

The Beauty 661

Chapter 661 Fierce Battle with Lin Tong (3)

Poison!

No wonder, Ling Chen frowned inwardly, realizing that the tingling numbness must be due to the venom spreading throughout his body via his bloodstream.

At this moment, he felt completely drained of strength in his body, his limbs gradually weakened, and he couldn't even hold himself upright.

Before, porridge girl had reminded him to be wary of Lin Tong's fingers, presumably warning him against Lin Tong's poisonous attack. Unfortunately, it was too late to understand this now. Faintly, he felt the pain in his spine growing increasingly intense.

Lin Tong glanced at Ling Chen, who was lying on the ground, then pointed at Yi Shuiyan not far away, saying, "You were so eager to kill him, weren't you? I'll give you this chance. Cut off his head."

Upon hearing these words, Yi Shuiyan's eyes lit up, and he hurriedly approached Ling Chen with his steel knife in hand.

"Ling Chen, I've told you long ago, opposing me will bring you to a bad end. This day next year will be your memorial day."

With that said, Yi Shuiyan raised the steel knife in his hand, ready to sever Ling Chen's neck with a single blow.

But at that moment, a scoffing laugh suddenly came from the ground. Yi Shuiyan frowned, looking at the laughing Ling Chen, and said coldly, "What's there to laugh at when death is upon you?"

"Nothing much, I'm just laughing at the fact that there are shameless people like you in this world. Lin Tong, just moments ago, I'm not sure who was claiming they wanted a fair fight with me, only to resort to such a despicable ambush. Is this your idea of fairness? And you..." Ling Chen struggled to lift his head, looking at Yi Shuiyan, "You've been defeated by me before; without the help of others, what

capacity do you have to beat me? I always thought I had thick skin, but I never expected to meet two people even more shameless than myself."

"Shut up!"

Yi Shuiyan retorted coldly, "The winner becomes the king, the loser the bandit. To lose is to lose; means are also a skill. If you had any tricks up your sleeve, you should have used them."

Ling Chen nodded weakly and said, "Alright, since you say so, then I..."

Before he could finish speaking, Ling Chen, who was lying on the ground, suddenly threw his head back, and unexpectedly, a small alcohol gourd appeared in his hand. As the liquid from the gourd poured into his mouth, Ling Chen's body instantly turned red as if his skin was being roasted by fire.

Seeing the changes occurring to Ling Chen, Yi Shuiyan's expression changed dramatically. Without another word, he immediately swung his steel knife down at Ling Chen.

However, the moment the steel knife was about to strike, Ling Chen suddenly rolled on the ground, narrowly dodging the blade.

Before Yi Shuiyan could strike again, Ling Chen sprang up from the ground like a carp leaping over a dragon gate, standing quickly, his face flushed red as he glared at Yi Shuiyan, breathing heavily through his nose, appearing like a furious beast ready to tear apart the prey before it.

"What are you waiting for, attack now!"

Hearing Lin Tong's reprimand, Yi Shuiyan immediately snapped back to his senses and charged towards Ling Chen.

Facing the oncoming steel knife, Ling Chen roared, and his fist shot out, carrying fierce momentum, and smashed fiercely onto the blade.

Clang!

Accompanied by a sharp clang, the steel knife flew out of Yi Shuiyan's hands, landing on the ground.

Not only Yi Shuiyan but also Lin Tong were taken aback by this scene. Ling Chen was clearly seriously wounded and poisoned, which should have made him weak. Yet, his display of strength seemed to have significantly increased.

At this moment, Ling Chen clenched his fist, his eyes wide with rage, steam continuously exhaling from his nostrils.

Last night, when drinking with Du Kang, Du Kang had him try a few sips of strong liquor, causing him discomfort throughout his body until he slept through to dawn. And just now, he had guzzled several large gulps. At this moment, the strong liquor was churning in his stomach like a fierce blaze, burning his body furiously, as if even his blood had turned scalding hot.

Originally weak and powerless limbs, under the blazing fire's burning, seemed to be injected with infinite strength, body bursting with energy.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen forcibly maintained his cool head, looking straight at Yi Shuiyan and Lin Tong before him.

The fiery liquor combined with the mental method taught by Du Kang, Ling Chen's potential burst forth in an instant. However, time was limited, he had to act quickly, to finish the business before he passed out drunk.

With a tiger's roar, Ling Chen strode forward, his iron fist raised high, hurling a simple straight punch towards Yi Shuiyan.

Seeing Ling Chen charging, Yi Shuiyan was just about to guard. However, before he could act, he saw a figure flash past, Ling Chen's icy gaze already close at hand.

Bang!

Without waiting for Yi Shuiyan to react, Ling Chen's iron fist had already driven straight in, slamming heavily into his chest.

Crack!

Gurgle!

Struck heavily, Yi Shuiyan felt a sweetness in his throat, a mouthful of fresh blood spewed from his mouth. At the same time, a crisp cracking sound was heard; under Ling Chen's punch, several of Yi Shuiyan's ribs were broken.

Watching Yi Shuiyan's body fly out, Lin Tong's face finally showed a slight change. As a master of the Earthly List, he could feel that Ling Chen's strength had greatly improved from before.

Smelling the strong aroma of liquor from that little gourd, Lin Tong frowned slightly. Was it because of the drink?

Yet, he had never heard of alcohol enhancing one's strength before; it was utterly inconceivable.

While pondering, Ling Chen's gaze had already locked onto Lin Tong.

Facing the sharpness and chill in Ling Chen's eyes, Lin Tong gave a cold hum, stepping forward quickly, pointing a finger towards Ling Chen's vital points.

Without the slightest hesitation, Ling Chen lifted his iron fist to meet Lin Tong's index finger head-on.

Fist and finger clashed, both men's Inner Strength and power erupted instantly, colliding wildly.

Seeing Ling Chen standing firmly on the spot, not budging, a look of surprise flashed in Lin Tong's eyes. He had originally wanted to test how much Ling Chen's strength had improved, but from the current situation, Ling Chen now had the power to compete with him.

While Lin Tong was in shock, Ling Chen suddenly roared. The power contained in his iron fist surged fiercely, actually pushing Lin Tong back two steps.

Seizing the advantage, Ling Chen stepped forward, his iron fist swinging continuously, punch after punch without mercy, as power poured out relentlessly.

Faced with Ling Chen's storm-like offensive, Lin Tong was left with only the power to parry, without a chance to counterattack.

How was this possible?

After resisting more than a dozen moves, Lin Tong looked at Ling Chen with a touch of shock in his gaze. Lin Tong's fingers contained poison, and with each exchange, he had been infusing the toxin through Ling Chen's skin into his body. Yet, so much time had passed, and there was no sign of Ling Chen being poisoned, instead, he was fighting more vigorously.

Having lost the effect of his greatest reliance, and unable to suppress Ling Chen with strength, he would eventually be defeated if this continued.

With that in mind, Lin Tong couldn't help but cast his gaze towards the little gourd of liquor lying forgotten on the ground.

Chapter 662 Ling Chen Poisoned

Lin Tong had no idea that at this moment, Ling Chen was like a blazing fire, which suppressed the poison that had seeped into his body. Alcohol was known to disinfect, let alone the strong liquor brewed by Du Kang.

At this time, Ling Chen seized the opportunity and threw a fierce punch, instantly breaking through Lin Tong's defense. His iron fist charged straight in, heavily bombarding Lin Tong's left shoulder. Hit by the punch, Lin Tong's body immediately swayed, losing his footing.

Seizing this chance, Ling Chen lifted his leg high and delivered a sweeping kick, sending Lin Tong's body flying out.

However, when Lin Tong landed from midair, he landed right in front of the small liquor gourd.

Without waiting for Ling Chen to catch up, Lin Tong reached for the small gourd, pulled out the stopper, and guzzled it down his throat.

Seeing Lin Tong's actions, Ling Chen was startled. This guy... he's actually stealing my drink!

After standing stunned for a few seconds, Ling Chen simply abandoned the idea of making a move, standing still and watching for Lin Tong's reaction.

