

The Beauty 671

Chapter 671 Mysterious Opponent (2)

"Ling Cheng, to the left."

Upon hearing Yang Chen's reminder, Ling Chen didn't think, he just slashed to the left. In an instant, a gust of wind swept by, as though nothing had ever been there, leaving not a single trace.

So fast!

Having experienced the opponent's speed firsthand, Ling Chen suddenly felt a ridiculous sensation; he thought his opponent didn't seem human. Otherwise, it wouldn't be possible for a human to have such speed, unless the opponent had surpassed human limits, but that was almost impossible.

Moreover, under the surrounding emergency lights, both he and porridge girl couldn't even see what the opponent looked like, which was incredibly unbelievable.

In thought, Zhang Zhongfeng observed the surroundings and then pulled an arrow from his quiver, placing it on the bowstring.

Whizz!

The arrow flew through the air, instantly destroying an emergency light.

Seeing Zhang Zhongfeng's action, Ling Chen immediately understood his intention. The person's speed was too fast; under the illumination of the surrounding lights, they were nothing but living targets for the opponent to aim at. Thus, plunging everyone into darkness was the only way to have a chance to deal with the foe.

Following Zhang Zhongfeng shooting out all the surrounding emergency lights, darkness enveloped the area, and the sound of the person moving could be heard.

In the pitch-black environment, Ling Chen held his steel knife, closed his eyes, and listened carefully to the sounds around him. Having Yang Chen on their side undoubtedly gave them an advantage.

"Ling Cheng, be careful, that person has circled behind us."

Hearing Yang Chen's voice, Ling Chen and porridge girl quickly moved closer to Qiu Yong and the others.

This person was quite cunning, knowing that porridge girl was highly skilled and with Ling Chen helping, hence he avoided attacking directly and instead started targeting Yang Chen and the others. Although Qiu Yong and his team were strong, they were all injured and not as formidable as before, easily exposing flaws. Once targeted by that person, it could spell trouble.

"Left."

Upon Yang Chen's warning, the sound of slicing air immediately followed. Zhang Zhongfeng reacted swiftly, drawing and shooting his bow the moment he heard the warning.

This kind of blind shooting, only a master could achieve with ease, was a piece of cake for Zhang Zhongfeng.

Clang!

As the arrow was shot, a clear ringing sound immediately entered everyone's ears. Followed by a 'bang', it seemed like something had hit the wall. Locking onto the direction from which the sound emanated, Ling Chen and porridge girl didn't hesitate and quickly pursued.

However, by the time they arrived, they didn't find anyone. The person's reaction was very quick; they had already fled.

"Ling Chen, look."

Porridge girl pointed at the wall, indicating.

Ling Chen glanced over and noticed a fresh trace of blood on the wall surface. The bloodstain was fresh, likely left just moments ago – it seemed Zhang Zhongfeng's arrow had hit the person, but it was unknown which part was hit or how severe the injury was.

Clang!

As they retreated, Ling Chen's foot seemed to have hit a metal object, emitting a crisp sound. Bending down, Ling Chen picked up the item by his feet, discovering it to be a curved knife.

"This must be the weapon the person was using just now."

Hearing porridge girl's words, Ling Chen nodded. The curved knife had a clear mark on its surface, presumably caused by the arrow hit.

Now that the person had lost their weapon and was injured, the situation was increasingly favorable for them.

Back with the group, Ling Chen scanned the surroundings and said, "Let's go, that person won't dare to strike again."

With that, the group cautiously moved towards the exit.

As expected, the injured person did not appear again, and it was unknown where they had escaped to.

Passing through the door they had entered earlier, Ling Chen finally led Qiu Yong and the others away from God Organization's stronghold.

Back the same way, it was not long before everyone returned to the underground parking lot.

"Ling Chen, what about this secret base?"

"Forget about it." Ling Chen said, "I will call my friends later, and let them handle this place." After saying that, Ling Chen looked at the dying Yuan Yun and said in a deep voice, "Right now, the most important thing is Sange's life. Let's go, I called a friend who is good at medicine, and he is waiting for us in Jinhaishi."

"Okay."

In order to save time, Ling Chen directly stole a van in the parking lot and then took everyone to the hotel where Zhu Xiaozhu was staying.

When they reached the hotel, Ling Chen saw two policemen escorting Zhu Xiaozhu out of the hotel and into a police car, which then drove onto the road.

Seeing this scene, Ling Chen was stunned.

What's going on?

Zhu Xiaozhu was actually taken away by the police.

"Ling Chen, wasn't that your friend just now?" porridge girl asked.

Ling Chen nodded, then started the car and chased after the police car.

Seeing Ling Chen driving up in front of the police car, blocking its path, porridge girl couldn't help asking, "What are you trying to do?"

"Sange's injuries cannot be delayed; we must get him treated immediately."

"You want to snatch people?"

"What else do you think we can do? Do you have any other ideas?"

Porridge girl responded helplessly, "Don't you have friends in the government? Just have them make a call. Why be so reckless? Don't create more trouble later."

Ling Chen thought about it and felt that porridge girl's suggestion made sense. If he really tried to snatch people, even if there was no crime, it could turn into having one.

The call was connected, and after Ling Chen explained the situation to Tang Yuan, the latter agreed immediately without any hesitation.

In less than five minutes, the police car behind them stopped. Subsequently, a policeman got out with Zhu Xiaozhu and walked her to the front of the van driven by Ling Chen.

"Are you Mr. Ling?"

"Yes, I am."

"Hello, Mr. Ling, I was instructed from above to hand the prisoner over to you."

"Thank you!"

Ling Chen, without much idle talk, immediately opened the car door and let Zhu Xiaozhu get in.

"Xiaozhu, this is my Sange, his injuries are severe, please check him quickly," Ling Chen urged anxiously.

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded gently, then checked Yuan Yun's pulse.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu's slightly furrowed brow, Ling Chen, unable to contain his anxiety, asked, "How is my Sange's condition?"

"It's not good. His injuries are severe, and he has missed the best time for treatment. Honestly, if it wasn't for his physique being much stronger than an average person, with his injuries, he would've been dead by now; surviving this long is already quite remarkable."

Qiu Yong spoke solemnly, "Is there still a way to treat him?"

"At this point, I can't do anything, and even if we search the whole world for doctors, there is no guarantee they could save him, but... I do have an idea that might be worth trying."

Hearing this, Ling Chen quickly asked, "What idea? Tell us, no matter how difficult, we will find a way to solve it."

Zhu Xiaozhu looked up at Ling Chen, hesitated for a while, then with light lips parted, she uttered four words: "God Organization!"

Chapter 672 Method of Saving Lives

"God Organization?" Ling Chen and Qiu Yong looked at each other, their faces showing a hint of surprise. They had thought Zhu Xiaozhu would have some good methods, but her idea turned out to involve the God Organization. Could the God Organization save Yuan Yun?

"Xiaozhu, explain clearly, what does this have to do with the God Organization?"

"The strengthening drug developed by the God Organization contains a special ingredient, which is also the key to successfully making the drug. If we can obtain that ingredient, we can create a special medicine that will enhance your third brother's vital signs and then proceed with treatment."

Ling Chen breathed a sigh of relief and said with a slight smile, "That's simple enough. I've confiscated a lot of the strengthening drugs developed by the God Organization before. We just need to separate that ingredient from the drugs."

Zhu Xiaozhu shook her head and said, "It's not that simple. Once the ingredient is made into the strengthening drug, it completely merges with the other components and is very difficult to separate. Moreover, even if you can separate it, the amount is very limited and won't be enough for your third brother's needs. It would be best to find that ingredient on its own."

Hearing this, everyone fell into silence.

Zhu Xiaozhu's words struck like a bolt from the blue, severely impacting everyone's hearts. Yuan Yun's life was hanging by a thread; where would they have the time to search for that drug ingredient? By the time they found it, Yuan Yun would probably be long gone.

