killed by me. He was already dead when I found him. If you wish to frame someone, you need evidence. Don't slander me randomly."

Gan Chutian snorted, "Could he be wrong? Ling Chen, I didn't expect you to be such a despicable, shameless wretch, daring to act but not own up, still making excuses at this point. When you killed Zhu Jin, Shuiyan saw it all with his own eyes. He is Zhu Jin's Direct Disciple, would he lie?"

Yi Shuiyan?

Ling Chen was startled, his gaze filled with astonishment as he looked at Yi Shuiyan, who was actually pinning the murder of Zhu Jin on him.

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen glanced at Wei Bo and Gan Chutian, asking, "Are you two here to avenge Zhu Jin?"

"That's right! You killed our Sect Leader, and that makes you the enemy of Dangyang Sect. If we don't kill you, how can Dangyang Sect continue to hold a place in the Martial Arts world?"

"That's truly laughable," Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Dangyang Sect is already colluding with the God Organization, and yet you still care about your reputation in the Martial Arts world. I really don't know where you get your courage from."

As his words fell, seeing Gan Chutian preparing to speak again, Ling Chen waved his hand dismissively, speaking with impatience, "Enough! Quit your blathering. I don't know what Yi Shuiyan told you, but what I can tell you is that Zhu Jin wasn't killed by me; on the contrary, Zhu Jin died at the hands of his most cherished disciple."

"Nonsense!" Yi Shuiyan bellowed angrily: "Ling Chen, how dare you slander me."

With a sneer, Ling Chen said, "Slander? Have I slandered you? Yi Shuiyan, do you really think that your deeds are unknown to others? That day at the base, after you killed Zhu Jin, you left his body there and just walked away. But you probably didn't expect that I would find Zhu Jin's body. I examined his body and discovered a fatal wound in his abdomen, pierced by a steel knife. At that time, only you were with Zhu Jin. Besides you wielding a steel knife, who else could it be?" As he said this, Ling Chen looked at Wei Bo and Gan Chutian and continued, "I knew Yi Shuiyan would not admit it, so I took the liberty of photographing Zhu Jin's body, intending to keep it as evidence. If you don't believe me, I can show you the photos."

Yi Shuiyan's face darkened as he said, "Ling Chen, you think we would believe your tall tales? What can a photo prove? With current technology, any kind of photo can be fabricated. Protectors, don't believe his words, he's trying to sow discord."

"Enough!" Lin Tong said coldly from the side: "If you're going to fight, just get on with it. I don't have time to waste with you."

Hearing this, Yi Shuiyan said no more, wielding the steel knife in his hand and quickly charging at Ling Chen, raising the knife over his head and striking down towards him.

However, just at that moment, the door of the Mercedes car suddenly swung open. Right after, porridge girl was seen stepping out from the back seat.

Seeing porridge girl emerge, Ling Chen let out a breath of relief and hurried to greet her, calling out her name. Yet, before he reached the Mercedes sedan, he stopped in his tracks, his gaze intense as he saw Ji Gang following behind porridge girl.

Lin Tong looked at Ji Gang in surprise and asked, "Mr. Ji, why did you come down? Don't worry, leave this to us to handle."

Ji Gang glanced around, seemingly indifferent to Lin Tong's words, and spoke to himself, "Since you're here, there's no need to hide. Come on out."

As his voice faded, a faint scent of alcohol suddenly permeated the air, drifting towards everyone present.

Smelling the rich fragrance of the liquor, Ling Chen's spirits were lifted, and he excitedly scanned the surroundings.

Du Kang!

It was Du Kang who had arrived.

Ling Chen quietly breathed a sigh of relief; he thought Du Kang had disappeared, but unexpectedly, he would appear at this critical moment.

"Old Man Ji, long time no see."

That familiar voice rose, and Ling Chen looked up to see Du Kang sitting on top of a wall, holding a liquor gourd in his hand. His wrinkled face was flushed, and the corners of his mouth still had traces of wine spills.

"Elder Du!"

Hearing Ling Chen's shout, Du Kang smiled and nodded, saying, "Sorry about that, I had something come up last night, I saw that you were sleeping deeply, so I didn't wake you up."

After finishing his words, Du Kang looked at Ji Gang and said, "Old Man Ji, do you still remember this old friend of mine?"

