

The Beauty 691

Chapter 691 Kill with One Arrow

Seeing Liu Dongsheng injured, He Ziyun didn't miss this grand opportunity. As Huang Qianqiu was in a momentary daze, He Ziyun flicked his steel sword, creating a sonorous ring, and swiftly stabbed toward Huang Qianqiu.

Swoosh!

Huang Qianqiu, who hadn't reacted in time, hurriedly stepped back to dodge the steel sword's attack. But before he could fully evade, the sword's edge still grazed his arm, slicing a long wound in his sleeve and causing blood to flow freely, dripping from his fingertips onto the ground.

"You..." Feeling the pain in his arm, Huang Qianqiu's face drastically changed. He quickly covered the wound with his hand, and retreated speedily until he was back within his own people's formation.

He Ziyun gave a light snort, advanced a few steps, and said coldly, "Huang Qianqiu, are these the tactics you've learned from God Organization? I thought you would have something impressive, but it turns out it's all just despicable moves. Truly a disgrace to martial artists."

Hearing He Ziyun's rebuke, Huang Qianqiu's face turned a mix of green and red, and he roared with humiliation, "Attack! What are you blanking out for?"

As his voice fell, several men from behind rushed forward and surrounded He Ziyun.

Taking advantage of He Ziyun being entangled with those men, Kaelina stealthily slipped out of the laboratory, quickly ran to Liu Dongsheng's side, lifted him from the ground, and then hurried back into the lab.

"Miss Zhu, please take a look at him for us."

"Put him down."

Once Liu Dongsheng was lying on the bed, Zhu Xiaozhu placed her hand on his pulse, then checked his body.

"Don't worry, although the injuries are a bit severe, there's no life-threatening danger. I'll have someone give him a few shots, and after some rest, it won't be long before he wakes up."

"Thank you!"

Liu Dongsheng was safe for the moment, allowing Kaelina to breathe a sigh of relief. She then turned her gaze to the laboratory's glass window. At this moment, He Ziyun was fighting several men singlehandedly. Not only was he not showing signs of defeat, but he was also becoming more valiant as the fight went on, suppressing all the Dragon List experts.

Seeing He Ziyun easily battling several experts, Huang Qianqiu's expression involuntarily changed. At this moment, he finally understood why he had been so easily defeated by his opponent. According to his knowledge, He Ziyun's strength was ranked sixth on the Earthly List, but from the power He Ziyun had shown, it was evident that he had already entered the top five.

Although there is not a large gap between fifth and sixth, the difference in strength between the two is like heaven and earth. Everyone knows, whether it's the Dragon List, the Earthly List, or the Heavenly List, being in the top five is a watershed that represents breaking through limits to reach another level.

Now, He Ziyun had broken through that level, reaching a higher realm.

No wonder, if He Ziyun's strength was still at the sixth place of the Earthly List, he couldn't have been defeated so easily.

Huang Qianqiu frowned tightly, originally thinking that the manpower he brought would be sufficient to deal with all scenarios. What he didn't expect was a high-ranking Earthly List master popping up halfway and throwing a wrench in their plans.

With He Ziyun present, completing their mission would be very difficult. If they continued, they were likely to lose more men.

Thinking this, Huang Qianqiu said while backing away, "Everyone, retreat immediately."

Hearing his command, those who were entangled with He Ziyun didn't hesitate, immediately withdrawing from the battle and running toward the outside. But just as Huang Qianqiu was preparing to lead his people to escape from the base, suddenly came the sound of 'whoosh,' a noise of something cutting through the air.

Right after that, everyone saw Huang Qianqiu at the front halting his steps, his body rigidly falling backward.

When Huang Qianqiu fell to the ground, everyone saw that there was an arrow lodged in his forehead.

For a moment, everyone stood there in shock, frozen in place, at a loss. No one expected that a grand master of the Earthly List would die like this.

Arrows...

Upon seeing that arrow, everyone's mind immediately conjured up one person.

The Archer God, Zhang Zhongfeng!

Only the Archer God could, with just a longbow and a single arrow, kill a top expert from the Earthly List.

With this thought, everyone anxiously looked around, each feeling precarious, their palms drenched in sweat, fearing they would be the Archer God's next target.

"Those who don't want to die better surrender now, don't say I didn't give you a chance."

At this time, an indifferent voice reached everyone's ears. Looking towards the source, they saw Ling Chen leading Qiu Yong and others walking from the base entrance.

"Th... The Eight Eccentrics..."

Upon recognizing the newcomers, the experts sent by the God Organization instantly lost their courage to fight; one by one, they lowered their heads, consciously throwing their weapons onto the ground, and surrendered without resistance.

The Eight Eccentrics!

As members of the Martial Arts community, there were few who hadn't heard of the notorious Eight Eccentrics. Now that their only reliance, Huang Qianqiu, was dead, how could they, on their own, muster the courage to fight the Eight Eccentrics? That would undoubtedly be a death wish. Surrendering might still leave them with a sliver of a chance to save their lives.

Seeing those people genuinely giving up resistance, Ling Chen nodded and snapped his fingers, "Little Eight, tie them all up."

"Roger that!" Wei Jiahao grinned and pulled out several ropes, dashing over to them.

With several experts from the Dragon List surrendering, the rest of God Organization's members naturally did not dare to resist anymore.

Once everyone was controlled, Ling Chen walked over to He Ziyun with Qiu Yong and others, smiling, "Mr. He, we owe you a lot for showing up just in time today. Thank you!"

He Ziyun waved his hand, "No need for thanks, it's what I should do."

After speaking, He Ziyun greeted each of the Eight Eccentrics in turn.

At this moment, with the danger averted, Kaelina and others walked out from the laboratory.