Before long, after tossing the empty gourd on the ground, Lin Tong glared at Ling Chen across from him, his nostrils flaring with heavy breaths.

"Now it's my turn," Lin Tong sneered coldly, his face twisting into a savage grin.

Hearing this, Ling Chen took two steps back, gazing meaningfully at Lin Tong, a playful smile on his lips.

As Lin Tong stepped forward, ready to make a move, his complexion suddenly changed, his originally pale cheeks instantly turning crimson.

"No... what's going on?" Lin Tong frantically clawed at his chest, a look of intense discomfort on his face, as if millions of ants were gnawing at his flesh. After struggling for a moment, Lin Tong suddenly collapsed to the ground, rolling back and forth, emitting painful howls, his clothes already torn to shreds by his hands.

"So hot... so hot... water... I need water..."

Seeing Lin Tong's painful state, Ling Chen shook his head lightly. Such overestimation of oneself, to down all the liquor from the small gourd—I myself wouldn't dare to do it. Most importantly, I have the mental method taught by Du Kang to help control the liquor's effects on the body. Lin Tong, not having learned the method and drinking so much, couldn't possibly withstand such torment even if he were a master of the Earthly List.

At this time, Wei Bo, who was responsible for watching over Porridge Girl, saw Lin Tong's agonized expression and his writhing on the ground. He hurriedly came to his side and helped him up.

"Water... I need water!" Lin Tong yelled, eyes bloodshot as he grasped Wei Bo's arms.

"Yes, yes, I'll get water right away."

Wei Bo quickly acknowledged and then hurried to a Mercedes-Benz car to fetch a bottle of mineral water, handing it to Lin Tong.

As soon as the cap was off, Lin Tong tilted his head back and in a matter of seconds downed the entire bottle of water. However, he had underestimated the potency of the strong liquor. Even after drinking water, the fiery liquor was still burning inside him like flames, unstoppable.

While Wei Bo's attention was on Lin Tong, Ling Chen quickly went to Porridge Girl's side and undid her restraints.

"Quick, I..."

Before he could finish speaking, Ling Chen suddenly felt his head grow heavy and lost consciousness, collapsing into Porridge Girl's arms.

"Ling Chen! Ling Chen, wake up!"

Porridge Girl anxiously looked at Ling Chen, gently shaking his body and calling his name. But at this moment, Ling Chen appeared to be unconscious, showing no reaction as he lay in her embrace.

Seeing this, Porridge Girl reluctantly gazed at Lin Tong and Lin Jiawei inside the Mercedes-Benz, then turned to leave with Ling Chen.

If it weren't for Ling Chen suddenly falling unconscious, Porridge Girl would not have let Lin Tong and Lin Jiawei off easily.

She had not run far when porridge girl saw a box truck parked on the side of the road. She hurriedly carried Ling Chen over, forcefully knocking on the rear door of the cargo area.

Sitting in the passenger seat, Hu Fei leapt out of the vehicle upon seeing the two of them, and asked looking at the unconscious Ling Chen, "What happened to him?"

"Not sure yet, quickly take us back."

Hu Fei nodded, hastily helped Ling Chen into the vehicle, and urged the driver to head to the research base.

In less than half an hour, the box truck finally arrived at the destination.

By now, the medical team, having been notified earlier, was already prepared. As soon as Ling Chen arrived, he was immediately carried into the medical room on a stretcher.

In the medical room filled with the smell of disinfectant, Zhu Xiaozhu, wearing a neat white lab coat, looked at Ling Chen lying on the hospital bed, and a complex expression fleetingly crossed her beautiful eyes.

"Miss Zhu, can we start now?"

Hearing the voice of a colleague nearby, Zhu Xiaozhu nodded, reached out to check Ling Chen's eyes, and then examined his pulse.

"He has been poisoned," Zhu Xiaozhu said with certainty, "Prepare to draw blood for testing."

"Understood!"

After more than an hour of busyness, Ling Chen's physical condition gradually came under control and he was transferred from the medical room to a hospital ward.

"Miss Zhu, how is his condition?"

Porridge girl stood by Ling Chen's side and asked Zhu Xiaozhu.

Zhu Xiaozhu lifted her head, sizing up porridge girl in front of her and then withdrew her gaze. She had noticed the existence of porridge girl when Ling Chen was brought back earlier. However, at that time, she had been occupied with saving Ling Chen and did not have the mind to think too much, only remembering that plain yet stunning face.

At this moment, there was no one else in the ward besides the two of them. Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help but take a few more glances, thinking to herself, wondering what the relationship between this woman and Ling Chen was. The concern revealed in porridge girl's words suggested that her relationship with Ling Chen was probably more than just friends.

With this thought, Zhu Xiaozhu sighed softly, a hint of melancholy flashing in her beautiful eyes.

"Miss Zhu..."

Seeing that Zhu Xiaozhu did not respond for a while, porridge girl spoke up again.

"Rest assured, his condition is temporarily stable, there is no serious harm to his body, he'll be fine after a few days' rest." After finishing speaking, Zhu Xiaozhu looked at porridge girl and asked, "Are you Ling Chen's friend? How come I've never seen you before?"

"I don't associate with him much," porridge girl replied lightly. Being a woman herself, porridge girl could naturally see Zhu Xiaozhu's concern for Ling Chen. However, her thoughts on this matter were not like other women's, she wouldn't overthink.

"Zhu Xiaozhu, since Ling Chen is all right, I'll leave him in your care. I've got things to do, I'll come back in a couple of days."

"Okay."

Once porridge girl left the ward, Zhu Xiaozhu locked the door and then took out a medical box from the side, preparing a syringe and a vial of medicinal liquid.

Taking advantage of Ling Chen still being unconscious, Zhu Xiaozhu rolled up the sleeve of Ling Chen's shirt, filled the syringe with the medicinal liquid, and injected it into Ling Chen's arm.

As the medicine entered Ling Chen's bloodstream, Zhu Xiaozhu pulled out the syringe, wiped the sweat from her forehead, and murmured to the unconscious Ling Chen, "Don't blame me..."

Chapter 663 Southern Ling Family (1)

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

Ling Chen, who had been in a coma, had already woken up. Apart from some physical weakness, he was mostly fine.

"Ling Chen." Hu Fei's voice rang out, and the door to the ward was pushed open. Seeing Hu Fei hurry over, Ling Chen put down the newspaper in his hand and asked, "What's the matter?"

Hu Fei handed a cellphone to Ling Chen, saying, "There's a call from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Hearing 'Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion', Ling Chen immediately took the cellphone and, after a greeting, asked, "Who is it?"

"It's me."

The familiar, pleasant voice came through the phone, and Ling Chen's lips curled into a slight smile as he replied, "Ah, it's Miss Su."

"How's your health?"

"Much better. By the way, Miss Su, has Elder Du returned?"

"He came back yesterday. Don't worry, he's fine. He asked me to tell you that Ji Gang's strength has become even more terrifying than before, even he isn't fully confident in dealing with Ji Gang. You should be more careful in the future and try your best to avoid any contact with Ji Gang."

"I understand." Ling Chen then changed the subject, asking: "Miss Su, how are things on your end?"

"You mean the God Organization? We followed the clues provided by the traitors within, tracked down, and destroyed one of their secret bases. You might find it hard to believe that this secret base was located less than two kilometers from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. We searched the place, and it was full of intelligence about the Pavilion. From my estimation, that base had been in operation for about five years. Luckily, we discovered its existence, otherwise, the intelligence of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion might have been stolen by the God Organization."

"In any case, it's good that we stopped them in time."

"Alright, I have nothing else, you rest well and we'll keep in touch when there's time."

"Okay."

After hanging up, Ling Chen tossed the cellphone back to Hu Fei and asked, "What about porridge girl, has she not returned yet?"

Hu Fei shook his head and said, "Haven't seen her around these past two days, don't know where she went."

"Forget it! She knows how to take care of herself." After saying this, Ling Chen recalled the incident that day and asked, "Where are Ling Jiawei and the others?"

"They've already left East Sea City. Although you seriously injured Lin Tong and Yi Shuiyan, Ji Gang arrived in time and took them away. My men couldn't stop him. However, we did catch quite a few disciples from the Dangyang Sect."