With an expressionless face, Ji Gang replied, "Du Kang, so many years without meeting, hope you've been well."

Chapter 658 Rescue Porridge Girl (5)

Du Kang swayed the wine gourd in his hand and said, "Thanks to you, I've lived so many years without dying."

"What are you doing here today? Could it be that you want to stick up for that kid?" Ji Gang coldly said.

"Old Man Ji, for the sake of our past friendship, do me a favor and let the girl go. If you've got issues, direct them at me."

"You?" Ji Gang sneered coldly. "Du Kang, this is a personal grudge between the God Organization and Ling Chen. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion better not meddle. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude."

Du Kang smiled faintly, vaulted over the surrounding wall, and strode towards Ji Gang, saying as he walked, "Do you think I'd be scared? Besides, the grievances between the God Organization and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion are there for all to see. It's only right for me to come and stir up trouble."

"Hmph! It seems today's battle is inevitable. Good, it's been many years since we've crossed hands. I want to see how much you've progressed in these years." With that, Ji Gang pushed the porridge girl

towards Lin Tong who was nearby, instructing, "Keep a close watch on her. If she dares resist, kill her on the spot."

As soon as he finished speaking, Ji Gang's toes lightly touched the ground, and his body instantly vanished from the spot.

"Du Kang, since you want to fight, then come with me."

Looking towards the direction where Ji Gang's voice came from, Du Kang didn't say another word, leaned forward, and quickly chased after. Before leaving, Du Kang glanced at Ling Chen. Although he said nothing, his concern was evident in his gaze.

As Du Kang and Ji Gang left, Ling Chen involuntarily took a deep breath. Du Kang had successfully drawn Ji Gang away; his mission was now complete. It was time for him to take care of the rest.

"Do you feel disappointed?"

Hearing Lin Tong's mocking voice, Ling Chen asked puzzledly, "Why should I be disappointed?"

"You specifically invited Du Kang here, hoping he could help rescue your friend, right? But now, whether he's here or not, it's the same. Even if Mr. Ji isn't here, don't think you can take someone away from me." As he spoke, Lin Tong's eyes shifted to Yi Shuiyan beside him and said, "I'll give you a chance. Kill Ling Chen. As long as he dies, I'll groom you in the future, turning the Dangyang Sect into a leading figure in the martial arts world of Huaxia."

With these words, Yi Shuiyan's eyes suddenly lit up, exuding an intense sharpness.

"Mr. Lin, rest assured, today I will definitely spill Ling Chen's blood right here."

Yi Shuiyan gripped the steel knife firmly, his eyes brimming with immense confidence. Of course, this confidence largely came from the presence of Wei Bo and Gan Chutian beside him. Without these two, he had no assurance of defeating Ling Chen.

"Ling Chen, run, don't worry about me!"

Seeing Yi Shuiyan and the two others closing in on Ling Chen, the restrained porridge girl couldn't help speaking out, her beautiful eyes filled with worry. She didn't want anything to happen to Ling Chen. If he died trying to save her, she would never forgive herself.

Ling Chen glanced at the porridge girl nearby, his lips slightly curling into a faint smile, and he gently nodded, saying, "Don't worry about me, I'll be fine."

"All right, no more wasting time. I'm in a hurry."

Upon hearing Lin Jiawei's voice emanating from the Mercedes sedan, Yi Shuiyan didn't hesitate anymore. With a tap of his foot, he gripped the knife handle with both hands, raised the steel knife high above his head, and swung it straight at Ling Chen's head.

At the same time, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian, one on each side, closely followed Yi Shuiyan in launching their attacks.

Facing the attack from three sides, Ling Chen stood quietly in place, his back straight as a javelin, his dark pupils calm and indifferent, showing no trace of fear.

"Kill!"

With a light shout, Ling Chen clenched his fists, unstoppable as a bamboo split, charging directly towards Yi Shuiyan.

However, at that moment, something suddenly flew through the air, aimed straight for the top of Yi Shuiyan's head.

This sudden change instantly drew everyone's attention. Yi Shuiyan looked up, his face showing a hint of confusion as he tried to determine whether the object posed a threat. Just then, with a slight sound, the object split in the middle, turning into a net made of fishtail silk and falling towards Yi Shuiyan's head from above.