Seemingly sensing the helplessness and sorrow in everyone's eyes, Zhu Xiaozhu spoke, "Everyone, don't despair just yet; it's not time for that. His condition is indeed very dangerous, but with my medical skills, I can barely keep him alive for two or three days. However, remember, if there's no progress within three days, then there truly is no hope for him."

Three days!

A flame of hope ignited in Ling Chen's heart.

Three days, though not much, was a rare opportunity.

"Alright, give us three days' time; no matter the cost, we'll find what you're asking for," Qiu Yong declared decisively.

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded slightly and said to Ling Chen, "Take us to Jinhai City People's Hospital. I know people there. We'll take your third brother there to stay for a few days. I also need to use their medical equipment to keep him alive."

"Sure."

Ling Chen agreed and immediately drove the van towards the hospital.

On the way, Ling Chen chatted idly with Zhu Xiaozhu and only then did he understand why she was taken away by the police. When they previously went to Qiu Yong's residence, a body was found there. Later, after the police arrived and conducted their investigation, they eventually locked onto the two of them as suspects.

No choice about it, as they were the last to leave the room. Because Zhu Xiaozhu had used her ID to check into another hotel, the police quickly came knocking. It was also fortunate that Ling Chen arrived in time and asked Tang Yuan for help, or Zhu Xiaozhu would have been taken away. Otherwise, it would have been troublesome.

...

Two hours later, after Zhu Xiaozhu had settled Yuan Yun, Ling Chen stepped out of the ward only to see Qiu Yong and the others huddled together, discussing something.

"Big brother, what are you guys discussing?" Ling Chen asked.

Qiu Yong glanced at Ling Chen and said, "Ling Cheng, you, Xia Yue, Ling Kun, and Lin Tong stay at the hospital to look after third brother. Although we've escaped, we can't guarantee that Hu Fei won't come looking, so you guys stay here to protect him. The three of us will try to find the thing Miss Zhu asked for."

"No!" Ling Chen shook his head, saying earnestly, "They can stay, but I must go with you. I'm more familiar with the God Organization than you are, and besides, do you know where to find that drug ingredient?"

"This..." Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, and Zhang Zhongfeng looked at each other, none able to provide an answer.

"Big brother, we only have three days, we can't just blindly rely on luck."

"Alright." Qiu Yong nodded, "Since you have a way, then you come with us. The others will stay at the hospital."

Xia Yue advised with concern, "Big brother, be careful. I know you all want to save third brother, but if we lose anyone else because of this, I don't think third brother would be happy even if he were saved."

"I know that. Let's not delay any longer; let's get going."

However, just as Ling Chen was about to leave, he suddenly realized something—the porridge girl was missing. She was with them just now coming to the hospital, but in the blink of an eye, she was gone?

After asking Xia Yue and the others, everyone indicated they hadn't seen the porridge girl. After arriving at the hospital, everyone was preoccupied with Yuan Yun and hadn't paid attention to the porridge girl.

Sigh!

Ling Chen sighed helplessly. That woman was really... he didn't even know how to describe her. She should at least say goodbye before she leaves, always coming and going without a trace, truly disconcerting.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen guessed that the porridge girl probably avoided them because she feared being asked about Ling Kun.

Forget it! Yuan Yun's issue was more important. He'll find the porridge girl and ask for clarification next time.

Leaving the hospital, Ling Chen and the others got back into the van.

"Ling Cheng, you're the most familiar with the God Organization, where do you think we should look?"

Hearing Zhang Zhongfeng's question, Ling Chen replied, "Only the God Organization's research facilities would store that drug ingredient; those outposts are unlikely to have it, so our search is much narrowed down."

After saying that, Ling Chen took out his phone and called Hu Fei. After giving instructions, Ling Chen drove the car to the opposite side of the road, towards a café, and then led Qiu Yong and the others inside.

Sitting in a booth, Ling Chen ordered four cups of coffee from the waitress and started fiddling with his phone, staying silent.

"Ling Cheng," an impatient Qiu Yong couldn't help asking, "Isn't it that we're supposed to look for the God Organization's research facilities? What are we doing here? Don't forget, we only have three days, we can't afford to waste them."

"Big brother, rest assured, I know what I'm doing, I won't delay serious matters. The research facilities established by the God Organization in Huaxia are very covert; blindly searching will only waste time and energy. I've already explained everything to Hu Fei, he knows what to do. Believe me, it won't take long before we get accurate information."

Seeing Ling Chen looking very confident, Qiu Yong and the others had to suppress their curiosity and anxiety, waiting patiently.

After finishing a cup of coffee, Ling Chen put down his phone and looked across the booth at Qiu Yong, asking, "Big brother, there's something I forgot to ask you."

"What is it?"

"The last time we spoke on the phone, you told me that you were dealing with some personal affairs. Since it was a personal matter, how did you get involved with the God Organization?"

Qiu Yong gave a wry smile and said, "It's a long story."

Chapter 673 The Reason

"Our trip to Jinhai City this time is mainly to deal with your third brother's personal affairs. Your third brother has a friend in Jinhai City, also an old friend of many years. Aside from us brothers and sisters, he is his only friend. Some time ago, his friend called him, saying he had run into a bit of trouble and was hoping your third brother could help him out. At the time, your third brother agreed without hesitation. Originally, he wanted to come to Jinhai City alone to handle the trouble, but we were all idle at the time, so we might as well accompany him over. Who knew..."

At this point, Qiu Yong sighed lightly.

Xu Ming continued, "Your third brother's friend is called Tian Lang, who is also over forty years old. He learned martial arts in the past, which is why he became acquainted with your third brother. However,

after getting married and having children, he neglected his martial arts and lived the life of an ordinary person. I've heard your third brother mention Tian Lang before; he's a good man who values personal loyalty. After coming to Jinhai City, due to his extraordinary skills, he was spotted by a company and became a highly-paid security personnel, specifically responsible for protecting an important figure, traveling everywhere on business trips."

"You might not believe it, but that important figure is actually a high-ranking member of the God Organization; the corporate executive role is just his cover identity. Because of your third brother, Tian Lang had some understanding of the God Organization. On one occasion, Tian Lang overheard the conversation between that high-ranking official and others, which involved a lot of confidential information about the God Organization. Amongst that information, there was a piece that was particularly critical, related to the latest research experiment of the God Organization."

Could it be... genetic mutation?

Ling Chen was startled and hurriedly asked, "Second brother, what's the relation?"

"The God Organization has made a breakthrough in their latest research, and all the related materials are stored in a USB drive by that high-ranking official. Tian Lang, a martial artist, knows how to discern right from wrong. He was clear that the information was very important. Thus, he took the chance when the high-ranking official was unguarded and secretly stole the USB drive. Unfortunately, less than half an hour after his departure, the theft was discovered. The God Organization sent people everywhere to find his whereabouts, determined to take back the USB drive from him."

"Tian Lang has his own family in Jinhai City. To avoid involving his wife and children, he fled with his family. It was at that time he contacted your third brother, seeking help. However, by the time we arrived in Jinhai City, Tian Lang had already suffered several attacks. Not only was he badly wounded himself, but his wife and children also met with tragedy. When we found Tian Lang hiding, he was already at death's door. Despite his severe injuries, the death of his family hit him the hardest, leaving him no desire to live on. Just before he passed, Tian Lang spent a few minutes alone with your third brother, taking his last breath. Besides your third brother, no one knows where he hid the USB drive. Originally, we intended to retrieve the USB drive and then call you to hand over the information to you. However, before we had the chance to retrieve it, we were discovered by members of the God Organization, led by Lin Tong and that mysterious expert."

With the end of the explanation, Zhang Zhongfeng said, "With our collective strength as brothers, even with the Earthly List experts, we wouldn't fear them. But they had too many people and resorted to a lot of despicable means, making them hard to guard against. Because of this, our third brother was

seriously injured in the fight and almost lost his life. At that time, we forcibly broke through with our third brother, shaking off the pursuers, and temporarily settled in that hotel. Due to the severity of our third brother's injuries, our eldest brother called you for help, urging you to rush to Jinhai City as soon as possible."