Seeing those subdued members of God Organization, Ling Chen raised an eyebrow and asked, "Where's Lin Jiawei? Didn't that guy come along?"

Kaelina shook her head, "We didn't see him; he should still be outside."

"We've dealt with the people outside, but didn't find any trace of Lin Jiawei." Saying this, Ling Chen sighed helplessly, "He escaped again, I thought we could catch a big fish this time."

"Ling Chen, how do you plan to deal with these people?"

"Interrogate them first to see if we can get some useful information. I'll contact the government's special department tomorrow and hand these people over to them. Then it's up to them to decide whether to kill or detain them, it's none of our business." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen looked at Kaelina, "You've had it rough this time."

"It wasn't tough on me; the truly hard work was done by someone else. If it wasn't for Liu Dongsheng lending a hand, the base would probably have been overrun already."

"That's right." He Ziyun nodded in agreement, "That guy named Liu Dongsheng even saved my life. I don't know how he's doing now. Ling Chen, I didn't expect that you had secretly hidden a master here."

Chapter 692 Ghost Tiger (1)

"Expert?" Ling Chen asked in confusion, "What expert?" As soon as he finished speaking, Ling Chen suddenly realized something and exclaimed in surprise: "Are you talking about Liu Dongsheng as the expert?"

Seeing He Ziyun and Kaelina both nodding, Ling Chen grew even more puzzled. He had fought side by side with Liu Dongsheng, and while it was undeniable that Liu Dongsheng had skills, they were far from reaching the level of a true expert. Moreover, Liu Dongsheng did not show any signs of being a martial artist.

Therefore, he couldn't understand why even He Ziyun would consider Liu Dongsheng an expert.

As he was pondering, he heard He Ziyun say: "Liu Dongsheng even managed to kill an expert from the Dragon List. Isn't that enough to be considered an expert?"

Killed a Dragon List expert?

Upon hearing this news, not only Ling Chen but also Qiu Yong and the others showed a hint of curiosity, and asked interestedly, "Mr. He, could it be that Liu Dongsheng is an expert who has the strength of the Dragon List but has yet to be included on it?"

"I can't be sure," replied He Ziyun. "Liu Dongsheng doesn't seem like someone who has trained in martial arts, but his skills are indeed impressive. Frankly, I really want to know how he does it. If he hadn't passed out, I would have liked to ask him myself."

Seeing everyone's keen interest in Liu Dongsheng's identity, Ling Chen said, "Wanting to know who he is isn't difficult, just call over Hu Fei and ask him. He knows the most about Mr. Liu's background."

Speak of the devil, and he shall appear!

As they were talking, they saw Hu Fei briskly heading towards the lab.

"Hey! Fatty, why are you running so fast?" Ling Chen called out.

Hu Fei didn't turn back, as if he hadn't heard Ling Chen's call, and directly rushed into the lab. Seeing this, Ling Chen simply took Qiu Yong and the others to the lab as well.

In the lab, Liu Dongsheng was lying on a bed with Zhu Xiaozhu and several other medical researchers treating him.

After asking a few questions, Hu Fei learned that Liu Dongsheng's condition was not life-threatening, which relieved him quite a bit.

"Fatty," approaching closer, Ling Chen looked at the bedridden Liu Dongsheng and asked: "Who exactly is he? You've never mentioned him to me before."

"He..." Hu Fei hesitated, seeming reluctant to reveal Liu Dongsheng's real identity.

"You don't need to keep hiding it for him," intervened Kaelina. "I think I already know who he is." Looking at Ling Chen, she said, "If I mention his name, I believe you must have heard of it."

Hearing this, Hu Fei chuckled wryly and said: "You're an assassin, and I knew I couldn't fool your eyes. Well, since you've already guessed his identity, there's no point in hiding it from you anymore. Liu Dongsheng is his real name, that's true, but he used to have a nickname, called 'Ghost Tiger.' Anyone who's been in this line of work should have heard this nickname."

Ghost Tiger?

At this revelation, the expressions of everyone present changed simultaneously.

It's actually Ghost Tiger!

Ling Chen widened his eyes in disbelief as he looked at the unconscious Liu Dongsheng. He had never expected that this unimpressive looking man was actually a world-famous assassin!

"It's hard to believe he is actually Ghost Tiger," said Xu Ming with a tsk.

A surprised Ling Chen asked, "Second Brother, you've heard of him too?"

Xu Ming nodded and said, "Heard of him, yes. That was many years ago. I was just over twenty years old then, probably around his age. At that time, I was just a rookie, while he was already a top-tier world-known assassin."

Considering this, Ling Chen thought that made sense. Xu Ming and Liu Dongsheng were about the same age, both in their forties or fifties.

Ghost Tiger! Once the number one on the assassin list. If Blood Wolf is a legend of the assassin world, then Ghost Tiger is the myth of the assassin world. There were so many stories about Ghost Tiger circulating in the assassin community, and almost every assassin idolized him as their role model and goal.

Ghost Tiger became the number one assassin in the world before he was even twenty. Ling Chen knew he had killed his fair share of people over the years, but compared to Ghost Tiger, it was like comparing a minor magician to a grand sorcerer with no comparison. It was said that by the age of twenty, the number of people who died by Ghost Tiger's hands had already exceeded three hundred.

Ghost Tiger was famous for his brutality, ruthlessness, and extraordinary skills.

The nickname 'Ghost Tiger' perfectly represented his personality.

'Ghost' described his speed, ghostly and elusive, making him hard to grasp. 'Tiger' described his ferocity. Facing an enemy, Ghost Tiger showed no mercy, cutting down all, leaving no survivors. However, Ghost Tiger had one principle: he did not kill women and children.