Seeing this, Yi Shuiyan's face changed abruptly, and he quickly turned to escape to the left. However, the net, with a coverage area of five meters, left Yi Shuiyan no chance to escape in such a short time.

As expected, as the net fell, Yi Shuiyan's entire body was wrapped in it. Moreover, the strands of the net were laced with sharp, tiny fish hooks.

In an instant, Yi Shuiyan's body was caught by the fish hooks, the net tightly adhering to his body, rendering him unable to break free.

If it was just one hook it would be bearable, but the agony from dozens of hooks combined was beyond what an ordinary person could endure.

Ah!

Feeling the pain, Yi Shuiyan roared, his hands rapidly rising, wielding a steel knife to split the entire net in two. Although the net was made of special material resistant to blades, Yi Shuiyan, a high-ranked person on the Dragon List, could overcome it with his powerful Inner Strength, challenging the durability of the net.

However, as he broke free from the net, the fish hooks detached from his body, leaving behind numerous wounds, blood streaming, hardly a spot on his body left unscarred.

Driven by the pain, Yi Shuiyan's face contorted even more ferociously, wishing he could disembowel Ling Chen immediately, perhaps only that might quell the hatred in his heart.

Seeing Yi Shuiyan's furious gaze, Ling Chen immediately waved his hand and pointed to Hu Fei not far away, saying, "Don't blame me, it was him who made the move, it has nothing to do with me."

Hearing this, Yi Shuiyan's head turned, his cold gaze instantly locking onto Hu Fei.

Hu Fei secretly spat, his chubby face bearing a stiff smile, he gradually stepped back, trying to escape Yi Shuiyan's icy stare.

"I'll kill you!"

Unable to control his rage, Yi Shuiyan roared, brandishing his steel knives and striding forward, rapidly rushing towards Hu Fei, intending to slaughter him under his blade.

However, before Yi Shuiyan could get close to Hu Fei, a figure suddenly flashed by, instantly blocking his path.

"Your opponent is me, as long as I'm alive, you won't touch a hair on him." After saying this, Ling Chen looked back and said to Hu Fei, "What are you stunned for, hurry and go."

Hu Fei nodded, dropping a 'be careful yourself', and immediately ran to the passenger side of the box truck, urging the driver to start the vehicle and leave.

Hu Fei had already left, but worrying about Ling Chen being left behind alone, he returned the way he came, hoping to offer Ling Chen some help.

Seeing the box truck drive away, Yi Shuiyan finally couldn't contain his fury any longer, raising his knife and slashing towards Ling Chen.

Chapter 659 Fierce Battle with Lin Tong (1)

Seeing the steel knife chopping down, Ling Chen didn't dodge or avoid; he stretched both hands forward, palms meeting the blade of the steel knife. Almost in an instant, Ling Chen's hands clamped down on the steel knife. Then, he led with both hands, using softness to counter hardness, his Inner Strength pouring through his palms into the blade, gently pushing it aside.

Suddenly, driven by the force's inertia, Yi Shuiyan staggered, his body leaning forward, almost falling to the ground.

"Be careful!"

Suddenly, Wei Bo's voice came from behind. Yi Shuiyan quickly turned his head, only to see Ling Chen launching a kick, fiercely striking his buttocks. Impacted by that strong force, the just-stabilized Yi

Shuiyan was immediately sent flying, crashing heavily to the ground, his forehead bruising with purple and blue.

Seeing Ling Chen mock and humiliate the new Sect Leader of Dangyang Sect in such a manner, Wei Bo and Gan Chutian immediately became enraged.

Seeing the two charge at him, Ling Chen glanced over, noticing the steel knife falling from Yi Shuiyan's hand, casually picking it up and chopping it towards Wei Bo's body.

A sharp knife edge approached, and Wei Bo's face changed with shock, not daring to clash directly, he swiftly retreated to avoid the fatal steel knife.

Having repelled Wei Bo, Ling Chen twisted his wrist, the blade edge quickly changing position, targeting Gan Chutian to his right.

Watching the steel knife cleave towards him, Gan Chutian had no intention of evading; instead, he stretched out both hands, striking from both sides, attempting to clamp the blade just as Ling Chen had done before.