"However, not long after our eldest brother made the call, our location was exposed. Knowing it would be difficult to prevail by force, they used a kind of colorless and odorless knockout drug in the drinking water served by the hotel staff, as well as in the ventilation ducts of the room. It was our own carelessness, coupled with extreme fatigue at the time, that prevented us from noticing. By the time we realized, it was too late, we had no strength to resist the people from the God Organization, and were ultimately captured by them. Lin Tong kept pressing us about the whereabouts of the USB drive, but aside from our third brother himself, we had no idea where it was. If you hadn't arrived in time, we would have likely never seen daylight again."

After listening to the account of Qiu Yong and the others, Ling Chen nodded his head, gaining a general understanding of the situation. If he could get his hands on the confidential information in that USB drive related to the latest research by the God Organization, it might be of great help to Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun's recovery.

At that thought, Ling Chen's eyes suddenly became determined.

No matter what, Yuan Yun's life must be saved.

In the midst of his thoughts, the phone on the table suddenly rang. Ling Chen glanced at it, saw it was Hu Fei calling, and immediately answered, "Fatty, how's it going? Did you find anything?"

"You wouldn't believe it, but following your method, I really found a few places. I just checked, and the research base closest to Jinhai City is in Zhongyang City, north of Jinhai City. By plane, it would take at most two hours to get there."

"Alright, I got it. Send me the exact location in a bit."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked up at Qiu Yong and the others, and smiled faintly, "Eldest brother, found it."

"Where?"

"Zhongyang City, I'll get the plane ready immediately."

Previously, Ling Chen arrived in Jinhai City on a private jet from Hongyu Group with Zhu Xiaozhu. That jet was currently on standby at the airport, which could save a lot of time.

After making a call to get the plane ready for flight, Ling Chen drove the van straight towards the airport.

Upon arrival, after less than half an hour's wait, the plane obtained control tower clearance and took off for Zhonghai City.

Zhonghai City is more than eight hundred kilometers away from Jinhai City, and the plane is the most effective and convenient means of transportation. After nearly two hours of flight, the plane finally landed at the airport in Zhonghai City.

Before disembarking, Ling Chen greeted the pilots and told them to stay on the plane and on standby. As soon as they found the medicine ingredients needed by Zhu Xiaozhu, they would immediately start the journey back to Jinhai City.

It was now after nine o'clock in the evening.

The spacious streets were bustling with traffic, and the night scene was dazzling, a spectacle of prosperity and excitement.

"Ling Cheng, where are we heading now?" Qiu Yong asked.

"Wait a moment, let me check."

Saying that, Ling Chen picked up his phone to check the address Hu Fei had sent. Then, he hailed a taxi on the roadside and got in with Qiu Yong and the others.

"Master, please go to Beijiang Road."

"Okay!"

The taxi driver nodded, and without another word, started the car and headed toward the destination.

Chapter 674 Zhongyang City

Zhongyang City.

This is a first-tier city. Although not as bustling as East Sea City, it is one of the top metropolises in the nation, easily ranking within the top five. Sitting in the taxi, Qiu Yong looked at Ling Chen in the passenger seat and asked, "Ling Cheng, how did you know that the God Organization's research base was in Zhongyang City?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly and explained, "Actually, it's quite simple. If it were before, I really wouldn't have any way to know, but now it's different. At least now we know that the God Organization has significant ties with the southern Ling Family. Therefore, we just need to investigate the industries of the Ling Family and then randomly check according to the type of industries. By doing so, we can easily pinpoint the location of the research base."

During the conversation, the taxi slowly stopped at the roadside.

"Everyone, we've arrived!"

"Thanks, driver." Ling Chen paid the fare and led Qiu Yong and the other two to a building nearby.

Qiu Yong examined the building in front of them and asked, "Ling Chen, is this the place?"

Ling Chen nodded and answered, "This building is a research institute owned by the Ling Family, dedicated to developing chemical drugs for the family's factories. It's an official research institute. However, that's just the public claim. In reality, it is a secret research base for the God Organization."

Zhang Zhongfeng curiously asked, "How are you so sure that this place is a secret research base for the God Organization?"

Ling Chen confidently smiled and said, "I had Hu Fei check—the purchase list of this research institute includes many items that aren't related to chemical products. Moreover, the institute publicly claims to have over twenty research staff, yet the amount of food they purchase daily is enough for sixty to seventy people, which is definitely abnormal."

Upon hearing this, Qiu Yong and his companions instantly understood.

"It's quite late; there probably aren't many people working inside the research institute right now. It's the best time to make a move," Qiu Yong said. Then looking at Zhang Zhongfeng, he added, "Fourth Brother, find a high spot when we get inside and block the enemy, and cover our retreat."

"Understood."

"Second Brother, Sixth Brother."

"Big Brother, your command."

"In a moment, the two of you find the drug ingredients Miss Zhu wants, and I'll distract the enemy. You guys need to move quickly and try to resolve this within half an hour."

Xu Ming and Ling Chen responded in unison, "Okay."

After everything was ready, the four of them climbed over the fence outside the research institute and entered the spacious courtyard.

On one side of the courtyard was a sturdy gate. Next to the gate was an electronic keypad on the wall. Ling Chen looked at it for a moment and quickly approached the device, immediately ripping off the cover with his hands.

Looking at the red and blue wires inside, Ling Chen quickly picked up a red wire and connected it to a blue one. The moment the two wires touched, a flash of electric light sparkled. Fortunately, Ling Chen reacted promptly and let go, preventing an electric shock.

As the keypad was disabled, the tightly shut gates slowly moved apart, revealing a spacious entrance.

Without hesitation, Zhang Zhongfeng drew his bow and arrow, quickly stepping in to inspect the area behind the gate to guard against any enemies.

"Clear!"

Upon hearing Zhang Zhongfeng's voice from inside, Ling Chen and the others immediately entered.

They moved through the gate and, aided by the dim lighting, Ling Chen observed the surroundings, noting the empty corridors on either side, devoid of anyone.

Strange!

Why is there not even a single security personnel here? Ling Chen frowned internally. Hu Fei had told him that this research institute was always operational and wasn't ever abandoned. If that was the case, why was it empty?

"Big Brother, be careful, this place feels a bit odd."

Qiu Yong nodded, his voice grave, "I also sensed something amiss." He then gestured, and Xu Ming followed him, heading toward the corridor ahead.

Ling Chen followed behind with Zhang Zhongfeng covering the rear.

The four walked over twenty meters, seeing through the transparent glass various machines and equipment. Suddenly, Ling Chen stopped in his tracks, staring at a piece of equipment behind the glass, his eyebrows deeply furrowed.

Seeing Ling Chen standing still, Zhang Zhongfeng inquired, "Ling Cheng, what's wrong?"

Ling Chen pointed at the instruments and the iron bed behind the glass, pausing between words, "I've seen this place."

"Seen it?" Qiu Yong and Xu Ming turned their heads, looking at Ling Chen, "Ling Cheng, have you been here before?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "I haven't been here, but I saw this place in an image."

Originally, when he was in Lin Jiawei's manor, Lin Jiawei had shown him Xia Mutong's situation through a tablet using remote video. This place was exactly where Xia Mutong had stayed in the video.

This indicated that Xia Mutong was definitely brought here, and the experiments completed at this research institute took place.

Calculating the time, this research base was still operational within half a month, but now it's empty, which is really baffling.

"Ling Cheng, there's a door over there. Let's go check it out."

Hearing Xu Ming's voice, Ling Chen nodded and quickly walked towards the glass door nearby.

As he opened the door, Ling Chen hadn't even stepped in when he suddenly stepped back, his expression turning somewhat grim. Noticing his unusual behavior, Qiu Yong quickly asked, "Ling Cheng, what's going on?"

Ling Chen pointed at the glass door, his brows furrowed, "People have died here, and many of them."