"Call Old Tang and hand those from Dangyang Sect over to him for disposal. Those people are just cannon fodder, not worth much." Saying this, Ling Chen appeared pensive, then spoke, "Fatty, don't you think there's something odd here?"

"Odd in what way?"

"Think about it, a Lin Guodong, a Lin Jiawei, and now a Lin Tong, all these people share the surname Lin and hold high positions in the God Organization. Don't you find that strange?"

"It's just a common surname, nothing to fuss over. I think you're overthinking."

"No!" said Ling Chen sternly, "My instincts are very accurate, there's definitely something off here." The certainty in Ling Chen came mainly from the intelligence provided by that mysterious man from the Secret Society.

That mysterious man had suggested that he suspected the southern Ling Family was the hidden hand behind the God Organization. Though Ling and Lin have different characters, their pronunciations are similar, raising the possibility that those surnamed Lin are actually from the Ling Family, using 'Lin' as a cover to avoid detection.

With this thought in mind, Ling Chen couldn't help but ponder further.

"Fatty, how much do you know about the southern Ling Family?"

"The southern Ling Family?" Hu Fei pondered and said, "I've heard of the Ling Family, but don't know much about them. They are legitimate businessmen, not involved in our kind of business, so I'm not interested in them."

"Do me a favor, try to dig up everything you can on the Ling Family, especially their family members' identities."

"What are you trying to do?" Hu Fei asked confusedly, "You should be investigating the God Organization, not these irrelevant people. It's time-consuming and labor-intensive. If I were you—"

"Enough!" Ling Chen interrupted impatiently, snapping, "Just do as I've asked, stop with all the nonsense. Hurry up!"

When Hu Fei left, Ling Chen suddenly remembered the little liquor gourd, and couldn't help but feel a bit distressed.

Du Kang had given him some strong liquor to drink, and after only a few sips, it was all wasted by Lin Tong. After experiencing the strength of the liquor, Ling Chen knew how good it was. Unfortunately, there was none left. He couldn't exactly shamelessly go to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion again to ask Du Kang for more.

...

The next day.

Ling Chen sat on the hospital bed, flipping through a file.

This document, recently delivered by Hu Fei, contained information about the southern Ling Family, including the identities of all its members.

It had to be said, the Ling Family was indeed a large family clan, numbering dozens of people, and the enterprises they ran were spread across the nation, particularly in the southern regions; almost every city had a piece of Ling Family property. Compared to the Ling Family, the Nanrong Family paled in comparison.

After reviewing the material, Ling Chen picked up his phone and called Hu Fei.

When Hu Fei arrived at the ward, Ling Chen looked at him and asked, "The document you gave me mentions that there are more than fifty people in the Ling Family, but I've looked through the identity information just now, and there are only forty-three. What about the other seven?"

"You're asking about that? I've checked it out, the other seven are all dead. Some died from cancer, others in car accidents, and it's been many years, hence no identity information available for them."

Ling Chen thought for a moment and then said, "Give me the data on those seven people."

"Wait a minute!"

With that, Hu Fei quickly left the ward, and soon returned, carrying a laptop.

In less than a minute, a complete file appeared on the computer screen.

"Here! These are the seven deceased people."

Looking at the identity information displayed on the screen, Ling Chen's eyes narrowed sharply, as he pointed to the data of two young men and said, "Fatty, take a look for yourself."

Hearing this, Hu Fei immediately leaned his round face close to the computer screen.

"Ling Guodong... Ling Jiawei... how can this be possible?"

"Still think it's a coincidence?"

"But, they've been dead for almost twenty years."

"In our line of work, as long as we want to, we can arrange an accident anytime to make everyone believe a person is dead. It seems the information that man gave me is correct. The southern Ling Family is likely the covert backer for the God Organization, their substantial funds brought the God

Organization back from the ashes. Ling Guodong, Ling Jiawei, the Ling Family arranged for them to die just so they could focus on managing the God Organization. Moreover, even if anyone traces it back to the Ling Family, they can shirk responsibility using the same pretext."

Chapter 664 Ling Family of the South (2)

Hu Fei pointed to the photo of Ling Jiawei on the computer screen and said, "Don't you think there's a big discrepancy between Lin Jiawei's appearance and this photo?" As soon as he spoke, without waiting for Ling Chen to chime in, Hu Fei immediately put on a sudden realization expression and said, "Alright, no need to explain, I know, he must have had plastic surgery."

"You still ask even though you know."

"Hey! Seriously though, what are you going to do if the Ling Family really is the mastermind behind the God Organization?"

Ling Chen retorted, "What am I supposed to do? What does that have to do with me?"

"How can it not be related? Aren't you also a member of the Ling Family? Even though you were expelled by the Ling Family as a child, your surname is still Ling. You can't change this blood relation. Can you really bear to lay a hand on them?"

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "I don't think as much as you do. Like you said, I was expelled by the Ling Family since I was young and I have no familial ties with them. Besides, if the Ling Family really is the mastermind behind the God Organization, just think about all the bad things they've done over the years, how many innocent people they've killed. Even if my relationship with them were close, I couldn't cover for them. Everything has its price, let alone the heinous acts they've committed."

"Alright!" Hu Fei nodded and said, "I'm just giving you a heads up. Since you've thought it through, let's pretend I didn't say anything. Tell me, what are your plans next?"

"I don't know." Ling Chen was somewhat troubled.

He did want to delve deeper into investigating the Ling Family, but the mysterious man from the Secret Society had warned him not to meddle with the Ling Family's affairs lightly. Otherwise, he might get burnt.

Thus, Ling Chen was unsure whether to continue probing further. Apart from the warning from the mysterious man, there was another very important reason - his own power. At present, his power had just started to take shape, with very few people he could mobilize. If he clashed with the Ling Family at such a time, the power he had painstakingly built might be destroyed.

Considering these two key factors, Ling Chen said, "For now, just keep an eye on the Ling Family and don't act rashly. Although we have some leads, they can't serve as evidence. It'd be best to gather more evidence. When the time comes, we can join forces with the people from Lonely Wolf to move in."

"Why not leak this information to Lonely Wolf first and let them investigate in secret while we watch from the sidelines. With the people from Lonely Wolf stirring things up, the Ling Family might expose more flaws."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and he replied with a smile, "That's a good idea. Okay, I'll give Old Tang a call later and fill him in on the situation."

After Hu Fei left the hospital room, Ling Chen picked up his phone and dialed Tang Yuan's number.

"Hello! Tang Yuan, what's up?" The call connected, and Tang Yuan's voice immediately came through to Ling Chen.

"Old Tang, you've been busy lately and haven't called me."

"You know how it is, the old General has retired, Lonely Wolf is being reformed, and I'm swamped every day. I don't have time to call you. Oh, right! I almost forgot to tell you, the orders from above are in; the new leader of Lonely Wolf has been selected."

"Who?" Ling Chen eagerly asked. Even though he had left the organization, he was still very concerned about the appointment of the new leader, as it had implications for his own interests. If the new leader was unfamiliar with him, it would be difficult for him to cooperate with Lonely Wolf in the future.

Tang Yuan said with a laugh, "Tang Yuan, I have good news for you. The new leader of Lonely Wolf is not only very familiar with you but also has a very good relationship with you."

"Very familiar... could it be..."

"It's Pang Jiulin, Instructor Pang. He has been appointed as the new leader of Lonely Wolf."

Just as expected!

Ling Chen felt a sense of relief, and a happy smile spread across his sharp features. Tang Yuan had mentioned before that because Han Bing had made a mistake, his promotion was canceled and someone experienced within Lonely Wolf would be chosen to succeed as the leader.

Pang Jiulin had been the instructor of Phantom and had been with Lonely Wolf the longest. His experience was naturally unquestionable, and he knew the organization's internal affairs best, indeed a suitable candidate.

"Old Tang, convey a message to Instructor Pang for me. Tell him I'm currently indisposed. Next time I'm free, I'll definitely visit Beijing to offer my congratulations in person."