As Gan Chutian's palms touched the blade, Ling Chen felt a subtle force coming through, immediately interrupting the momentum of the knife chop. Seeing this, Ling Chen flipped his wrist, the blade rotating, slipping away from Gan Chutian's grip.

At that moment, the blade edge was mere centimeters from Gan Chutian, with no obstruction, the steel knife drove forward forcefully, chopping down fiercely.

As the blade drew closer, Gan Chutian's face finally changed. If this strike landed, he would definitely not escape unscathed.

Drawing on his rich experience, the moment the blade fell, Gan Chutian forcibly twisted his torso, his upper body swaying slightly. Instantly, blood splattered, the sharp blade edge directly cut into Gan Chutian's shoulder, severing his entire right arm.

Ah!

Accompanied by a painful scream, Gan Chutian fell to the ground, clutching the site of his severed limb, his face pale, his forehead beaded with cold sweat, enduring the pain without crying out loud.

Seeing this scene, Wei Bo was instantly horrified, rushing over in a flurry to help Gan Chutian up from the ground and then shielded him behind his back to prevent Ling Chen from taking Gan Chutian's life.

"Ling... Ling Chen, you... remember this, today's vengeance of a severed arm, I will surely repay a hundredfold another day," Gan Chutian said through gritted teeth.

Ling Chen shrugged, replying indifferently, "Suit yourself, I have no shortage of enemies, one more won't make a difference. But if you dare come again, it won't be just losing an arm, and next time don't forget to prepare a coffin for yourself."

"You..."

"Enough!" Lin Tong, who had been watching from the side, spoke up sharply: "A bunch of good-for-nothings, utterly useless, can't even kill a greenhorn, looks like I have to handle this myself."

Saying this, Lin Tong pushed the porridge girl toward Wei Bo, giving a cold command, "Take good care of her. If you can't even watch a person, I'll kill you first, then him."

Watching Lin Tong approaching, Ling Chen's expression became grave. Although he did not know Lin Tong's true strength, the imposing aura emanating from Lin Tong felt very familiar; it was the presence that only high-ranking Earthly List experts possessed.

Throughout this period, with Su He's guidance, although there has not been a significant increase in Ling Chen's power, his control over techniques has become much more skilled. Relying on his control of Inner Strength, below the Earthly List, there was hardly any expert he was not daring enough to confront, just like Wei Bo and Gan Chutian earlier. These two were Dragon List masters, and their strength was not much weaker than Zhu Jin's. Despite that, the two of them joined forces but still could not kill Ling Chen; instead, Ling Chen severed Gan Chutian's right arm.

However, there is only a one-word difference between the Dragon and Earthly Lists, but the gap in strength is as wide as the difference between clouds and mud, a completely different realm. Moreover, Ling Chen seemed to lack any experience in crossing hands with experts from the Earthly List.

"Ling Chen, be careful of his fingers, make sure you don't let him touch you."

At that moment, Porridge Girl's voice reached Ling Chen's ears.

Upon hearing Porridge Girl's warning, Ling Chen immediately focused his attention on Lin Tong's ten fingers.

Indeed, Lin Tong's fingers looked ordinary, but they were actually somewhat abnormal. The fingers of a normal person would be the same color as their skin, but Lin Tong's fingers exuded a faint ink-like darkness. If it were not for the Porridge Girl's reminder, he would not have noticed this detail at all.

Not to be touched by Lin Tong's fingers.

Thinking of Porridge Girl's words, a hint of doubt appeared in Ling Chen's heart, not understanding the meaning behind her words.

Seeing Ling Chen deep in thought, Porridge Girl spoke again, "The martial arts he cultivates is... Ah!"

Her words were cut off mid-sentence when a sudden cry of pain escaped her, blood spewing from her mouth.

As Porridge Girl was speaking, Wei Bo landed a palm on her back, interrupting her.

"You'd better shut up," Wei Bo said coldly.

Lin Tong cast an approving glance at Wei Bo, then shifted his gaze back to Ling Chen, saying, "For our fight to proceed fairly, it would be best if she speaks less, don't you agree?"

"Fair?" Ling Chen snorted lightly, "To speak of fairness with me, a grand Earthly List expert. I always thought I had thick skin, but it seems yours is even thicker. Enough! Cut the crap, if you're going to fight, then make your move. I don't have so much time to waste with you."