Sometimes, to deal with a powerful leader, other assassins might opt for assassination, first devising a meticulous plan and then executing it. But Ghost Tiger wouldn't bother with such complexities; he liked to keep things straightforward and brutal, directly storming into the enemy's headquarters, slaying gods if they blocked his path, and Buddha if they stood in his way. Anyone who dared to hinder his mission had to die.

Over the next twenty years, Ghost Tiger undertook hundreds, if not thousands, of missions. So, in terms of killing, no one could surpass Ghost Tiger.

In those days, governments from various countries tried to capture Ghost Tiger, an international fugitive, dispatching countless manpower and resources. But without exception, not only did they allow Ghost Tiger to escape easily, but they also suffered heavy casualties.

"Ghost Tiger's skills are incredibly formidable; I have no idea where he learned them from," Qiu Yong remarked.

Continuing, Qiu Yong adjusted his words and said, "There are some things you might not have heard of. Initially, governments from various countries couldn't handle Ghost Tiger and had to reluctantly seek help from the Huaxia government, hoping that Huaxia could dispatch some true experts to assist in capturing Ghost Tiger. After all, everyone knew that Huaxia was the real dwelling place of hidden dragons and crouching tigers, filled with numerous experts. At that time, the Huaxia government agreed

to this request and selected a few experts from the Martial Arts world, one of whom was my old friend, who told me about this."

"At first, the plan went very smoothly. They tracked down Ghost Tiger's whereabouts, secretly followed him, and when Ghost Tiger reached a secluded place, several experts attacked simultaneously, surrounding him, ready to capture him. You know, the experts from Huaxia are extremely proud when they step outside their country. At that time, those experts didn't take Ghost Tiger seriously at all, considering him merely an assassin who knew some killing tricks but not martial arts. However, exactly because of this reason, those experts were disastrously defeated by Ghost Tiger, and only my friend barely escaped with his life. Unfortunately, although he survived, both his legs were crippled, confining him to a wheelchair for life."

Taking a deep breath, Qiu Yong let out a sigh, seemingly feeling sorry for his old friend.

Chapter 693 Ghost Tiger (2)

So there's more to the story.

Ling Chen nodded to himself, realizing that if it weren't for Qiu Yong bringing it up, nobody would have known about this past.

Ghost Tiger had been in the game for over twenty years, with countless kills and innumerable opponents defeated, firmly holding the top spot on the assassin list, and nobody could shake his standing in the assassin community. Back then, Ghost Tiger could be described as the emperor of the assassin world. Both the assassin and mercenary communities viewed him as an unbeatable myth.

But when Ghost Tiger was in his thirties, for some unknown reason, he suddenly vanished without a trace. Many had looked for clues of Ghost Tiger's whereabouts but found none, and in the end, they had no choice but to let the matter drop. Rumors circulated that Ghost Tiger had been killed in revenge by an enemy, and others said he had been on a plane that had a bomb installed, blowing it out of the sky. Even someone as skilled as Ghost Tiger couldn't possibly have survived a plane crash. In short, there were many rumors about Ghost Tiger.

Since then, Ghost Tiger had become a myth in the assassin world.

Ling Chen still vividly remembered that just a few years after Ghost Tiger's disappearance, he had started his own career as a "ghost", hence missing the chance to witness Ghost Tiger's elegance.

Following Ghost Tiger's disappearance, Blood Wolf, who had always been second on the assassin list, was moved up to the first position, while Ghost Tiger was subsequently demoted to second. The reason Ghost Tiger was still kept on the assassin list ranking was partly as a sign of respect from his peers, and partly because many assassins still held out hope that Ghost Tiger would return to the Martial Arts World.

However, nobody would have expected that the once illustrious number one on the assassin list would become a restaurant owner, taking up the chef's knife himself—an astonishing turn of events.

Looking at Hu Fei with displeasure, Ling Chen said, "You... you've been hiding such a renowned master and didn't even tell me. If it weren't for what happened this time, were you planning on keeping it a secret from me forever?"

Hu Fei helplessly replied, "How can you blame me? Liu specifically instructed me to never reveal his identity. If people found out that Ghost Tiger was still alive, especially here in East Sea City, who knows how many enemies would come knocking on his door."

Hearing this, Ling Chen nodded. Hu Fei had a point; after all, Ghost Tiger's identity was significant. If word got out, even Hu Fei could be implicated. Nevertheless, Ling Chen was curious and asked, "Fatso, how did you get involved with him?"

"That's a long story. I was one of the early starters in this business, learning from a senior for several years, and so I started my own gig at sixteen. Coincidentally, my very first business deal was with Liu. He contacted me back then, hoping I could help him change his name, conceal his identity, and find a place where no one would ever find him. At that time, I didn't know Liu was Ghost Tiger, and I thought, since it's my first deal, I must do it right."

"At first, I set Liu up on an island nation abroad, but it didn't take long for people to show up, pressuring me to give up Liu's whereabouts. You know, in our line of work, reputation is everything. Eventually, when I was cornered with no choice left, I had to call Liu for help. I still remember that night, if Liu hadn't arrived in time, I would've been dead. It was also that night when Liu confessed his identity to me, hoping I could help him."

"I asked him why he needed my help when there were many more capable people in the industry. He told me he wanted someone clean, a newbie, because those veterans had too complex a network of

connections that could easily blow his cover. Since then, I've moved Liu around to several places, finally settling in East Sea City, where I helped him open a small restaurant. As for what happened after, you know the story."

After listening to Hu Fei's tale, Ling Chen asked, "Did he ever tell you why he chose to retire?"

"He said he had killed too many people, became numb, tired; he felt more like a beast than a human. So, he wanted to change his lifestyle, live like a normal person," Hu Fei added, "At least that's what he told me."