"Okay, I'm waiting for you." After he finished, Tang Yuan suddenly changed the topic, "Hey! You didn't call me just to chit-chat, did you?"

"There's something I need to talk to you about..." Right then, Ling Chen filled Tang Yuan in on the situation with the Ling Family in the south.

"The Ling Family... I know them. Their family-operated enterprises are very famous nationwide, and they have good relationships with the government. It might be difficult to investigate them."

"You're from the Lonely Wolf, I believe this kind of trouble won't be too much for you."

"Alright! I got it. I'll report this to Instructor Pang and see what plans he has."

After some small talk, Ling Chen hung up the phone, tossed it aside, stretched lazily, and prepared to lie down for a short nap.

But at that moment, a burst of urgent ringtone suddenly rang out.

Seeing the incoming call number on the phone screen, Ling Chen immediately picked up the phone and answered.

"Hello! Big Brother."

"Ling Cheng."

Hearing Qiu Yong's deep voice from the other end of the phone, Ling Chen immediately had a bad feeling. Since the last time they parted, he had kept in touch with Qiu Yong and the others. Qiu Yong said they were dealing with some private affairs, but he didn't elaborate on what exactly they were, and Ling Chen didn't ask further.

In all the time he had known Qiu Yong, he had never heard him speak with such a tone.

"Big Brother, what's wrong? Has something happened?"

"There's been a bit of trouble. Are you free right now?"

"Yes." Although he hadn't fully recovered, Ling Chen wouldn't refuse once Qiu Yong made the request.

"We're all in Jinhai City, and we can't get away right now. You'd better hurry over. And by the way, don't you have a friend who's good at medicine? Bring them along. Your Tang Yuan is seriously injured and must be treated as soon as possible."

Yuan Yun got injured?

Ling Chen was shocked, and without asking for details, he quickly got out of bed, put on his clothes, and dashed out of the ward.

"Xiaozhu!"

In the medical laboratory, seeing Ling Chen rushing in, Zhu Xiaozhu reproachfully said, "Your body hasn't recovered yet. Why aren't you lying in bed? What are you doing here?"

"There's no time to explain." Ling Chen grabbed Zhu Xiaozhu's wrist and said while walking, "There's an emergency. I need your help."

Zhu Xiaozhu, who hadn't even had time to change out of her white lab coat, was pulled out by Ling Chen.

Leaving the research base, Ling Chen took Zhu Xiaozhu to a car and headed straight for the airport. To save time, Ling Chen also made a call to Nanrong Hao, asking him to arrange a plane.

Seeing the anxiety on Ling Chen's face, Zhu Xiaozhu asked in confusion, "What happened?"

Ling Chen shook his head and remained silent, focusing on the traffic ahead with a tight frown. He knew very well that if Qiu Yong was calling him for help, the situation must be extremely urgent.

Chapter 665 Crime Scene

On the plane, Ling Chen and Zhu Xiaozhu sat in luxury seats, looking out at the runway through the window, neither of them speaking.

Seeing the troubled expression on Ling Chen's face, Zhu Xiaozhu opened her mouth several times intending to speak but hesitated and ultimately chose to remain silent, not wanting to disturb Ling Chen's thoughts.

As the plane ascended, Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket and dialed Qiu Yong's number.

However, the phone rang a few times then was abruptly hung up. On redialing, the system indicated that the number could not be reached.

After trying several times without success, the worry in Ling Chen's eyes deepened.

Could something have happened?

While pondering, Ling Chen turned his gaze towards Zhu Xiaozhu. Since boarding the plane, Zhu Xiaozhu had been silent, fidgeting with her fingers, seemingly preoccupied with something. Considering her unusual behavior at work lately, Ling Chen asked with concern, "Xiaozhu, what's been going on with you lately? You seem a bit distracted."

"Me?" Zhu Xiaozhu looked up, her autumn-water-like beautiful eyes staring straight into Ling Chen's. Their eyes met, and Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help turning her head away to avoid his gaze, softly saying, "I'm fine, I might just be a bit tired recently."

"Don't wear yourself out. After we're done with things in Jinhai City, take a few days off to visit your parents in Beijing and rest."

"No need, I'm fine," Zhu Xiaozhu replied. "The experiment has reached a critical stage; leaving now would waste everyone's efforts so far."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, just take care of yourself, I don't want anything bad happening to you."

...

After about an hour of flying, the plane finally landed at Jinhai City Airport.

Coming out of the exit, Ling Chen and Zhu Xiaozhu took a taxi and headed towards their destination. In less than twenty minutes, the two arrived at a five-star hotel called Splendor.

Entering the hotel lobby, Ling Chen quickly approached the reception and asked, "Hello, could you tell me the room number for Qiu Yong?"

"4078."

"Okay, thank you!"

After expressing his thanks, Ling Chen, holding Zhu Xiaozhu's slender wrist, took the elevator directly to the hotel's fourth floor.

4078, this is it!

Ling Chen knocked on the door and waited over ten seconds, but there was not a stir inside, not even a response.

Strange!

Ling Chen frowned secretly. This was clearly Qiu Yong's room, why was there no one? Recalling the earlier unresponsive phone call, a sense of unease suddenly surged in Ling Chen's heart. Could something really have happened?

With this thought, Ling Chen didn't think much before forcefully kicking the door open.

Entering the hotel room, Ling Chen looked around the spacious living room, only to see a conspicuous pool of dried blood on the sofa, indicating it had been there for a while. Additionally, several teacups were placed on the coffee table, suggesting that Qiu Yong and others were in this room back then.

From the time Qiu Yong called to when Ling Chen arrived at the hotel, only two hours had passed. They must have encountered something in this interval which led to their disappearance without leaving any trace.

At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu walked to the sofa, closely examining the blood stain, and said, "Ling Chen, this blood stain must have been left about five hours ago."

"Xiaozhu, stay here while I check the security room."

As he spoke, Ling Chen quickly dashed out of the room towards the elevator. The five-star hotel had many surveillance cameras installed, including in the elevators, security corridors, and various entrances and exits of the hotel, which might help discover the whereabouts of Qiu Yong and others.

However, when Ling Chen reached the hotel lobby, he saw several police cars parked at the hotel entrance, with over a dozen uniformed police officers coming and going, along with several forensic and medical staff carrying stretchers out of the hotel.

Seeing the body bags on the stretchers, Ling Chen's heart sank. Four stretchers, four bodies, it looked like there were even more bodies yet to be taken out.

Could it be...

Thinking of that possibility, Ling Chen hurriedly rushed towards where the police were gathered.

"Sir, sir, this is a crime scene, outsiders are not allowed in, hey..."

Ignoring the police's obstruction, Ling Chen forcefully barged into the scene. Suddenly, he saw a room filled with security equipment splattered with blood, with a body lying on the floor and another on a chair, seemingly employees of the security room judging by their attire.

Seeing this, Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief. He initially thought the deceased were Qiu Yong and the others, which had startled him.

However, the presence of so many bodies still weighed heavily on Ling Chen's mood.

He had intended to review the surveillance footage to find where Qiu Yong and others might be, but now all the personnel responsible for the surveillance equipment had been killed, clearly no coincidence.

Whoever was responsible definitely did not want anyone to discover their identity. No need for further investigation to know, those surveillance devices must have already been stopped.

"Sir, please leave immediately!"

Hearing the police's warning, Ling Chen nodded and then turned to leave.

But at that moment, Ling Chen's gaze inadvertently fell on one of the bodies. Looking at that body, Ling Chen couldn't take his eyes off.

Seeing Ling Chen standing motionless at the crime scene for too long, a police officer finally lost his patience and pushed Ling Chen's shoulder, trying to 'escort' him out. However, Ling Chen was immovable like a rock, regardless of how hard the police pushed, he remained firmly standing there.

"You guys... go grab the body bags."

In the midst of the scene, a forensic in a white coat was examining the bodies, directing the police while leaning closely to observe the marks on the skin surfaces.

Huh?

Suddenly, the forensic seemed to notice something, pushed up the glasses on her nose and leaned even closer.

"What caused this wound?" the forensic muttered to herself, a tone of confusion in her voice.