Lin Tong nodded, stepping closer to Ling Chen, step by step. When they were less than five meters apart, Lin Tong stopped, looked up and stared straight at Ling Chen's face, not moving an inch.

Seeing the other's actions, Ling Chen didn't dare to be careless, his body slightly tilted, turning to the right side, his right hand gripping the hilt of his steel knife, ready to strike at any moment.

After staring at each other for more than ten seconds, the motionless Lin Tong finally stretched out his hand.

Looking at those five fingers tinged with an ink-like darkness, a sense of heaviness fell upon Ling Chen's heart, feeling extremely uneasy as if he had detected a whiff of danger.

Porridge Girl's several mentions of Lin Tong's fingers suggested that his cultivated martial arts were related to his fingers. If he could just guard against those fingers during the upcoming exchange, he might be safer.

A gust of wind blew by, and Ling Chen only saw a flickering shadow, as Lin Tong appeared instantly in front of him. Before Ling Chen could react, Lin Tong's index finger was already thrusting toward his face, rapidly enlarging in his pupils.

Just as that finger was about to make contact, the steel knife in Ling Chen's hand finally moved.

With the slicing of the knife's wind, it ferociously chopped down towards Lin Tong's right arm.

Chapter 660 Fierce Battle with Lin Tong (2)

Lin Tong's fingers were fast, but Ling Chen's steel saber wasn't slow either.

If Lin Tong didn't withdraw his hand, even if he managed to hit Ling Chen's body, his own arm would be ruined. A high-ranked martial artist of the Earthly List would certainly not risk his body carelessly.

As expected!

Seeing the steel saber chop down, Lin Tong immediately pulled back his fingers and stepped back, increasing the distance between the two.

However, Ling Chen did not let go of such a good opportunity. As Lin Tong retreated, he strode forward, lifting the steel saber high above his head and slashing down towards Lin Tong's crown.

Feeling the strong gust of wind coming towards him, Lin Tong took another step backward.

Yet, what Lin Tong overlooked was a very important point. Ling Chen's strength had already reached the stage where Inner Strength could be projected outward. Even with a gap as narrow as the width of a finger, the concentrated Qi Force could still inflict injury on Lin Tong's body.

Hiss!

Suddenly, Lin Tong's chest was riven by a sharp Qi Force, leaving a ten-centimeter-long rip in his clothes with a red mark clearly visible on his skin.

Unfortunately, Ling Chen's Power was still a little lacking; otherwise, even if the blow wouldn't take Lin Tong's life, it could have severely wounded him.

Seeing the torn cloth on his chest, Lin Tong's face immediately revealed a cold and harsh expression, his eyes bursting with a chilling coldness and a surging intent to kill.

"Good! You do have some skills. It looks like I need to take this seriously."

With these words, Lin Tong tapped the ground with one foot and leaped high from his position, swooping down like a great roc spreading its wings, his index finger aiming straight for Ling Chen's brow.

The same move again!

Ling Chen flicked his wrist, and the sharp edge of the saber swiftly cut through the air, targeting Lin Tong's arm. He realized Lin Tong's deadliest technique was nothing but his ten fingers. As long as he could restrict those fingers, he would prevent Lin Tong from getting close. The rest... he could only hope Du Kang would prevail.

First, he needed to hold Lin Tong at bay. As long as Du Kang defeated Ji Gang and returned to reinforce him, all difficulties could be smoothly resolved. However, what Ling Chen currently worried about was whether Du Kang could win at all.

In the midst of his contemplation, Lin Tong's figure had already closed in. Ling Chen did not back down, brandishing his steel saber and bringing it down with a fierce wind.

However, just then, Lin Tong suddenly changed his tactic, lightly tapping the blade with his index finger. In a flash, Ling Chen felt a powerful force strike the saber, causing his wrist to uncontrolledly deviate to the side, narrowly missing Lin Tong's body.

This move from Lin Tong took Ling Chen by surprise; he had not expected the other's fingers to contain such formidable strength.

At this moment, there was no time for further thought. Lin Tong's fingers kept tapping the blade, the force transmitting through the saber into Ling Chen's wrist, making his whole arm feel numb.