Hearing this, Qiu Yong and the others exchanged glances, a hint of shock in their eyes.

Standing at the doorway, smelling the stench of decay emanating from behind the glass door, Qiu Yong nodded, "This strong decay smell, the people inside must have been dead for at least half a month."

"Let's go in and take a look."

"Be careful."

Entering the lab behind the glass, Ling Chen hadn't walked far when he heard a clang underfoot as if he had stepped on something round.

Ling Chen looked down and saw a flashlight on the floor. He bent down to pick it up and turned it on, a bright beam of light immediately shooting out.

With the flashlight in hand, Ling Chen shone it around and saw several bodies lying on the floor not far from him; their mouths wide open, eyes bulging, as if they had been greatly terrified before death.

"Ling Cheng, shine the light on me; I'm going to check their bodies."

After saying that, Qiu Yong walked over to the bodies and carefully examined them.

"Ling Cheng, look, their chest cavities have been pierced by a blunt object," Qiu Yong said, puzzled. "Looking at the marks around the wounds, it seems it wasn't some heavy blunt object."

"It was an arm."

"An arm?"

Qiu Yong and the others lifted their heads, puzzled, looking at Ling Chen, "You mean... they were pierced through by someone's arm?"

Chapter 675 The Mutated Xia Mutong (1)

Ling Chen nodded and said, "That's right, I've seen similar corpses before. They were all killed by someone thrusting an arm directly through their bodies, dying in a very tragic state."

Xu Ming chimed in, "Being able to penetrate a body with an arm indicates that the person has incredible strength. I have no idea who it could be, using such a brutal method."

"I think I know who it is," Ling Chen said somberly.

"You know?" Qiu Yong looked at Ling Chen in surprise and asked, "How do you know?"

Ling Chen shook his head to himself without picking up on Qiu Yong's question. He was clear in his mind that the one who killed these people was very likely Xia Mutong. Back when they were in the main base of the God Organization, Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, after undergoing experimental transformations, had exhibited such patterns.

Therefore, Ling Chen was very familiar with this kind of situation. Back then, Xia Mutong had undergone experiments here, and the occurrence of this situation indicated that Xia Mutong had likely lost Control, hence the accidental harm to so many people.

As he was pondering, a noise suddenly came from outside.

"What's going on?"

Qiu Yong and the others were alarmed and hurriedly ran out the glass door, looking towards the entrance they had come in through.

At this moment, three Land Rover off-road vehicles drove in from outside the research institute and stopped outside the entrance.

As the doors of the off-road vehicles opened, more than a dozen fully armed men stepped down one after the other, each equipped with tranquilizer guns, night vision goggles, and some special capturing tools.

Hearing the footsteps getting closer, Ling Chen said, "Zhang Zhongfeng, someone's coming."

Qiu Yong pointed to a dark corner opposite in haste and said urgently, "Go, let's hide over there first."

The four had barely concealed themselves when they saw a man leading the group, holding a tranquilizer gun and cautiously approaching the research institute. Ling Chen looked over and furrowed his brows slightly.

The sharp-eyed Ling Chen noticed that there were mini cameras mounted on the helmets of those men; whoever was on the other end of the camera could clearly see the situation inside the research institute.

In no time, the group of over a dozen men had all entered the laboratory behind the glass door.

Seeing the cautious inspection of those men, a hint of confusion appeared in Ling Chen's eyes.

Wasn't this place supposed to be empty? Why would the God Organization still send people here, could it be that they are searching for something? However, looking at their cautious behavior, they did not seem to be searching for things.

Tranquilizers... nets... Observing the equipment those people carried, Ling Chen had a thought that immediately came to mind.

Judging by the equipment they're using, they must be targeting a person.

Could it be... Xia Mutong is still hiding in this research base? Otherwise, why would the people sent by the God Organization be using tranquilizer guns?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen grew more certain of his speculation. If Xia Mutong was still here, he must take Xia Mutong away no matter what.

"Zhang Zhongfeng, you guys stay here; I'll go take a look."

"Ling Cheng, you..." Before Qiu Yong could finish, Ling Chen had already run out of the hiding spot, following behind those men, observing the surroundings.

Ah!

Suddenly, a miserable cry rang out, and by the time everyone reacted, they saw a person not far away falling down, with a ferocious blood hole in his chest, blood pouring out from it.

"Everyone be careful, that person has appeared."

With a shout, everyone became on high alert, cautiously watching their surroundings.

At this time, Ling Chen, hiding in the shadows, looked around and listened to the movements, hoping to pinpoint the location of Xia Mutong.

However, after Xia Mutong killed a person, there was no further appearance and no telling where he had gone.

Just then, a gust of wind attacked from above. By the time Ling Chen noticed, a man in the crowd vanished in an instant. Ling Chen furrowed his brow, looked up, and then heard a 'bang' as the missing man fell from the sky.

"Dead!"

Seeing their dead comrade, a group of men panicked, quickly huddling together back-to-back, holding their breath and focusing, intensely watching their surroundings, raising their tranquilizer guns, ready to pull the trigger at any moment.

Suddenly, a shadow flew past the wall. Several frightened men immediately aimed their tranquilizer guns in that direction, firing multiple darts. But all the tranquilizer darts hit the wall, completely missing the target.

While everyone was searching for the target, another gust of wind attacked again, instantly rushing into the crowd.

Hearing the cries of shock and screams in the crowd, Ling Chen no longer hesitated and immediately rushed over at full speed, throwing the two nearest people out. Then, he clenched his fist and threw a powerful punch towards the shadow in the crowd.

Perhaps sensing the fierce wind, the shadow quickly turned its head, staring into Ling Chen's eyes.

Their eyes met, and a heavy feeling settled in Ling Chen's heart. His guess was correct – the person in front of him was indeed Xia Mutong.

"Officer Xia!"

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, he saw Xia Mutong raise her hands, palm striking ruthlessly towards his body.

Although Xia Mutong's palms had not yet connected with his body, the wind was ominous, and Ling Chen could feel the terrifying power contained within those palms.

There was no time to think; Ling Chen hastily backed away.

He wasn't afraid of Xia Mutong but was concerned that a direct confrontation would result in her arms getting injured.

"Who are you?"

At this point, everyone's gaze turned to Ling Chen, and they all shouted in chorus.

Ling Chen glanced back and locked eyes with a man's helmet-mounted camera.

"Ling Chen, it's Ling Chen, kill him!"

Amidst the man's shouting, everyone collectively raised their tranquilizer guns, aiming at Ling Chen. However, while they locked on to Ling Chen, they neglected the presence of Xia Mutong.

Ah!

A dreadful scream rang out as Xia Mutong's arm pierced through the back of a man, her hands covered in blood, looking ferocious and terrifying, especially under the enveloping dim light, adding a layer of horror.

The screams of their fallen comrade immediately drew the others' attention. Seizing the opportunity, Ling Chen tapped lightly with his toes, disappearing from everyone's sight in an instant.

"Quick, catch Ling Chen, don't let him escape... ugh!"

Before he could finish speaking, a sharp arrow suddenly flew in, piercing the man's throat.

As the arrow was shot, Qiu Yong and Xu Ming rushed in from outside the glass door, pouncing on the members of the God Organization.

With Ling Chen's cooperation, it didn't take long for the four of them to take down all the members sent by the God Organization.

"Big brother, stop her!"

After dealing with the people from the God Organization, Ling Chen immediately focused his attention on Xia Mutong.

"No problem."

Qiu Yong responded, leading Xu Ming and Zhang Zhongfeng to encircle Xia Mutong from different directions.

"Big brother, second brother, fourth brother, be careful, don't hurt her." Ling Chen reminded them.

Chapter 676 The Mutated Xia Mutong (2)

"Ling Cheng, if I'm not mistaken, this person seems to be your friend," right?"

Hearing Zhang Zhongfeng's question, Ling Chen nodded and said, "She underwent an experiment by the God Organization, and now she has lost her mind and doesn't remember who I am. I must take her away and restore her to her former self."