"That's from a finger poking a blood hole."

At the sound, the forensic turned her head, looking at Ling Chen in surprise, and said, "A finger? How is that possible!"

As the forensic turned her head, Ling Chen's expression briefly stiffened, surprised to see that the forensic was a young woman, around twenty-five years old, with a ponytail, a fair complexion, wearing black glasses, giving off the impression of an intellectual beauty.

Ling Chen broke free from the surrounding police, walked up beside the body, and asked, "May I examine the wound?"

"Who are you?"

Chapter 666 Searching for Clues

"Miss Zhong, he is..."

Before the nearby police officer finished speaking, Ling Chen interrupted, "It doesn't matter who I am, what matters is that I can help you."

Hearing this, Miss Zhong looked at Ling Chen with skepticism and nodded slightly, "Alright then. Since you're so confident, tell me why you think this wound was caused by a finger."

Ling Chen squatted down, looked at the bloody hole above the corpse's forehead, then picked up a glove and gently pressed it on the corpse's arm.

Indeed!

After confirming his idea, Ling Chen's face immediately fell, and a gleam shone in his eyes.

"Hey! I'm talking to you, did you hear me?"

Miss Zhong's displeased voice rang out. Ling Chen snapped back to reality, stood up, and said, "Sorry, I might have been mistaken. You go ahead with your work; I won't disturb you anymore." Then, without waiting for Miss Zhong to speak again, Ling Chen turned and left the crime scene.

Watching Ling Chen's retreating figure, Miss Zhong frowned and continued to focus on the body.

Standing in the elevator heading to the fourth floor of the hotel, Ling Chen's mind was filled with the name 'Lin Tong.'

From the wound on the body, it could be deduced that the person was killed by someone poking through the skull with a finger. While any martial artist could do it, Ling Chen also noticed another piece of evidence – the body's rigidity progressed unusually quickly. Based on his observations and discussions with the police at the scene, these people had died no more than two hours earlier, yet the body was already stiff.

Having previously sparred with Lin Tong, Ling Chen was familiar with Lin Tong's capabilities. It wasn't just his ten fingers that were formidable, but also the poison contained within them. During his days of recuperation, Ling Chen had specifically asked Zhu Xiaozhu about the poison, so he understood quite well. The victim must have stiffened so quickly due to the poison.

Ling Chen silently frowned.

Unexpectedly, Qiu Yong and his group got involved with Lin Tong.

Lin Tong had left East Sea City just a few days ago, probably arriving in Jin Hai City at that time. However, what Ling Chen was most curious about was what exactly Qiu Yong and his group had done to get involved with the God Organization.

As he pondered, Ling Chen headed straight back to the hotel room where Qiu Yong was staying.

Inside the room, Zhu Xiaozhu stood in front of the floor-to-ceiling window, her ample chest heaving, her pretty face pale, as if she had been frightened.

Noticing her unusual behavior, Ling Chen quickly walked over and asked with concern, "What's wrong?"

Zhu Xiaozhu didn't speak but just pointed towards the bathroom.

The bathroom?

Ling Chen walked to the bathroom door and gently pushed it open. Instantly, a strong smell of blood wafted out. Holding his breath, Ling Chen frowned as he looked at the bathtub inside, his expression solemn.

Inside the snowy white bathtub was filled with fresh red blood, and a corpse was soaking in it. The corpse was facing up, and the wound on its neck was clearly visible.

Thank goodness!

After recognizing the face of the corpse, Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief. The deceased was a stranger, not one of the members from the notorious Eight Eccentrics. Looking at the dagger that had fallen on the floor, it seemed likely that this person had attempted to attack someone in the bathroom but was killed instead.

From the traces of the wound, it might be Xia Yue, known for her swift throat-slitting technique with a sword.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen lifted the corpse out of the bathtub and searched its pockets, hoping to find some valuable clues.

Right now, the whereabouts of Qiu Yong and his group were unknown; perhaps this deceased could provide some clues.

Soon, Ling Chen found a wet receipt in the breast pocket of the deceased's suit. Although it had been soaked in water for a long time, the handwriting was still barely legible.

Fruit Paradise Supermarket?

Looking at the large characters at the top, Ling Chen immediately understood the purpose of the receipt.

Leaving the bathroom, Ling Chen closed the room door, concealing the smell of blood, then pulled out his cell phone and dialed Hu Fei's number.

"Hey! Fatty, check for me how many Fruit Paradise Supermarkets there are in Jin Hai City, and tell me their locations."

In less than five minutes, Hu Fei had news.

"I checked, the supermarket you mentioned is the only one in the whole of Jin Hai City, and it just opened not long ago."

"Send me the address."

After hanging up, Ling Chen immediately left the hotel with Zhu Xiaozhu.

"Ling Chen, where are we going?"

Ling Chen stood by the roadside, looked around the area, and pointed to a nearby hotel, "You go there and book a room, take a rest."

"What about you?"

"I'm going to look for my friends. You saw what happened just now; they might be in trouble, and I must find them."

Since this matter was now related to the God Organization, it was unsafe for Zhu Xiaozhu to be involved, to avoid any danger.

"Be careful," Zhu Xiaozhu cautioned.

"You know what I'm capable of," Ling Chen smiled broadly, giving Zhu Xiaozhu a reassuring look.

After watching Zhu Xiaozhu enter a hotel, Ling Chen hailed a taxi on the roadside and hurried to his destination.

Before long, Ling Chen arrived outside the Fruit Paradise Supermarket. After getting off the taxi, he observed the surrounding environment, his face turning slightly grim.

The supermarket was located in the downtown area, surrounded by high-rise buildings. He only knew a rough location but had no clue where those people specifically were. Finding their whereabouts from so many office buildings seemed harder than reaching the sky.

Pulling out the water-soaked receipt from his pocket, Ling Chen held it up to the sunlight, trying to read the blurred writing.

After examining it for a few moments and with some good luck, Ling Chen finally found a clue on the receipt.

Below the receipt were some numbers, probably indicating the time of purchase. According to the time displayed, that person was at the supermarket buying something at nine o'clock in the morning.

Knowing the time, Ling Chen looked up at the supermarket's entrance and exit, each was equipped with a surveillance camera.

Then, turning his gaze to the roadside, Ling Chen's lips curved up. The downtown area was convenient for everything; every street was installed with surveillance cameras.

Right away, Ling Chen went to a nearby library, found a computer, and then called Hu Fei.

Hacking into the surveillance system was a piece of cake for Hu Fei; soon, with Hu Fei's remote assistance, Ling Chen's computer screen displayed an image. To be precise, it was that morning's surveillance footage, which Hu Fei had retrieved from the system.

Ling Chen adjusted the surveillance footage to around nine o'clock in the morning, carefully observing the people entering and exiting the supermarket.

At 9:03 AM, a man in a suit was finally spotted by Ling Chen.

That's him!

Ling Chen's eyes brightened, finally having found you.

Chapter 667 Wansheng Company

"Hey, Fatty, it's this guy. I leave the rest to you, help me find out where he's been."

"OK, no problem!"

After hanging up the phone, about ten minutes later, Ling Chen's cellphone rang.

"Found it, Building No. 113 on Fumin Road. I've only collected this much information, you'll have to figure out the rest on your own."

"Got it, thanks for the hard work."

Having pinpointed the places the man had visited, Ling Chen immediately headed to Fumin Road. Fumin Road wasn't far from that fruit supermarket; it figured that person wouldn't go too far to shop.

Building No. 113 on Fumin Road.

Ling Chen stood in front of the luxurious office building, looking up at the rooftop, a trace of bitterness showing on his face.

Damn!

This office building had at least eighty floors. He only knew that the man had entered this building, but he had no clue specific which floor. If he had to search from bottom to top, who knew how much time it would take?

After thinking it over, Ling Chen decided to give Hu Fei a call. Since Hu Fei could access the external surveillance footage, presumably, the building's surveillance wouldn't be a problem. However, after Ling Chen shared his thoughts, he received a helpless response from Hu Fei.

"If it were anywhere else I wouldn't have an issue, but with that building, I really can't do anything."