Qiu Yong interjected, "Even if he has some unspeakable secret, he wouldn't disclose it. Let it go! Anyway, he did us a huge favor this time; both morally and emotionally, we ought to thank him properly."

"You're right." Ling Chen looked around at everyone present and said, "Guys, you're all my friends. I hope you'll keep what was just said in mind and not spread it around. I think he wouldn't want his identity exposed. Otherwise, it would lead to a lot of trouble later on."

Everyone echoed in agreement, "Don't worry, we won't talk."

Having discussed Liu Dongsheng's identity issue, Ling Chen shifted his focus to the recent loss. Thankfully, with the help of Liu Dongsheng and He Ziyun, the casualties among the base personnel were kept to less than ten. However, the death of those security officers still weighed heavy on Ling Chen's heart.

After all, these security officers were former thugs, who, under the training of Jiang Yunkai, had grown step by step into their roles. Later on, the base selected dozens of the finest among them and entrusted them with important duties within the base.

When selecting these security officers, Ling Chen had considered many factors. Facing off against the God Organization, casualties were inevitable. So, he had specifically instructed Jiang Yunkai to make things clear to everyone involved.

As a result, most of the security officers chosen by Jiang Yunkai were orphans with no parents. In this way, if they were unfortunately killed in action, there'd be no family concerns. Of course, in terms of salary and benefits, Ling Chen was very generous to the base's security officers, offering them what they couldn't get elsewhere.

People risk their lives for your cause; they deserve ample rewards. Ling Chen was very willing in this respect, as he'd been through it himself.

After spending the whole night cleaning up the base, Ling Chen was too lazy to return to Wealthy Manor and chose to sleep over at the base.

It wasn't until noon that Hu Fei knocked on his door to wake him.

Rubbing his sleepy eyes, Ling Chen opened the door and, while yawning, looked at Hu Fei standing outside and asked, "Fatso, what's up? Are you waking me up for lunch?"

"Eat, eat, eat, that's all you ever think about. Hurry up and come with me, we've made a big breakthrough this time."

"Breakthrough?" Ling Chen shook off his grogginess and quickly asked, "What kind of breakthrough?"

With a mischievous grin, Hu Fei said, "Stop asking so many questions. Just come with me."

Chapter 694 Lin Jiawei Captured

Seeing Hu Fei hurriedly walking out, Ling Chen didn't have time to think further and, without even washing his face, quickly followed him.

Soon, the two arrived at the base's solitary interrogation room. Pushing open the door, Ling Chen looked at the man sitting on the chair, his expression instantly froze, and for a long while, he couldn't recover his senses.

Hu Fei, with a smile creasing his eyes, patted Ling Chen's shoulder and grinned, "How about that, the catch is big enough, isn't it?"

Ling Chen pointed at the man on the chair, his face full of surprise as he asked, "How did you find him?"

"Humph! This guy thought he could escape from East Sea City, not realizing whose territory East Sea City is. With the intelligence network I've operated here for so long, he seriously thought he could run away, what a fool's dream." Hu Fei said proudly: "Early this morning, this guy made contact with someone, trying to leave by boat from the port. But what he didn't know was that the port is filled with our people. As soon as he showed up, he was spotted by my men, then directly stuffed into the trunk of a car, and brought here."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen smiled, looking at the man in the chair and said, "Lin Jiawei, you didn't expect to end up in my hands after all that, did you?"

The person tied to the chair was no other than Lin Jiawei, who was in charge of last night's operation.

During the attack last night, he was sitting in a café across the street monitoring the situation. When he saw the operation had failed, he slipped away at once and contacted members of the God Organization to secretly extract him from East Sea City. Unfortunately for him, he was caught at the port before he could even board a ship.

"Fatty, well done. This is a great merit for you." Having said that, Ling Chen brought over a chair, placed it in front of Lin Jiawei, and started speaking, "Mr. Lin, first it's thirty years east of the river, then thirty years west of the river. You didn't expect you'd have such a day, did you?"

Lin Jiawei snorted coldly, "Ling Chen, don't celebrate too early. What can you do with me captured? You dream if you think you'll get even half a word out of my mouth. You might as well just kill me quickly and save everyone's time."

"No rush, no rush." Ling Chen said with a smile, "You should know my background. Back in the days with the Phantom, I've dealt with many like you, always believing their mouths were tough and wouldn't say anything. But, with just a little technique from my side, regardless of who it is, they would all obediently cooperate with me." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "I know you are with the God Organization, and they must have trained you in case you were caught to avoid leaking secrets. But have you thought about it, I've been dealing with the God Organization for so many years, do you think I have no way to deal with you?"

Hearing this, Lin Jiawei wasn't moved in the slightest and coldly said, "At most, I'm just a mid-level manager in the God Organization, I don't know many secrets. You won't get much from me anyway."

"Mid-level manager?" Ling Chen shook his head and muttered to himself, "Lin Jiawei, you sell yourself short. I can assert with certainty that your position in the God Organization is not low, it is actually very high."

Lin Jiawei let out a cold laugh and asked, "On what grounds do you believe that?"

Ling Chen stared into Lin Jiawei's eyes, saying word for word, "It's precisely because you are with the Ling Family. Lin Jiawei, being a smart man, you should understand my meaning."

With these words, Lin Jiawei's complexion finally changed, revealing a hint of shock. Noticing Ling Chen's mocking smile, Lin Jiawei turned his head away, casting his gaze on the wall, and said in a deep voice, "I don't know what you're talking about, this Ling Family you mention, I've never even heard of it."

"Alright, no need to deny it. Although I don't have much information right now, it's sufficient to prove the connection between your Ling Family and the God Organization. To be honest, even if I split my head thinking about it, I wouldn't have imagined that the God Organization was secretly funded by the Ling Family. I can't figure out why your family would do such a thing, with so many industries already, in Huaxia there are few who can compete with your wealth and power. Isn't it good enough to be the peaceful emperor of the south? Why stir up so much trouble, harming so many people, do you folks in the Ling Family have any conscience at all?"