"We can all go at her together. There's no way she can handle so many of us alone."

As soon as Qiu Yong finished speaking, Ling Chen and his two companions immediately charged towards Xia Mutong.

In order not to hurt Xia Mutong, Ling Chen didn't dare to attack too harshly. Getting closer, Ling Chen turned his fist into a palm, marshaled his Inner Strength, and struck towards Xia Mutong's neck.

Feeling the force of the blow closing in, Xia Mutong abruptly turned her head and slapped out a palm, meeting Ling Chen's attack.

However, before Xia Mutong's palm could touch Ling Chen, she stumbled on her feet and fell to the ground.

Seeing this, Ling Chen leaned forward, opened his arms, and caught the falling Xia Mutong in his embrace.

Before Xia Mutong could struggle, the quick-reacting Xu Ming swiftly picked up an anesthesia gun from the ground and shot it into Xia Mutong's back. As the tranquilizer dart entered her body, Xia Mutong, who had been struggling fiercely, instantly lost her strength and went limp in Ling Chen's arms.

Looking at the unconscious Xia Mutong, Ling Chen removed the tranquilizer dart from her back, clicking his tongue in wonder, "This tranquilizer dart really works well."

Considering Xia Mutong's current condition, to be able to take her down with a single shot, it seems the dose in this tranquilizer dart is quite potent.

Lifting Xia Mutong's body, Ling Chen placed her to one side and instructed Qiu Yong and the others to watch over her. Then, Ling Chen alone ventured deeper into the laboratory and found the medicinal components needed by Zhu Xiaozhu in the storeroom.

Once he had what he needed, Ling Chen, carrying Xia Mutong, prepared to leave with the companionship of Qiu Yong and his two friends. But at that moment, the ringing of a cell phone suddenly echoed through the laboratory.

Ling Chen turned his head and looked at the ringing cell phone on the ground, his brow slightly furrowed.

Seeing Ling Chen walking towards the phone, Qiu Yong said, "Ling Cheng, you..."

Ling Chen waved his hand and replied, "Big brother, it's nothing, just a phone call. Probably someone from the God Organization."

Saying that, he picked up the phone from the ground and accepted the call.

"Hello! Mr. Ling, how are you?"

Hearing the unfamiliar voice coming from the other end of the phone, Ling Chen asked, "Who are you?"

"Mr. Ling, don't you recognize me? Oh right, even though you've been searching for me, you've never seen me. Mr. Ling, my name is Lin Guodong, I think you should have heard this name."

Lin Guodong?

Ling Chen was startled—it was actually him.

This was, in fact, the first time he had formally spoken with Lin Guodong over the phone.

"Speak, what do you want?"

"It's nothing much, Mr. Ling. I just want to make a deal with you, and also to give you a word of advice."

"A deal?" Ling Chen said with a laugh that was not a laugh, "Do you think I would make a deal with you? And what gives you the right to give me advice?"

"The woman in your hands is very useful to me. Hand her over to me, and I can offer you some benefits."

Ling Chen let out a cold laugh and said, "Lin Guodong, do you think I care about your benefits? Besides, I am well aware of the nature of your God Organization. Enough, Lin Guodong, spare me the nonsense, I'm definitely taking Xia Mutong with me. If you have any intentions, just come at me."

"Ling Chen, I think you're looking for death!" Lin Guodong's tone grew colder, and he snorted lightly, "You've opposed my God Organization time and time again, killed so many of my men, and ruined our plans several times. I've tolerated you again and again, but you've become more and more ruthless. If that's the case, then you can't blame me for being impolite."

"Tolerating me?" Hearing these words, Ling Chen had a realization, as if understanding something.

Could it be... Lin Guodong already knows my identity, and that's why he has been tolerating me? Otherwise, why would he say such things?

"Ling Chen, I'm giving you one last chance. Are you going to hand her over or not?"

"I've said, don't even think about it."

"Fine." Lin Guodong said coldly, "If that's the case, then don't blame me for not being courteous."

With that, Lin Guodong hung up the phone.

Discarding his phone, Ling Chen picked up Xia Mutong and quickly followed behind Qiu Yong, leaving the research base together.

Outside there was a Land Rover off-road vehicle left by the God Organization. Once in the car, Ling Chen settled Xia Mutong in place and then drove towards the airport.

On the road, Ling Chen called the pilot aboard the plane and asked them to prepare for takeoff at any moment.

By the time they all arrived at the airport, the plane was ready for them.

After nearly two hours of flight, Ling Chen and the others finally returned to Jinhai City.

Leaving the airport, Ling Chen hurried along, taking Xia Mutong and Qiu Yong to the hospital.

"You're back?"

Zhu Xiaozhu appeared somewhat surprised to see Ling Chen walking in from outside the ward. Though she had allowed Ling Chen three days, she didn't believe he could manage it in such a short time. But now, it had only been one day, and Ling Chen had already returned with the item, which was unbelievable to her.

"Xiaozhu, look, is this the right thing?"

Ling Chen handed over the medication he had obtained to Zhu Xiaozhu and asked.

"Yes, that's it," Zhu Xiaozhu nodded after smelling the substance, "You guys stay with your third brother for a while, and I'll get the medication ready."

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu leave, Ling Chen quickly walked over to the bed and looked at Yuan Yun, who was still unconscious, muttering to himself, "Third brother, don't worry, you'll be well soon."

Then, Ling Chen turned to Xia Yue in the room and asked, "Fifth sister, did my friend come back while I was away?"

"Friend? You mean the woman called 'porridge girl'?" Xia Yue shook her head, "I haven't seen her."

Never mind!

Ling Chen sighed helplessly.

Since the 'porridge girl' was intentionally avoiding him, it seemed it would be difficult to see her for the time being.

About half an hour later, Zhu Xiaozhu returned with a bottle of medicine.

"Is it ready?"

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded, "The medication is fine. After injecting it into your third brother, he just needs to rest for a few days and undergo treatment with other traditional Chinese medicines, and then he'll recover."

"Good, I'll be troubling you."

While speaking, Zhu Xiaozhu drew the medication from the bottle into a syringe and then injected it into Yuan Yun's body.

As the medication was injected, the medical devices connected to Yuan Yun immediately reacted. Watching the rising data, Ling Chen's heart, that was in his throat, finally settled.

Vital signs stable, it seems Yuan Yun was out of danger.

"Xiaozhu, you've worked hard these past few days." Ling Chen said with gratitude.

Zhu Xiaozhu smiled slightly, "Don't mention it, it's only right to help out between friends." She paused and then changed the subject, "Ling Chen, when do we go back?"

Ling Chen thought for a moment, "Tomorrow."

Now that Xia Mutong was still with him, he had to rush her back to the research base as soon as possible to avoid another out-of-control situation.

Chapter 677 The Importance of Xia Mutong

After a night's rest, Yuan Yun's condition had significantly improved.

Ling Chen, who had kept watch in the hospital room all night, was relieved to see that Yuan Yun was out of danger and, after greeting Qiu Yong, he confidently left the hospital.

Taking Xia Mutong with him, Ling Chen and Zhu Xiaozhu boarded a plane to East Sea City. During the journey, to prevent Xia Mutong from waking up again, Ling Chen continually administered anesthetics and sedatives, keeping her unconscious throughout.

Looking at the groggy Xia Mutong who was completely unaware, Zhu Xiaozhu asked puzzledly: "Ling Chen, what's wrong with her?"

Ling Chen sighed, smiled bitterly, and said: "Her situation is the same as Jiang Yunkai and the others; her body has undergone special modifications, losing rationality. This time, when searching for something, I stumbled upon her. It took tremendous effort to bring her back." Continuing, Ling Chen asked, "By the way! How is your medical research going, any progress?"

"There have been developments, but not significant results; further research is still needed. However, based on the information we currently have, if all goes well, we should be able to find a solution within half a year."

Half a year!