Hearing the helplessness in Hu Fei's tone, Ling Chen asked in confusion: "What happened?"

"The building's security system is very advanced, with several firewalls. I had tried before you mentioned it, and I've not even breached the first firewall before being detected. If I'm not wrong, those responsible for the security of that building are hackers not inferior to me."

A thought flashed through Ling Chen's mind, such stringent defenses on this building, could it be an important asset of the God Organization?

With that thought, Ling Chen said, "Alright, let's not talk about this now; I'm going in to have a look."

Putting away his phone, Ling Chen bought a pair of sunglasses and a baseball cap on the roadside, covering his face. Once everything was ready, he walked towards the building.

No choice, the God Organization knew all about him; if he didn't disguise himself, he might be discovered the moment he walked in.

Entering the office building, the employees working there hurried about, each busy with their own tasks. In a corner of the lobby, there was a sign with the floor numbers indicated for each company.

Ling Chen walked up to the sign and looked from top to bottom. Suddenly, his eyes were drawn to the name of one of the companies.

Wansheng Financial Co., Ltd.

Found it!

Looking at that name, Ling Chen thought silently, yet his face showed no joy; instead, his eyes grew more solemn.

Not long ago, Ling Chen had asked Hu Fei to investigate the Ling Family's information in the south. In that information, the name Wansheng Company was prominently listed. According to the records, Wansheng Company was a subsidiary of the Ling Family, spread across the country.

If that person was an employee of Wansheng Company, that was enough to prove the close relationship between the Ling Family and the God Organization.

Seventy-third floor!

Looking at the floor where Wansheng Company was located, Ling Chen went straight to the elevator. Entering it, and seeing the row of floor buttons, Ling Chen was just about to press seventy-three. However, after pressing, he realized the seventy-third floor and higher required a card to operate.

It seems this company's security is very well-managed.

No choice, Ling Chen had to take the elevator to the seventy-second floor of the building.

The elevator was not an option, but the emergency stairwell was.

Following the stairwell, Ling Chen quickly reached the entrance corridor on the seventy-third floor.

However, what frustrated Ling Chen was that the door to the stairwell was locked. Not only that, but the door on the seventy-third floor was unlike the others; it was made of a thick, heavy steel plate. Unless he had a key to unlock it, any attempt to force it would only alert the adversaries.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen decided to continue upward, not believing he wouldn't find a breakthrough.

Yet, before he reached the seventy-fourth floor, Ling Chen cursed and retreated.

Damn it!

He inwardly cursed. There was a surveillance camera installed on the stairs above; without Hu Fei's help, he couldn't possibly get past it.

With both routes blocked, Ling Chen was stuck, unable to go further up or down, finding no way to enter.

Such a headache!

Ling Chen squatted in the stairwell, pondering his next move. Knowing the company's security, sneaking in would not be easy.

Storming in... as soon as this thought emerged, Ling Chen immediately dismissed it. It wasn't that he was scared, but he had reservations. If Lin Tong was also there, it would be tough to gain the upper hand, especially since all the strong liquor Du Kang had given him had already been used up.

Just as Ling Chen was engrossed in strategizing, a harsh alarm suddenly sounded from the other side of the security door.

What's going on?

Stunned, Ling Chen quickly stood up from the stairwell. As he was rising, before he could even react, he saw the security door in front of him being pushed open from the inside. Several men in suits rushed out quickly, followed by over twenty employees.

Seeing these people suddenly appearing, Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and took a moment to grasp the situation. The men in suits were also stunned.

However, after a brief pause, the men in suits quickly recovered, pulled out batons from their waists, and swung them at Ling Chen.

"Scram!"

With a shout, Ling Chen swept a kick, knocking down two of the men in suits instantly. Then, with a flick of his foot, like a tiger entering a flock of sheep, he quickly subdued the rest of the men in suits.

After taking care of the security, Ling Chen glanced at the employees who looked terrified and waved his hand, "Get lost quickly, don't get in the way here."

Hearing this, the employees ran towards the stairwell as if they had been granted amnesty.

Seizing the opportunity, Ling Chen passed through the security door and quickly entered Wansheng Company.

As he entered, Ling Chen looked up and noticed several internal elevators within the company. The outer layer of the elevators was transparent, clearly revealing the inside of the elevators.

At that moment, in one of the elevators going up slowly, stood a person. Although the distance was quite far, Ling Chen still recognized her identity.

Porridge girl!

It was her.

Ling Chen was greatly surprised. Since porridge girl had left a few days ago, he had lost all contact with her and didn't know where she had gone. Unexpectedly, she had come to this city and even found this place.

What was she doing here?

With curiosity, Ling Chen waved at porridge girl inside the elevator and shouted her name loudly hoping to catch her attention.

However, as her elevator rose higher and with the soundproof glass in the way, she couldn't hear Ling Chen's voice.

Seeing porridge girl reach the top floor in the elevator, without a second thought, Ling Chen rushed towards another elevator.

Chapter 668 The Disappearance of Ling Kun

Ling Chen had just stepped into the elevator when he heard a 'bang' from above, sounding like glass being shattered.

Then, accompanied by a miserable scream, a man fell from high up and hit the ground hard, his brain matter bursting out, a sight too horrific to behold.

It must have been the work of Porridge Girl!

Worried about Porridge Girl's safety, Ling Chen quickly pressed the button for the top floor and hurried up in the elevator.

Ding!

The crisp ringtone sounded as the elevator doors slowly opened. Not waiting for the doors to fully open, an impatient Ling Chen squeezed through the gap, searching for Porridge Girl.

Along the way, he saw several security personnel in suits lying on the ground. Not only that, through the suits worn by these security personnel, Ling Chen noticed they all wore exoskeleton armor. Unfortunately for them, they encountered Porridge Girl. No matter how strong the exoskeleton armor was, it was useless against a master from the Earthly List.

Following the trail of the fallen security personnel, it didn't take Ling Chen long to locate Porridge Girl.

At this moment, Porridge Girl had made her way to the office at the end of the corridor. Faintly, miserable screams could be heard coming from inside.

Ling Chen quickly approached the door, and before he even entered, he heard Porridge Girl's indifferent voice from inside: "Speak up, where is the person being held?"

Huh?

Ling Chen was taken aback, could it be that Porridge Girl was also looking for Qiu Yong and the others?

As he pondered, an unfamiliar voice followed: "I... I really don't know what you're talking about, miss, there must be some misunderstanding, we are a legitimate company, we've never done anything bad."

"Hmph! Do you think I would believe your lies? If you are a legitimate company, then why are your security personnel equipped with exoskeleton armor? Let me tell you, stop beating around the bush, if you dare to lie again, I'll immediately cripple this arm of yours."

"This... I... Miss, who exactly are you looking for?"

"Ling Kun!"

Upon hearing this name, Ling Chen outside the door was stunned.

Ling Kun, wasn't that his own father's name? So Porridge Girl came for him. But how did Porridge Girl know his father? And although he had known Porridge Girl for a long time, she had never mentioned this matter to him.

"Miss, I really don't know any Ling Kun, even if you kill me it's useless, I'm just the person in charge of Tianhai City, I don't know about anything else." The man pleaded bitterly.

Porridge Girl coldly said: "Still trying to deceive me? I have already checked; more than ten days ago, Ling Kun was brought to Tianhai City by you guys, since you are the person in charge, how can you not be aware of this matter? It seems like you don't want this arm anymore."

"No, no, I... I remember now. More than ten days ago, I received an order from above, saying that an important prisoner would be passing through Tianhai City and to provide full cooperation. When they arrived, I was just responsible for ensuring their safe accommodation and supplies, other than that, I know nothing, they didn't even reveal the prisoner's identity to me. However, the team escorting the prisoner consisted of top figures from the organization, I think that prisoner is indeed the person you're looking for."

"Where are they now?"

"They left a long time ago, they only stayed in Tianhai City for three days."

"Do you know where they went?"

"How would I know that? However, they drove a container truck, heading south from Tianhai City. Miss, that's all I know, please spare me."

Porridge Girl coldly spoke: "People from the God Organization deserve to die, and so do you."