Lin Jiawei replied calmly, "That's all in your head, I won't acknowledge your words."

Ling Chen waved his hand, "I didn't expect you to admit it anyway, but no matter, the evidence I have on hand is already enough to prove what I just said. Once I hand this evidence over to the government, your Ling Family can just wait for your downfall."

"Suit yourself." Lin Jiawei seemed unfazed, the surprise in his eyes had long been replaced with calm, without a ripple to be seen.

"Lin Jiawei, I advise you to cooperate a little, it will be good for your future. If the judge asks, I can still plead for you, lighten your sentence, so you might see the sun again within your lifetime."

"Cut it out! Ling Chen, I'm not a three-year-old kid. Do you think I'd fall for that? Don't waste your time trying to wheedle information out of me, I'm not buying it. If you want to take action, just cut to the chase, stop beating around the bush. I'd love to see what you can possibly do to make me speak."

Seeing Lin Jiawei's indifferent demeanor, Hu Fei said unhappily, "You're really asking for trouble. Alright then, wait and see, I'll make you regret it."

With that, Hu Fei turned and walked out of the interrogation room.

Seeing Hu Fei leave, Ling Chen looked at Lin Jiawei, then stood up and followed Hu Fei.

Once outside the interrogation room, Ling Chen called out to Hu Fei, "Where are you going?"

"That guy named Lin is so arrogant, he needs a proper lesson. Just wait, I'm going to get some tools."

"Alright, you don't need to be busy with that now, it's not the time to take action."

"Why not?"

"We have him in our hands; we can act at any time. But the most important thing now is not this, it's something else."

Hu Fei asked, puzzled, "What could be more important than this?"

Ling Chen said in a serious tone, "Now that we've captured Lin Jiawei, if his position in the God Organization is as high as I say, they will surely not let it go. I'm worried they will attack the base like last night. The location of this research base is already exposed, and our situation is very unsafe, therefore, you will have to work hard for a while, find a way to strengthen the base's defenses, and make sure that a similar incident doesn't happen."

"That does make some sense, but... do you really think Lin Jiawei holds a high position in the God Organization?"

Ling Chen nodded, "Didn't you check the information last time? Since Lin Jiawei is with the Ling Family, they will not let their kin be sacrificed in vain. Besides, I think there are not only problems with this Lin Jiawei, but also very big ones."

Chapter 695 The Banquet

"A big problem?" Hu Fei asked confusedly, "Where is the problem? I didn't sense it."

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "I can't articulate it clearly at the moment, but it's a kind of intuition. Think about it, when Lin Jiawei kidnapped the porridge girl, Ji Gang, an expert from the Heavenly List, was also present. If Lin Jiawei's status in the God Organization wasn't high, why would they dispatch an expert from the Heavenly List to accompany him? That's one thing. Another point is, the last time Lin Jiawei came to East Sea City, Ji Gang was with him; clearly they were aware that I am not easy to handle, so they sent someone who could hold the fort. But what about this time? Lin Jiawei wanted to come to the base to rescue people, and though he brought a good number of men, there weren't that many real experts with him. Last time, he was protected by an expert from the Heavenly List, but this time he only had a bottom-ranking expert from the Earthly List. Isn't the discrepancy too big? That's why I'm wondering if there might be an issue."

After listening to Ling Chen's speculation, Hu Fei nodded convincingly and said, "If you put it that way, indeed there seems to be a problem. All right, what do you suggest we do? I'll follow your lead."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, then said, "Don't act against Lin Jiawei for now, let's see how the God Organization reacts."

"Not act against him?"

"Correct, we'll detain him for the time being and monitor his movements 24 hours a day, and decide what to do after observing for a few days."

"Okay then." Hu Fei was somewhat reluctant but still followed Ling Chen's arrangements. Watching Ling Chen turn and walk to the interrogation room, Hu Fei suddenly called out to him, asking, "I say, you are

also from the Ling Family. In terms of relations, Lin Jiawei is your elder, you wouldn't be thinking of going easy on him, would you?"

Ling Chen didn't turn his head back and waved his hand, "Rest assured, we've discussed this long ago. If necessary, I will personally deal with him."

"That's good."

Returning to his room, Ling Chen lay on the bed, staring blankly at the ceiling, his expression somewhat vacant.

Back then, that mysterious man told him about the Ling Family and the God Organization's affairs and repeatedly warned him not to get involved lightly. Presumably, he was considering his identity. After all, no matter how much he denied it, he could never change the blood relationship he had with the Ling Family.

When that time came, would he truly be able to steel his heart and deal with everyone from the Ling Family?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen couldn't help but feel a headache. He patted his forehead, sat up from the bed, and decided not to think about those annoying matters.

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In the blink of an eye, a week had passed.

During these days, Ling Chen stayed at the research base to prevent further attacks from the God Organization. However, to Ling Chen and Hu Fei's surprise, the God Organization did not make any moves and did not even send someone to contact them to negotiate the release of hostages.

Ling Chen became even more puzzled by the indifferent attitude shown by the God Organization. Could it be... Lin Jiawei was right, and the God Organization really decided to abandon him as a pawn?

Amidst his thoughts, a ringtone came from his pocket.

Ling Chen took out his phone, glanced at the caller ID, and immediately answered the call, saying, "Hello! Wanqing, is there something you need?"

"Are you busy? Do you have time tonight?"

"I'm not busy. What's up?"

"I've just secured a big business deal, and the other party has organized a dinner. They invited me, and I couldn't refuse, so I was thinking of bringing you along. Can you..."