Ling Chen frowned. In his opinion, finding a solution within two months would be ideal; half a year was too long. After all, he had to consider the God Organization. With the current pace of the God Organization's development, who knew what the situation would be like in another half a year.

"When my third brother wakes up, I'll have him send over the latest research data from the God Organization. Maybe you could gain a lot of experience from it and speed up your research."

"Okay," Zhu Xiaozhu gently nodded. After speaking, she looked up at Ling Chen, her eyes sparkling, lips parting slightly, her demeanor hesitant.

Ling Chen noticed the hesitation in Zhu Xiaozhu's eyes and couldn't help asking: "What's wrong?"

"I... no, it's nothing," Zhu Xiaozhu said, lowering her head, seemingly unable to meet Ling Chen's gaze.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu acting this way, Ling Chen didn't believe she had nothing to say; she was just too nervous to say it. Thereupon, he spoke up: "It's just the two of us here, just say what you want. Besides, with our relationship, is there really anything you feel uncomfortable saying?"

Hearing this, the scene of their intimate night flashed through Zhu Xiaozhu's mind uncontrollably. Her delicate face instantly blushed deeply, turning red like an enticing apple, evoking the desire to take a bite.

"You..."

Ling Chen wanted to continue speaking, but before he could finish, he saw Zhu Xiaozhu stand up from her seat, her face flushed as she said, "I'm going to the restroom."

Watching Zhu Xiaozhu walk away, Ling Chen felt somewhat helpless. Lately, he couldn't figure out why but felt that Zhu Xiaozhu's behavior was somewhat strange. Every time he asked her about it, she was reluctant to elaborate. He couldn't force her and was left with no alternative.

As the plane landed at East Sea City Airport, a car had already arrived at the apron to pick them up.

"Jiang Hao, has everything been alright in the past few days while I was away?"

Jiang Hao, driving the car, nodded and said, "No worries, with Boss Hu around, what could go wrong?"

Back at the research base, Ling Chen carried Xia Mutong to the medical research lab and placed her on a specially designed bed, securing her limbs to prevent any issues.

After finishing up, Ling Chen moved his somewhat sore shoulders and said to Zhu Xiaozhu standing by, "You should go rest first, there will be a lot more for you to take care of later."

"Then... I'll head back to my room."

After escorting Zhu Xiaozhu back to her room, Ling Chen received a call from Qiu Yong, who reported that Yuan Yun had woken up and disclosed the whereabouts of the USB drive. It had been sent via courier to East Sea City and was expected to arrive tomorrow.

Returning to the lab, Ling Chen stood by the bedside, gazing at the unconscious Xia Mutong, his face showing a trace of deep contemplation.

During this return, Lin Guodong had called, demanding the handover of Xia Mutong. When Ling Chen had previously rescued Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, the God Organization had never reacted so strongly. However, the fact that Lin Guodong, a key figure in the God Organization, personally called to demand her suggested that Xia Mutong was extremely important in Lin Guodong's eyes.

Yet, Ling Chen couldn't understand why Lin Guodong placed such high importance on Xia Mutong. Could it be that after the experiments, Xia Mutong's body had undergone unique changes, making her more valuable for research than even Jiang Yunkai and the others?

It seemed he needed to urge Zhu Xiaozhu to expedite the research on Xia Mutong's body as soon as they received the information from Yuan Yun, in order to discover the underlying reasons.

After organizing everything at the research base, Ling Chen drove alone back to Wealthy Manor.

It was still noon when Ling Chen arrived at the Nanrong Family's residence, just in time to find Nanrong Wanqing eating. Since Su Lin had gone out for an internship, the vast dining room was occupied only by Nanrong Wanqing herself.

"Wanqing."

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Nanrong Wanqing put down her chopsticks, looked up at Ling Chen walking through the door, and a smile of excitement immediately surfaced on her stunning face. She quickly rose to greet him, grabbing Ling Chen's hands and said, "You're finally back. Have you eaten? Join me?"

Ling Chen smiled and nodded, sitting beside Nanrong Wanqing at the dining table, and asked, "Has it been busy at the company lately?"

"It's not too busy now. The company is on the right track, and with several professional managers helping, I actually have it much easier. Usually, I just listen to reports. If there's nothing else, I stay at home. But... it's too quiet at home. Su Lin used to keep me company and chat with me, and now even she is gone, and you are often not at home, leaving me all alone..."

Hearing this, Ling Chen held Nanrong Wanqing's hands and apologetically said, "I'm sorry, I know I've been neglecting you lately. Don't worry, I'll make more time to be with you from now on." Pausing briefly, he continued, "If I'm not at home, let Haozi keep you company more often, or invite some of your friends over so you're not always alone in your room."

Nanrong Wanqing gave a bitter smile and said, "I would like to, but I can't think of many friends in East Sea City that I get along with."

"If you don't have friends, go make some. When I have time, I'll accompany you to some social gatherings. Isn't it common in high society to make friends through banquets?"

"Forget it," Nanrong Wanqing lacklusterly replied, "I'm not interested, and you've seen for yourself what those high society people are like. To be honest, I don't really like them. I prefer staying at home alone rather than dealing with their hypocrisy."

At this point, Nanrong Wanqing, seemingly interested, asked, "What have you been busy with recently? Why not take me along to see?"

Chapter 678 Taking the Young Miss on a Tour of the Base

"Show me around?" Ling Chen was taken aback, not expecting Wanqing to make such a request.

"What's wrong?" Seeing Ling Chen hesitant, Wanqing asked with some disappointment, "You don't want to?"

"No, it's not that I don't want to, it's just..." Ling Chen touched his nose, unsure of how to continue. After a moment of thought and facing Wanqing's expectant gaze, Ling Chen said, "You know I've been fighting against the God Organization all along, it's better for you to see less of these things."

"Do you think I'm the kind of woman who gets weak at the sight of blood?" Wanqing said dissatisfiedly, "Besides, we've been through so much recently, I'm used to dangerous situations. Don't worry, I won't interfere with your business, I just want to see what you are doing."

"This..." Ling Chen thought for a moment and then compromised, "Alright, I'll take you for a tour, just to keep you at ease. Come on, let's eat first, rest for a bit, then I'll take you around the base."

"Base?"

"Yes!" Ling Chen said with a smile, "I've secretly prepared a research base, serving as the headquarters in East Sea City, specifically to combat the God Organization. Alright, don't ask too much now, you'll know when we get there."

After lunch, Ling Chen accompanied Wanqing to rest at home for a while, then they drove to the research base.

Upon entering the gate, Wanqing entered the research base and was immediately stunned by the environment inside. She paused for a moment, then looking at Ling Chen, she said, "This base, you..."

Ling Chen smiled and knowing what Wanqing wanted to ask, replied: "It was given to me by a friend of my father. Otherwise, how could I manage to do so on my own?"

"Your father's friend?" Wanqing asked in surprise, "Haven't you not seen your father for many years? How do you know that person was your father's friend?"

"It's a long story, but his identity is probably no false. Thanks to his help, I had the place and sufficient funds to build my power." When saying this, Ling Chen thought again of porridge girl. The porridge girl seemed to know a lot about his father, unfortunately, she quietly left to avoid him, without any news.

Shaking off his thoughts, Ling Chen took Wanqing around the base.

Currently, the base had basically been remodeled, consisting of four major departments. One being the intelligence department, one the laboratory, one exoskeleton armor production area, and one a warehouse for resource storage.

These four core areas constituted the current research base.

During this period, Ling Chen had been busy dealing with other matters, and everything in the base was personally handled by Hu Fei. Thanks to Hu Fei's help, Ling Chen had been quite relaxed.

Arriving at the intelligence department, Ling Chen pushed open the office door, only to see Hu Fei sitting at his desk, staring at the computer screen while eating roast chicken and cola, with greasy hands everywhere.

Hearing the sound of the door, Hu Fei looked up from the delicious chicken, saw Ling Chen and Wanqing coming towards him, and his round fat face suddenly showed a hint of surprise.

"Miss Nanrong..."