"Stop!"

In the office, Porridge Girl was holding a stranger by the neck with one hand, and raising her other hand in a chopping motion, ready to strike the man's vital spot.

However, at this critical moment, Ling Chen, who had been eavesdropping outside, finally made his appearance and stopped Porridge Girl's action.

Seeing the suddenly appearing Ling Chen, Porridge Girl's expression stiffened, she asked in surprise, "You... how are you here?"

Ling Chen walked straight up to her, pointing to the stranger, he said: "Let him go first, I have something to ask him."

Seeing Ling Chen intervene, Porridge Girl reluctantly complied, releasing the man's neck and shoving him to the ground.

"I ask you, where is Lin Tongren?"

"You mean Mr. Lin? I know this, he's in the underground parking lot." Pausing, the man continued: "This building's underground parking has three floors officially, but there's actually a fourth floor, that's our base."

"Did you previously capture several people?"

The man honestly replied, "Yes!"

"Good." Ling Chen nodded, saying: "Considering your cooperation, I'll spare your life."

Hearing this, Porridge Girl hurriedly said, "Lin..."

However, before she could finish speaking, she saw Ling Chen's fist moving swiftly, striking the man's head. Accompanied by a muffled groan, the man's eyes turned bloodshot instantly, and he fell to the ground unconscious.

Looking at the man passed out, Ling Chen retracted his fist and said indifferently, "Sparing your life doesn't mean letting you go, spend the rest of your half-life lying in a bed, and don't do so much evil in your next life."

With that said, Ling Chen turned his head, looking at Porridge Girl who was about to speak, and firmly said: "I think we need to have a serious talk."

"Ling Chen, when... When did you get here?"

Ling Chen said meaningfully: "When you mentioned the name 'Ling Kun', since you know Ling Kun, you should know my relationship with him. I don't have time to question you now, but after I sort this out, I hope you can give me a reasonable explanation."

After finishing his words, without waiting for Porridge Girl to speak again, Ling Chen had already left the office.

He retraced his steps back to the first floor of the building, and Ling Chen, along with Porridge Girl, took the elevator to the third floor of the underground parking lot.

Looking at the parking lot filled with cars, Ling Chen followed the signs, filtering them one by one. In about five minutes, Ling Chen and Porridge Girl stood in front of a dusty Mercedes-Benz.

Looking at the license plate of the Mercedes-Benz, Ling Chen said, "This is the car the man just mentioned."

Approaching the car door, Ling Chen swung a punch, directly shattering the car window, then unlocked the car door and bent down to crawl into the driver's seat.

It didn't take much time for Ling Chen to find a button on the Mercedes-Benz's center console, which he lightly pressed with his fingertip.

Instantly, a small keypad popped out from the top of the center console.

After entering the password provided by the man, the Mercedes-Benz's four wheels immediately started moving, slowly backing away.

As the Mercedes-Benz moved away from the parking spot, a steel plate with a pull handle appeared on the ground.

"I'll go in first."

Porridge Girl took the initiative to speak.

Ling Chen did not refuse her suggestion. Porridge Girl was stronger than him, and if there was danger below, she would be more capable of handling it.

Chapter 669 Another Battle with Lin Tong

Ling Chen single-handedly lifted the ring, opening the secret door on the ground. As soon as a one-meter-wide entrance was revealed, the porridge girl jumped in without a second thought. Roughly five seconds later, the voice of the porridge girl came up from below.

Confirming it was safe, Ling Chen immediately followed by leaping into the entrance. Below the entrance was a spacious corridor, at the end of which there was a door topped with a hidden miniature surveillance camera. After a glance at the monitor, Ling Chen and the porridge girl walked to the door with no regard for the surveillance, not even considering it an issue.

It's not that they weren't concerned about exposing their tracks; rather, their movements had long been exposed, so there was no need to hide.

Hu Fei had warned Ling Chen earlier that the building's security system was operated by top-notch hackers, so their actions on the top floor must have been known to the other party.

Upon reaching the door, without Ling Chen doing anything, the door surprisingly opened automatically.

Ling Chen pushed the door open and entered expressionlessly. Presumably, Lin Tong knew he couldn't stop them, so he let them through.

As he passed through the door, Ling Chen immediately saw more than a dozen security personnel, and in the middle of the crowd stood Lin Tong.

As Ling Chen and the porridge girl approached, Lin Tong said with a sardonic smile, "Ling Chen, you really surprise me. I didn't expect you to find this place."

"Cut the crap, where are they?"

"Who?" As soon as Lin Tong finished speaking, he patted his forehead, pretending to have just realized, and said with a smile, "You mean them?"

During the conversation, a light suddenly shone behind Lin Tong. Then, several figures hanging in mid-air appeared in Ling Chen's view.

Looking up, a chilling coldness burst in Ling Chen's pupils.

Those hanging in mid-air were none other than Qiu Yong and his group. Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, Zhang Zhongfeng, Xia Yue, Yang Chen, Wei Jiahao -- the six people were riddled with injuries, hands bound by ropes, suspended mid-air, each of them pale-faced and weak.

At a glance, Ling Chen's heart sank, and he shouted coldly, "What about one more person, what have you done to him?"

He was most concerned about whether the third brother Yuan Yun was safe; the rest was not seen among the group.

"You mean that guy named Yuan Yun?" Lin Tong said carelessly, "He's a burden, so I took care of him."

Upon hearing this, a towering rage burst from the bottom of Ling Chen's heart, his eyes seemed consumed by raging flames, tinted with a hint of blood-red.

"You... killed him?" Ling Chen bit down on his teeth, word by word.

"Killed him, so what?" Lin Tong lifted his head, his expression proudly, "The God Organization kills as it wishes. Ling Chen, if you're upset, feel free to seek revenge on me. Though, I doubt you have the capability."

Ling Chen's eyebrows rose, and he clenched his steel fists, shouting angrily, "I'll kill you!"

As the words left his mouth, Ling Chen's toes lightly touched the ground, instantly transforming into a blur, charging toward Lin Tong across from him. Seeing Ling Chen make his move, the porridge girl, fearing he might slip up, hurriedly followed, ready to back him up. After all, Lin Tong was a master from the Earthly List, far beyond Ling Chen's capability, and she had to be prepared.

Ah!

However, just as the two were about to confront Lin Tong up close, a scream suddenly came from behind Lin Tong.

Ling Chen looked up and his face changed instantly, stopping in his tracks. At that moment, Yang Chen, who had been hanging in the air, suddenly plummeted down, crashing heavily to the ground, spewing blood from his mouth. Then the rope tied to his hands slowly retracted, hoisting Yang Chen's body up again.

Lin Tong looked at Ling Chen smugly, "Ling Chen, you best not act recklessly; otherwise, they'll only suffer more unnecessary pain."

Ling Chen's face was cold as he gritted his teeth and asked, "What exactly do you want?"

Lin Tong turned around and pointed at Qiu Yong, who was suspended in mid-air, and said, "Actually, what I want is very simple. As long as he tells me the things I want to know, I can let you all go immediately."

"Don't even think about it!" Qiu Yong said coldly: "Ling Cheng, don't worry about us, take your friends and leave first. Even in death, we won't say another word."

Hearing this, Ling Chen felt uneasy. What exactly did Qiu Yong and the others know to attract such attention from the God Organization?

While pondering, porridge girl gently tugged at the corner of Ling Chen's clothes.

Ling Chen turned his head and looked at porridge girl with a questioning look in his eyes, not understanding what she was trying to convey.

Seeing Ling Chen's gaze, porridge girl motioned with her mouth towards the security personnel on both sides, then subtly pointed towards the wall on the left.

Ling Chen looked intently and immediately grasped porridge girl's meaning. There was a distribution box mounted on the left wall, and if they could damage it, everyone would be plunged into darkness. This would be the best opportunity to make a move. However, they would have only a very brief window of time.

Ling Chen had noticed that emergency lights were installed all around, which would turn on as soon as the power went out. He estimated that he and porridge girl would have at most five seconds.

"Go!"