"No problem." Without waiting for Nanrong Wanqing to finish, Ling Chen immediately agreed. He would naturally not refuse when his girlfriend asked for his company. Besides, there was nothing to attend to at the research base and no need to stay there all the time.

"Wait for me at the company. I'll pick you up after work."

After setting a time, Ling Chen hung up the call and checked the time; it was already five o'clock in the afternoon, with half an hour left until Nanrong Wanqing finished work. To save time, Ling Chen said goodbye to Hu Fei and then drove off to Hongyu Group.

Arriving at the CEO's office on the top floor of the group, Nanrong Wanqing was already prepared.

Although she was attending a dinner, Nanrong Wanqing hadn't dressed up specially, still wearing her usual simple attire. However, even the simplicity seemed exquisite on Nanrong Wanqing, highlighting an exceptional temperament.

Her fair skin gleamed like snow, and her delicate face and features seemed sculpted by an artist, flawless and captivating, like a freshly bloomed exquisite flower, exuding endless charm and fragrance.

Seeing Ling Chen appear at the office door, Nanrong Wanqing's lips curled into a slight smile. She quickly walked over to Ling Chen, naturally took his arm, and then headed to the elevator.

On the way, Ling Chen asked, "What big deal did you close today?" He knew well that for Nanrong Wanqing to call it a 'big deal,' it must not be simple, at least involving billions.

Sure enough, as soon as she mentioned the business deal, an excited smile appeared on Nanrong Wanqing's pink cheeks as she replied, "A large company has just moved into East Sea City, and they want to develop here. Though they have substantial funds, they lack the necessary connections, so they want to collaborate with our Hongyu Group, using our resources to help them open channels. I've calculated that if this collaboration is successful, Hongyu Group's annual profits could increase by a few percentage points, which is a significant uplift for the group."

Hearing this, Ling Chen said with a smile, "That sounds great. Oh! What kind of company are they?"

"They are mainly into pharmaceuticals, besides medical equipment and related accessories. They have been in this field for many years, rich in experience, with collaborations with many domestic hospitals. However, their business has always been in the south, and now expanding to East Sea City, they wish to expand their business empire. I've thought it through, although Hongyu Group is good, it's only famous in East Sea City. Looking nationwide, there are too many local large enterprises like Hongyu Group. To spur the growth of Hongyu Group, we must expand. Fortunately, our Hongyu Group has never touched the southern market of Huaxia, so with this opportunity, I can use their channels to try to develop in the south. It's a win-win situation for both parties."

Ling Chen nodded, "You're better at business than I am, you decide."

As they conversed, they left the Hongyu Group headquarters side by side and stepped into Ling Chen's Audi car.

"Where are we going for dinner?"

"Head to Hundred Garden, I've been there once, go that way."

Following Nanrong Wanqing's direction, Ling Chen started the car and drove straight to the destination.

In the evening, at a quarter past six, Ling Chen and Nanrong Wanqing smoothly arrived at Hundred Garden.

Chapter 696 Hundred Garden

Hundred Garden is a garden-style restaurant located in a bustling area with an elegant environment. All the buildings in the restaurant are constructed of bamboo, and interspersed among them are artificial mountains and flowing water, giving diners the feeling of being amidst nature.

In East Sea City, dining at this restaurant is quite expensive. If it weren't for the fortunate association with Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen himself would have been unwilling to spend money here a hundred times over. He already has a research base to sustain and is stretched thin with financial needs everywhere; he simply doesn't have the extra money to splurge.

Arriving at the private room reserved by the other party, Ling Chen opened the door, ushered Nanrong Wanqing in, and then followed closely behind her into the room.

At this moment, two middle-aged men in their forties or fifties sat in the room, dressed in tailored suits with shiny hair and friendly smiles on their faces that made one feel very at ease.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing enter the room with Ling Chen, the two men stood up politely and greeted, "Chairman Nanrong, you finally arrived. Please, have a seat!" As he spoke, one of the men eagerly pulled out a chair and invited Nanrong Wanqing to sit down.

"There's no need for such courtesy between us. Since the cooperation deal is settled, we are friends from now on," Nanrong Wanqing responded with polite remarks.

"Indeed, indeed." In the midst of their conversation, the two men finally shifted their gaze to Ling Chen, scrutinizing him before one of them asked with a smile, "Miss Nanrong, may I ask, who is this gentleman?"

"My name is Ling Chen," he introduced himself, reaching out his hand, "Wanqing is my girlfriend."

"So, this is Mr. Ling." The middle-aged man shook Ling Chen's right hand, his smile growing even brighter, "Mr. Ling, it's a pleasure to finally meet you."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing glanced at Ling Chen with surprise and asked, "Do you two know each other from before?"

Ling Chen shook his head, looking puzzled at the middle-aged man. He was certain he had never seen this man before, so he did not understand the meaning behind his words. With thoughts racing, Ling Chen spoke, "Sir, I think you have mistaken me for someone else; I do not seem to recall knowing you."

The smile on the middle-aged man's face remained unchanged as he replied, "What, Mr. Ling doesn't recognize my voice?" Without waiting for Ling Chen to speak, the man continued, "Never mind! After all, we've only spoken over the phone once, so it's normal for Mr. Ling not to remember me. Let me introduce myself – my surname is Lin, full name Lin Guodong. Now, do you have any impression?"

Lin Guodong?

Ling Chen's expression shifted abruptly, and he swiftly withdrew his hand from Lin Guodong's grasp, his eyes narrowed with hostility, then he quickly moved to Nanrong Wanqing's side and shielded her behind him.

"So, it's you!" Ling Chen furrowed his brows and said with a stern voice, "Lin Guodong, you've got some nerve showing up here. Aren't you afraid I'll kill you?"