Hu Fei struggled to swallow the chicken in his mouth, quickly put down the chicken leg, grabbed some napkins to hastily wipe his hands and mouth, then got up with a smile to greet them.

"Miss Nanrong, what brings you here?"

Although the question was directed at Wanqing, Hu Fei's gaze was fixed on Ling Chen.

Wanqing's presence at the research base must have been approved by Ling Chen. However, he did not understand why Ling Chen would bring Wanqing here.

"Mr. Hu, hello, Ling Chen brought me over for a tour, to see around. I haven't disturbed your work, have I?"

"No no no." Hu Fei waved his hand and said, "I've been so busy lately that I've lost several pounds, just now taking the chance to gain it back."

Hearing this, Ling Chen mercilessly teased, "Fatso, don't blame me for not warning you, if you keep eating like this, sooner or later you'll be disliked by all women."

"Get out, I have money, every woman willingly comes to me. Enough of this! I won't argue with you anymore, you accompany Miss Nanrong around, I still have work to do."

"Okay then, enjoy your meal."

After that, Ling Chen left the office with Wanqing and headed directly towards the medical laboratory.

However, just as they were about to reach the laboratory, something suddenly occurred to Ling Chen, and he quickly paused.

Seeing Ling Chen halted, Wanqing, who was walking ahead, paused and asked, "Why aren't we going anymore?"

"Well..." Ling Chen scratched his head, hesitant to say, "There's something I need to tell you in advance, but you have to promise not to get angry."

"What could make me angry?" Wanqing looked puzzled at Ling Chen, asking, "Unless you've done something to upset me?"

"No no, I wouldn't dare."

Hearing this, Wanqing gave Ling Chen a disdainful look and said impatiently, "You dare to do a lot, I see. Just say it, I'll try not to get angry."

"It's... it's Xiaozhu." Ling Chen said cautiously, "She's here as well."

Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu were not on good terms, Ling Chen had known this for a long time. However, he never knew the reason, nor did he dare to ask. Moreover, concerning this matter, both Wanqing and Zhu Xiaozhu kept their silence, unwilling to speak.

Now, knowing Zhu Xiaozhu was working in the medical laboratory, Ling Chen wondered how Wanqing would react. So, he thought it was better to clarify things in advance to avoid any unhappiness later.

One was his future woman, and one his friend; Ling Chen did not want any conflict between them.

"Zhu Xiaozhu?"

As Wanqing heard Zhu Xiaozhu's name, her expression instantly became a bit unnatural.

"What is she doing here?"

Ling Chen explained, "You know, Xiaozhu majored in medicine, and there were some issues here that needed her help, so I invited her over." He paused, looked at the time, then said, "Xiaozhu should be working in the laboratory now, maybe... maybe we should see somewhere else?"

Given their relationship, Ling Chen thought it best to avoid their meeting, as he would be the one caught in the middle otherwise.

Hearing Ling Chen's suggestion, Wanqing's lips curled into a slight smile, her words heavy with implication, "Why, are you afraid we'll end up fighting if we meet?"

"It's not that, just..."

Before Ling Chen could finish, Wanqing cut in, "Since it's not that, what are you afraid of? Let's go!"

Chapter 679: Base had an accident

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing stepping forward, Ling Chen, unable to persuade her, hurriedly followed her steps towards the laboratory. Upon reaching the laboratory door, Ling Chen stretched out his hand in front of Nanrong Wanqing and whispered, "Do you really want to go in?"

Nanrong Wanqing replied discontentedly, "Do you really not trust me?"

Ling Chen smirked bitterly to himself, now somewhat regretting it. If he had known this would happen, he should not have brought Nanrong Wanqing to the research base. This was only causing himself trouble.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen dropped his hand which had been blocking Nanrong Wanqing, voluntarily helped her open the door, and welcomed her into the laboratory.

Ling Chen had thought it through; instead of preventing Nanrong Wanqing from meeting Zhu Xiaozhu and avoiding conflict, it would be better to let them have a chance to talk and possibly resolve their grudges.

With this thought, Ling Chen entered the laboratory, ready to introduce the situation inside to Nanrong Wanqing. However, at this moment, Nanrong Wanqing stretched out her hand, clasping Ling Chen's arm affectionately.

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback by Nanrong Wanqing's action, and then he realized its meaning; apart from a bitter smile, he could express nothing.

"Ling..."

At that moment, Zhu Xiaozhu walked into the laboratory from the outside. Seeing Ling Chen's back, she started to speak out of habit. However, as soon as she spoke, she saw Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing turn around.

When Zhu Xiaozhu's gaze fell on Nanrong Wanqing, her facial expression changed slightly, but it only lasted a moment before she regained her usual composure, with no signs of emotional fluctuation in her calm eyes.

"So Miss Nanrong is also here," Zhu Xiaozhu said expressionlessly, her tone indiscernible.

Nanrong Wanqing gave a light smile. "Miss Zhu, long time no see."

"It has been a long time indeed. After so many years, Miss Nanrong hasn't changed at all."

"I haven't changed much, but Miss Zhu... I've heard Miss Zhu is a nationally renowned traditional Chinese medicine doctor, with superb medical skills, congratulations."

"Don't flatter me, I'm nowhere close to Miss Nanrong. Your Hongyu Group in East Sea City is second to none, incomparable to anyone. Compared to you, my achievements are nothing."

Hearing the two of them exchanging pleasantries back and forth, Ling Chen couldn't help but feel uneasy for some reason. Complimenting is just complimenting, but the words between these two women felt terribly awkward, more like they were insulting rather than praising each other.

Seeing that the two women seemed ready to continue, Ling Chen subtly coughed, quickly interrupting their conversation, and said with a smile, "Wanqing, Xiaozhu has work to keep busy with; let's not disturb them."

Upon hearing Ling Chen speak, Nanrong Wanqing, who was about to continue speaking, reluctantly swallowed her words.

"Xiaozhu, you go ahead with your work, we won't disturb you anymore." After saying this, Ling Chen, holding Nanrong Wanqing's hand, walked straight toward the exit of the laboratory.

However, before the two reached the door, suddenly an unusual noise emanated from within the laboratory.

"What happened?"

Ling Chen quickly turned around, looking through the glass at the busy people inside the laboratory, and asked.

"There's a malfunction."

At this moment, one of the researchers stuck his head out from the laboratory and shouted loudly towards the doorway.

Seeing the urgency, Zhu Xiaozhu hurriedly rushed over. However, just as Zhu Xiaozhu entered the laboratory, she heard a loud 'bang' and a white smoke crazily burst out, instantly spreading and enveloping the entire transparent laboratory.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu and other researchers engulfed in white smoke, unable to see anyone, Ling Chen became anxious. Without saying much, he quickly pushed Nanrong Wanqing outside the door, then locked the door and rushed into Zhu Xiaozhu's laboratory.

Upon entering the laboratory, a pungent smell hit him, and Ling Chen held his breath, shouting loudly, hoping to attract the attention of others with his voice.

"Mr. Ling, I'm here."

Hearing everyone calling out one by one, reporting their locations, Ling Chen immediately rushed over and safely led them out of the laboratory.

One... two... Ling Chen counted the researchers rescued, his eyebrows immediately furrowing.

All the laboratory researchers except for Zhu Xiaozhu were here.

Xiaozhu... Ling Chen turned his head to look at the laboratory engulfed in white smoke and rushed in again, calling Zhu Xiaozhu's name loudly. But Zhu Xiaozhu did not respond.

Ling Chen persistently called out, searching for Zhu Xiaozhu in the laboratory. However, due to the heavy white smoke, the visibility was extremely low, almost impossible to see half a meter ahead.

Moreover, the white smoke was getting denser and completely uncontrolled. In less than a few minutes, nothing could be seen in the laboratory except the smoke.

At this moment, Kaelina and Hu Fei, having heard the news, rushed to the outside of the laboratory.

"What are you guys standing around for, hurry up and go help," Hu Fei shouted to his subordinates.