Seeing this, Ling Chen decided to let go of the saber with his right hand. As he made this movement, he also twisted his waist. Before the steel saber hit the ground, his left hand had already caught the hilt, and following the rotation of his waist, the saber swung like a giant windmill, viciously aiming for Lin Tong's neck.

If this strike landed, Lin Tong's head would surely be severed from his body.

Confronted by Lin Tong's formidable strength, Ling Chen did not hold back at all, exerting his full strength, with all his Power converging on his left arm.

Just when the blade of the steel saber was less than two centimeters from Lin Tong's neck, the blade suddenly came to a halt.

Ling Chen looked intently, his face instantly turning pale.

Ling Chen could only stare in disbelief as Lin Tong's fingers actually managed to grip the blade of the sword.

This... Ling Chen's face was filled with disbelief as he gazed at Lin Tong's two fingers.

This is way too freakish!

He could actually use two fingers to block his steel sword; were these even human fingers? Though Lin Tong was an Earthly List master, his strength was only at the bottom among those ranked on the Earthly List, and the gap between them wasn't this terrifying.

At that moment, Ling Chen finally understood why the porridge girl had warned him to be wary of his fingers. This fellow's ten fingers must have undergone many years of arduous training to possess such formidable strength.

While contemplating, Lin Tong flicked his fingers, instantly causing Ling Chen's arm to be stretched out, and his body involuntarily pulled towards Lin Tong. Being dragged by that force, Ling Chen had no choice but to let go of his steel sword and jump back to avoid being hit by Lin Tong's fingers.

However, having lost his steel sword, Ling Chen's position undoubtedly became more perilous.

Hmph!

Lin Tong sneered, casually tossing the steel sword behind him, and then began walking toward Ling Chen.

Facing Ling Chen, who was now without his steel sword, Lin Tong didn't seem the least bit cautious, moving with a light step, completely undeterred by Ling Chen's presence.

As Lin Tong kept advancing step by step, Ling Chen had no choice but to retreat, quickly considering his options.

"Ling Chen!"

Suddenly, a familiar voice rang out. Ling Chen turned to look and saw Yi Shuiyan, who had somehow risen from the ground, picked up his steel sword, and swung it down.

However, Yi Shuiyan's attack was not aimed at Ling Chen, but at the porridge girl, who was under Wei Bo's control.

Seeing the sharp blade about to fall on porridge girl's body, Ling Chen's expression changed drastically, he promptly shouted, "Don't!" As he spoke, he lightly tapped his toes on the ground, instantly accelerating to his maximum speed, and charged towards where porridge girl was.

But before Ling Chen could run a few meters, a powerful force suddenly struck.

Feeling the fierce wind of the attack, Ling Chen turned his gaze just in time to see Lin Tong quickly close the distance, step behind him in a few strides, and jabbed his finger, hitting the middle of his back.

In a split second, Ling Chen felt all his strength drain away, a painful sensation wracked his spine, feeling as though it couldn't support his body, and he collapsed to the ground with a 'bang', unable to get up.

"You... you attacked me by surprise!"

Ling Chen clenched his jaw and gasped for air, struggling to prop himself up with his hands, attempting to stand again. However, each movement brought intense pain to his spine, as if it had snapped in half.

Not only that, but a numbing sensation began to spread over his entire body, even his hands and feet began to disobey him.

Seeing Ling Chen unable to rise from the ground, his face pale, Yi Shuiyan immediately withdrew his steel sword.

"Ling Chen!"

The porridge girl anxiously looked at Ling Chen, her beautiful eyes filled with concern. If her arms and legs hadn't been tied up, she would have rushed to his aid immediately.

Hearing the porridge girl's voice, Ling Chen opened his mouth to respond, but as the words reached his lips, he realized that the numbing sensation also affected his mouth, and he couldn't utter a single word.

"Ling Chen, how does it feel? Is it not very comfortable?" Lin Tong played with his fingers, lifting the corners of his mouth with a smile: "I forgot to tell you, the technique I've cultivated is called Five Poison Finger, which requires me to immerse my fingers in poison constantly over the years. Eventually, the poison permeates the blood and becomes one with it. Whenever I wish, I can transfer the poison from my fingers into anyone's body."