Lin Guodong remained seated calmly, smiling as he replied, "Mr. Ling, there's no need to panic. I come with no ill intentions this time, just a simple wish to meet you. Also, there is something I would like to discuss with you in earnest. Come, have a seat, don't stand there." Saying that, Lin Guodong pressed a button on the table. Shortly after, a waiter entered the room.

"Good evening, may I assist you with anything?"

"The dishes can be served now, and bring another bottle of red wine."

"Yes, please wait a moment."

After the waiter left, Ling Chen glanced at Lin Guodong and the other middle-aged man and asked, "What are you really up to?"

"Nothing really. I just want to have a talk with you. Mr. Ling, please feel at ease. I assure you, nothing untoward will happen tonight. Whether or not we come to an agreement, after a satisfying meal, we will go our separate ways, with no troubles between us."

"Do you think that's possible? I've been looking for you for so long, and now you've delivered yourself to me. Do you really think I'll let you walk away easily?"

Lin Guodong smiled faintly: "Mr. Ling, you were once deceived by Lin Jiawei. How can you be sure that I am indeed Lin Guodong? Perhaps I am a stand-in, just like Lin Jiawei. If I were you, I wouldn't act recklessly until I was certain. Otherwise, it would be no good for anyone."

Hearing this, Ling Chen fell into hesitation. What Lin Guodong said was not false; although the person claimed to be Lin Guodong, he could not be sure. Moreover, he did not know if there were any other God Organization members inside Hundred Garden. Of course, there was also the most important figure, Ji Gang. If it were indeed Lin Guodong in person, Ji Gang would surely provide covert protection to prevent any danger to Lin Guodong.

With these thoughts, Ling Chen pressed down his internal impulse and took a seat next to Nanrong Wanqing.

At this moment, Nanrong Wanqing was entirely confused by the dialogue between Ling Chen and Lin Guodong. It was supposed to be her attending this dinner, but as things stood, she was not the protagonist of this meal, Ling Chen was.

"Ling Chen, who is he?" Nanrong Wanqing couldn't contain her curiosity and asked.

"Definitely not a good person. Be careful later, and if anything happens, just run outside. I will ensure your safety," Ling Chen replied, slipping his hand into his pocket and stealthily took out his cell phone, then brought up the camera function.

At that moment, the waiter pushed the door open and came in with the food cart. As a variety of delicious dishes were set on the table, Ling Chen cautiously lifted his cell phone's camera above and surreptitiously took a photo of Lin Guodong's face.

With the photo captured, Ling Chen immediately composed two text messages and sent them out.

"Mr. Ling, here's to an infrequent meeting. Let's have a toast."

Seeing Lin Guodong raising his glass, Ling Chen put away his phone and responded indifferently, "No need for that. I'm not in the mood for wine today. Let's talk business instead, to avoid wasting everyone's time."

"Alright," Lin Guodong nodded and said, "Since Mr. Ling is so forthright, I'll get straight to the point – I think... you should know what I want."

"Lin Jiawei," Ling Chen uttered three words.

"Exactly. I know that Lin Jiawei is in your hands, and I hope you can return him to me."

"And if I say no?"

"Then I have no other choice but to prepare a coffin for him. However, Mr. Ling, I hope you think it through. Even if you don't consider for yourself, think of your lady. We are now in a partnership with Hongyu Group, contracts have been signed, and we will inevitably deal with each other in the future. If something were to happen then, don't blame me for not having warned you."

Ling Chen's face darkened as he retorted sharply, "Are you threatening me?"

"No, no, that's not what I mean. I just want to give you a friendly reminder. Besides, if Chairman Nanrong breaks the contract, there would be a substantial penalty fee to pay. Mr. Ling, you wouldn't want your lady to suffer losses for nothing, would you?"

Chapter 697 Ling Kun's Whereabouts

Ling Chen furrowed his brow and said in a deep voice, "Lin Guodong, if you think you can use this matter to threaten me, then I advise you to give up that idea. Don't forget, your background is not clean, and I can have someone take you away at any time and make sure you never escape from prison for the rest of your life."

Lin Guodong, unbothered, smiled and said: "Ling Chen, do you think I really care about that? I know you have some leads, but those leads are evidence to you, yet they mean nothing to me, they don't pose any threat to me. Of course, if you want to play, then I will play along, let's see who has the last laugh."

After speaking, Lin Guodong sipped some red wine, then stood up from his chair, patted the shoulder of the middle-aged man next to him, and said, "Mr. Ling, I've said my piece, I'll give you one day to consider it. If you agree to my offer and release Lin Jiawei, I guarantee your woman won't be harmed in the slightest. Otherwise, you will bear the consequences."

After finishing his statement, Lin Guodong put down his wine glass and turned to walk outside.

Seeing Lin Guodong approaching the room's entrance, Ling Chen shifted his body, hesitating and contemplating whether to make a move. Just then, Ling Chen felt a buzzing from his pocket—a text message alert.

Pulling out his phone, Ling Chen glanced at the message and his eyebrows raised instantly.

"What's the matter?" Nanrong Wanqing beside him asked.

"It's nothing," Ling Chen replied, then put his phone back in his pocket, withdrawing his gaze from Lin Guodong's departing figure, no longer focusing on him.

After they left, Ling Chen didn't stay much longer, taking Nanrong Wanqing with him and heading straight to the research base.

Upon their arrival, already informed by a phone call, Hu Fei was waiting at the entrance. Seeing Ling Chen holding Nanrong Wanqing's hand, Hu Fei hurried over and eagerly asked, "How did it go, did you catch Lin Guodong?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "It's no use catching him; he's not the real Lin Guodong, just a representative."

"Are you sure?"

"Absolutely sure."