"Forget it, let them come back," Kaelina said, "The situation inside is complicated, it's better if I go in."

Watching Kaelina disappear into the thick white smoke, Hu Fei turned to the few researchers and asked, "What happened in the laboratory?"

"Um..." The researchers looked at each other, not knowing how to respond.

Seeing this, Hu Fei impatiently said: "So many people, and no one knows anything? At least tell me the reason, so I know how to handle it."

"Mr. Hu, we were just conducting a body examination for Miss Xia, but I don't know why, the testing equipment malfunctioned and went completely out of control, leading to a system crash. Besides that equipment, other devices were also damaged to varying degrees."

After listening to a researcher's explanation, Hu Fei pointed to the white smoke filling the lab and asked, "And what is that?"

"That's an aerosolized anesthetic, specifically used to anesthetize the subjects. The amount of anesthetic isn't very high, being in there for a short time won't affect anyone, but with the continuous spray out of the aerosolized anesthetic, the concentration will only get higher, and the effect on the body will become significant. Mr. Ling and Miss Zhu are still inside, according to the current situation, if they can't get out in a minute, they are likely to be affected by the anesthetic and pass out completely."

Hearing this, Hu Fei immediately summoned a subordinate and gave him a few orders.

After the subordinate left, Hu Fei suddenly remembered something and asked, "You mentioned earlier, before the accident happened, you were examining Miss Xia's body?"

"Yes."

"So... is she still inside the laboratory?"

"That's right. She is restrained on the bed, there should be no problem. Besides, since the concentration of the aerosolized anesthetic is getting higher in the laboratory, there's no way she could wake up."

Chapter 680 Trapped in the Laboratory (1)

At this moment, inside the laboratory, Ling Chen spread his arms and cautiously felt the objects around him, step by step, he moved forward, calling out Zhu Xiaozhu's name.

However, the lab was very spacious, and visibility was extremely low due to white smoke enveloping the area. Two minutes passed, but Ling Chen still couldn't find Zhu Xiaozhu.

At that time, smelling the pungent odor, Ling Chen suddenly felt something unusual with his body, feeling drowsy and unable to muster his energy. He shook his head and muttered to himself in surprise, wondering why he now felt unwell despite being fine just moments ago.

While he was pondering, he heard Hu Fei's voice coming from the lab's loudspeaker: "Ling Chen, be careful—the white smoke is aerosolized anesthetic. The greater the amount sprayed, the higher the concentration. It can easily cause people to lapse into unconsciousness. Be very careful not to get affected."

Upon hearing Hu Fei's warning, Ling Chen finally understood.

So the white smoke contained the effects of the anesthetic, no wonder he was feeling unwell.

"Ling Chen, wait a moment, I've already sent someone with a gas mask for you."

As soon as Hu Fei's voice faded, Ling Chen heard footsteps approaching from his left.

"Who's that?" Ling Chen asked, heading towards the direction of the footsteps while reaching out his hand, "Hand it over to me."

However, as soon as he finished speaking, he heard the footsteps stop. For a long while, there was no response from the person in the white smoke. Seeing this, Ling Chen opened his mouth, ready to speak again. But before he could say anything, he heard a voice not far away, "Mr. Ling, where are you? I've brought the gas mask."

Hearing that voice, Ling Chen's expression changed abruptly. He had thought the footsteps earlier were from Hu Fei's subordinate, but now it seemed that was not the case.

With thoughts racing through his mind, Ling Chen quickly stepped back twice, staring intently at the white smoke before him, he demanded firmly, "Who are you? Speak!"

But no matter how Ling Chen called out, the other party remained silent.

At this point, something dawned on Ling Chen, he hastily asked, "Fatty, besides me and Zhu Xiaozhu, is there anyone else in the lab?"

"Uh... oh right, there's also Miss Xia. When the incident happened in the lab, the researchers were conducting a physical examination on her."

"Xia Mutong?" Ling Chen was startled, could it be that person just now was... As this thought crossed his mind, Ling Chen urgently commanded, "Everyone get out, immediately!"

"Hey! Ling Chen, what's going on?" Hu Fei asked anxiously.

Before Ling Chen could respond, someone suddenly burst out of the white smoke like lightning, rushing swiftly towards him. When the figure got close, Ling Chen finally confirmed that the silent person was indeed Xia Mutong.

Damn it!

Cursing under his breath, Ling Chen yelled, "Fatty, didn't those idiots inject any anesthetic during the examination?"

"They did indeed."

"Mr. Ling, we administered ten milliliters of anesthetic."

Hearing the voice of a researcher over the loudspeaker, Ling Chen couldn't help but curse, "Only ten milliliters? You idiots, I..." but then he didn't know how to continue.

It seemed that this incident wasn't anyone else's fault. Xia Mutong had only been brought in today, and he hadn't had a chance to instruct those researchers. Xia Mutong's condition was different from Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun; she required a higher dosage of the anesthetic, so the normal dose was insufficient.

The researchers must have neglected the fact, leading to an insufficient dosage of the injection, which is why Xia Mutong woke up midway through.

Without time to think further, Ling Chen stepped back, blending into the white smoke, disappearing in an instant. Avoiding Xia Mutong's attack, Ling Chen hurriedly ran towards the back. Currently, the white smoke enveloped the surroundings; he couldn't see Xia Mutong, and Xia Mutong couldn't spot him either.

However, this situation wouldn't last for long. The white smoke contained anesthetic vaporized into the air, and if he kept breathing it in, he would definitely pass out.

Therefore, he had to find Zhu Xiaozhu and leave with her while he was still able to stay conscious.

"Fatty, lock down the lab."

"Lockdown?" Hu Fei said in surprise, "Are you crazy? If the lab is locked down, no one can get in or out, you and Miss Zhu will be trapped inside, do you..."

"Enough, stop wasting time, just do as I say," Ling Chen urged impatiently.

Thinking of Nanrong Wanqing and everyone else outside the lab, Ling Chen had no choice but to make this decision. If Xia Mutong escaped from the lab, who knows how much damage would be caused; it would put everyone's life at risk. After careful consideration, locking down the lab was the best course of action.

Under Ling Chen's pressing, Hu Fei had no choice but to activate the lockdown procedure for the laboratory.

For a moment, all the glass doors and windows around the laboratory were separated with thick steel plates.

Looking at the locked-down laboratory, Nanrong Wanqing outside expressed anxiously, "Ling Chen hasn't come out, are you just going to leave him?"

Hu Fei, feeling helpless, said, "There's no choice, it was Ling Chen's decision, we can only follow suit. Moreover, Miss Xia has woken up, if we let her escape, the consequences would be unimaginable."

"Miss Xia? Who is that?"

"Xia Mutong, Miss Nanrong should know her."

"Her?" Nanrong Wanqing nodded lightly, "I know her, but what danger can she pose?"

"Miss Nanrong, the matter is a long story, now's not the time to explain." Having said that, Hu Fei led the people to the office, connected to the laboratory's monitoring system through the computer, and checked the situation inside the lab. Unfortunately, too much white smoke billowed in the lab, which hindered the surveillance cameras' view distance, making it impossible to locate Ling Chen.

With no other recourse, Hu Fei had to turn the lab's audio receiver to the maximum, to receive signals from inside and thus determine whether Ling Chen was safe.

But after a few minutes, the laboratory was silent, without a sound.

"What's happening, why is there no movement at all after such a long time?" Nanrong Wanqing asked, fraught with concern.

"Don't worry, I am aware of Ling Chen's capabilities; he won't easily get into trouble," Hu Fei responded.

"That... Mr. Hu, could it be that Mr. Ling has been affected by the anesthetic, so..."

Hearing the researcher's speculation, Hu Fei frowned slightly and said, "You're saying he passed out?"

"It's a possibility."

Kaelina spoke gravely, "How about letting me lead a team inside to find Ling Chen and Miss Zhu?"

"This..." Hu Fei hesitated indecisively, uncertain whether to send people in or not.