With a light exhalation, Ling Chen did not hesitate to pounce towards the security personnel on both sides. At the same time, porridge girl grabbed the nearest object and hurled it directly at the distribution box.

Bang!

As the distribution box was smashed, a burst of electric light immediately emitted from inside the box.

In an instant, the surroundings plummeted into darkness.

Before Lin Tong could react, a series of screams rose and fell around them.

One second... Two seconds... Three seconds...

In the pitch-black environment, it wasn't until the fourth second that the emergency lights finally turned on, providing a glimmer of light to everyone.

Only then did Lin Tong realize that the dozen or so security personnel by his side had already fallen to the ground, unconscious, while Ling Chen and porridge girl had disappeared without a trace.

"Big brother, be careful!"

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Lin Tong quickly turned to look behind him, and suddenly saw Ling Chen and porridge girl rescuing Qiu Yong and the others.

With a swoosh, a sharp dagger cut through the ropes, and the suspended Qiu Yong immediately fell down. Ling Chen reached out with both hands, steadily catching Qiu Yong's body, and then placed him on the ground.

In the blink of an eye, Xia Yue and Xu Ming were successively rescued, leaving only Zhang Zhongfeng, Yang Chen, and Wei Jiahao still hanging by the ropes.

"Don't even dream of saving people from my grasp!"

Lin Tong's brows furrowed slightly, and with a light shout, he rushed towards Ling Chen trying to intervene. However, porridge girl had been watching his movements. Seeing him charging forward, porridge girl immediately stepped up, blocking Lin Tong's path.

"Ling Chen, you go save them, I'll deal with him."

Chapter 670 Mysterious Opponent (1)

Seeing porridge girl blocking the way, Lin Tong's expression slightly changed. He was very aware of porridge girl's strength. Although both of them were ranked high on the Earthly List, porridge girl was much more formidable than him. In a one-on-one situation, he had no confidence in defeating porridge girl.

Seeing Lin Tong steadily retreating, porridge girl opened her mouth and said, "What, don't dare to make a move?"

Lin Tong snorted lightly, "I admit I am not your opponent, but don't get too arrogant. Just because I can't defeat you doesn't mean nobody else can." As soon as his words fell, a metallic friction sound suddenly came from around, as if an iron cage had been opened.

Just when porridge girl was observing her surroundings, a sudden gust of wind approached from behind. As an Earthly List expert, porridge girl's reaction was very quick. Sensing the gust, she immediately turned around and struck a palm backwards.

But her palm hit nothing, nothing was struck. Focusing her gaze, porridge girl discovered there was no one behind her.

Such speedy maneuvers!

After experiencing the opponent's maneuvers, a trace of seriousness flashed through porridge girl's beautiful eyes. She was certain that someone had appeared behind her just now, but in less than a second, that person had vanished from in front of her.

Could this strength be...maybe from one of the top five masters of the Earthly List?

Thinking of this, porridge girl couldn't help but feel a bit worried. She knew her own abilities well. Though she was slightly stronger than Lin Tong, her strength was at most ranked sixth on the Earthly List, not high enough to enter the top five. Just like the Dragon List, the fifth spot on the Earthly List was a watershed. Once crossed, it was a different realm.

At this moment, porridge girl only heard the whistling of wind beside her ears, but her eyes could not lock onto the target at all.

There was no way; the opponent was simply too fast, eyes alone could not keep up with them.

"Rescue accomplished, let's go!"

Hearing Ling Chen's voice from beside her, porridge girl nodded and was ready to rush out, paving the way for Ling Chen.

However, just at that moment, a fierce gust of wind struck head-on, instantly closing in on porridge girl.

Sensing the sudden crisis, porridge girl's pupils shrank and she stepped back, raising both palms with Inner Strength infused, pushing swiftly forward.

"Be careful, that person has a knife."

Suddenly, Yang Chen next to Ling Chen shouted.

Hearing Yang Chen's warning, porridge girl's face changed slightly and she immediately withdrew her palms. Using this opportunity, her gaze swept around, and a cold and harsh glint abruptly met her eyes.

Indeed!

porridge girl breathed a sigh of relief, grateful for Yang Chen's timely reminder, otherwise, her palm strike would surely have hit that curved blade. Even with her strong abilities, her flesh and blood body couldn't clash with a knife, especially since she did not practice Cross Training in Hard Qi Gong.

Missing with the knife swing, the person did not hesitate at all, quickly withdrawing and continued to move around the group, seeking an opportunity to attack.

"You all go first; I'll cover the back."

As porridge girl's voice rang out, Ling Chen turned his head towards Qiu Yong, preparing to lead everyone away, but Qiu Yong shook his head and said, "Third brother has not been found yet, we must rescue him."

Third brother?

Ling Chen was shocked; he thought that Yuan Yun had been killed by Lin Tong.

"Big brother, where is third brother?"

"He should still be here. He was severely injured earlier. After Lin Tong brought us here, he passed out, and I don't know where Lin Tong has placed him."

"Alright, you all wait here; I'll go look for him."

"Be careful."

Ling Chen nodded and turned around to walk towards the back. Not far behind him was a door leading to the rear of the stronghold where Yuan Yun was likely abandoned. Passing through the door, Ling Chen surveyed the surroundings, searching for Yuan Yun's whereabouts while staying alert for danger.

To save time, Ling Chen walked swiftly, and soon, he reached the deepest part of the stronghold.

Huh?

At that moment, Ling Chen's sharp eyes were drawn to some traces of blood on the ground.

Following the trail of blood, Ling Chen quickly found a tightly closed door. He kicked the door open and a strong smell of blood immediately hit his nostrils. Ling Chen glanced at the dark environment inside the room and reached out to flip the light switch on the wall.

As the room lit up, piles of debris immediately came into view around him.

In those piles, there lay a person covered in blood, motionless. Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, and he hurried over to lift the person up from the ground.

Indeed, it was Yuan Yun!

"Brother... Brother!" Ling Chen called out loudly to Yuan Yun, but Yuan Yun didn't respond at all, as if he were dead.

Seeing this, Ling Chen quickly checked Yuan Yun's breathing. Thankfully, he was still breathing, albeit very weakly, barely hanging on. Without immediate medical treatment, Yuan Yun's life was at risk.

Without a second to lose, Ling Chen quickly picked up Yuan Yun and hurried out of the room. However, just a few steps out, Ling Chen caught a glimpse of a few items discarded in the corner of the debris room from the corner of his eye.

A minute passed.

"Big brother, I've found Brother Three."

Seeing Ling Chen holding Yuan Yun and rushing towards them from behind, Qiu Yong and the others breathed a sigh of relief.

"Big brother, these were in there," said Ling Chen as he handed over several weapons. These were the personal weapons of Zhang Zhongfeng, Xia Yue, Yuan Yun, and others, clearly confiscated when they were captured and thrown into the debris room. Fortunately, he had spotted them just in time.

Taking the weapons from Ling Chen, Qiu Yong turned to porridge girl and said solemnly, "Ling Cheng, things don't look good; your friend seems to be no match for that person."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately turned his gaze towards porridge girl.

At that moment, porridge girl had a clear wound on her left arm from which blood was profusely flowing, staining her sleeve red.

That someone could injure porridge girl suggested that this person was extraordinarily skilled.

"Huh... Where's Lin Tong?" Ling Chen suddenly noticed that Lin Tong was nowhere to be seen.

"I haven't seen him; he probably ran away," replied Qiu Yong.

Better that he's gone!

Ling Chen thought to himself that if there were one more Lin Tong, things could get even more complicated.

"Big brother, you all take care of Brother Three for now; I'm going to help porridge girl."

Qiu Yong tossed the steel knife that Yuan Yun used and said, "Take this; you might need it."

With the steel knife in hand, Ling Chen felt more confident. He quickened his pace to reach porridge girl and asked with concern, "Are you alright?"

"Just a minor injury, it's nothing," she paused before adding, "Be careful, that person's speed is incredibly fast, I've never seen anyone able to move at that level before."

"Could it be a Heavenly List master?"

"No. If it were a Heavenly List master, they wouldn't need to resort to such tactics; they would have killed us straight away."