Previously at Hundred Garden, Ling Chen had secretly taken a front-face photo of the man and then sent it to Liu Xiyao. If anyone knew Lin Guodong well, it was Liu Xiyao, so he asked for her help. It was Liu Xiyao's reply confirming the man's identity that made Ling Chen lose interest in him.

Regathering his thoughts, Ling Chen changed the subject and asked, "How's the matter I asked you to handle going?"

"Elder Qiu and the others are already interrogating Lin Jiawei. Do you want to come and watch?"

"Sure..." As soon as the word left his mouth, Ling Chen realized it was inappropriate and quickly cut himself off, looking at Nanrong Wanqing and saying, "You go with the fatty for a while, have some food, I'll join you home once I finish here."

Without a word, Nanrong Wanqing nodded obediently and followed Hu Fei to his office to rest.

After seeing the two of them off, Ling Chen rushed alone to the interrogation room. Upon entering, he immediately smelled blood. Looking intently, he saw Lin Jiawei with blood all over his mouth, tied to a chair. Blood was streaming from the corner of his mouth and staining his shirt red.

"Ling Cheng, you're back!" Qiu Yong nodded at Ling Chen and said, "This guy is stubborn as hell, won't open his mouth. I was afraid of threatening his life, so I didn't dare to be too harsh. Now that you're back, I'll leave it to you to handle."

Hearing this, Ling Chen walked up to Lin Jiawei, looking at him with admiration and said, "I admit, I underestimated you."

Lin Jiawei 'ptui' spit out a mouthful of bloody saliva, his mouth corners slightly raised, coldly chuckled and said, "You've never thought highly of me, so how could you now underestimate me. Ling Chen, use whatever methods you have, if I beg even once for mercy, then I am not Lin Jiawei."

"You were never Lin Jiawei to begin with, your real name is Ling Jiawei." After saying this, Ling Chen reached out to grab a few tissues from the table, helping Ling Jiawei to wipe clean the blood stains around his mouth, and said, "Just now, Lin Guodong sent someone to negotiate with me, giving me a day to hand you over."

"Really?" Lin Jiawei said with a half-smiling expression, "And will you agree?"

"I could let you go, but... you'll have to answer me a few questions first. Lin Jiawei, I believe there's no one in this world who is not afraid of death. Since there's a chance to continue living, why would you refuse?"

After contemplating for a moment, Lin Jiawei asked, "What do you want to know?"

"Ling Kun!" Ling Chen pronounced two words, saying, "As far as I know, a man named Ling Kun was captured by your group, passed through Jinhai City recently, I don't know where he was taken, and I want to know his whereabouts."

"So you are looking for your father." Lin Jiawei revealed an expression of sudden realization, grinning cynically and said, "Your father is really heartless, tossed you aside, let you fend for yourself, regardless of your life or death... now that he's in trouble, why should you risk your life for him?"

"That's my concern, not yours. Tell me, where is he?"

"If you want to save him, I advise you to give up that thought. To tell you the truth, your father is in Ji Gang's hands, if you have the ability, go kill Ji Gang. However, I don't think you can do that, at most, you'll just lose another life."

Ji Gang?

Ling Chen was startled and quickly asked, "How did he end up in Ji Gang's hands?"

"Because your father is very capable, except for Ji Gang, very few can subdue him. Thus, leaving him in Ji Gang's custody is the safest option." Pausing for a moment, Lin Jiawei continued, "Don't say I didn't warn you, if you want to save your father, better to hurry. Once he loses his usefulness, Ji Gang will definitely kill him mercilessly."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's face changed slightly, he grabbed Lin Jiawei's collar and demanded, "Quick, tell me, where is he?"

"How would I know that? Ji Gang directly takes orders from the highest leader of God Organization,

Chapter 698 Nine Elements Pill

After hearing Lin Jiawei's words, Ling Chen was slightly stunned. It seemed that, according to Lin Jiawei, there was another type of Heavenly Mechanism Pill in addition to the three kinds he knew of.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen couldn't help but shift his gaze towards Qiu Yong and the others. They were relatively familiar with the matters of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and must have heard about this.

However, Qiu Yong and the others looked at each other, all shaking their heads, indicating they had no knowledge of the matter.

"Could it be... that the rumor is true?"

At this moment, everyone just heard Xu Ming muttering to himself, standing alone in the corner.

Ling Chen, curious, asked, "Second Brother, what rumor are you speaking of?"

"I once had dealings with an expert from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and during that time, I accidentally heard him mention something about the Heavenly Mechanism Pill," Xu Ming paused slightly, then continued, "The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion indeed only has three types of Heavenly Mechanism Pills: ordinary, fine, and top-grade, each with its own level. However, there is one exception, and that is the existence of the Pill King."

"The Pill King?" Hearing this unfamiliar term, Ling Chen and the others were taken aback, as it was the first time they were hearing about the Pill King.

Compared to Ling Chen and the others' surprise, Lin Jiawei seemed much calmer, as if he felt no curiosity.

"Second Brother, please continue," urged Qiu Yong.

"Yes!" Xu Ming nodded and said, "Pill King is a nickname; its accurate name should be Nine Elements Pill. The Nine Elements Pill is not intentionally crafted by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; this pill is about chance."

Xia Yue, curious, asked, "What kind of chance?"

"When the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion refines top-grade Heavenly Mechanism Pills, if more medicinal herbs are added, there's a certain chance that a Nine Elements Pill will be produced from the pill concoction. However, this probability is extremely low, less than one percent. Therefore, the Nine Elements Pill is incredibly precious and listed as the most valuable treasure of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, seldom used. It is said that despite many years since the establishment of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the number of Nine Elements Pills can be counted on one's fingers. Because this is an internal secret of the Pavilion, very few people outside know about it."

After hearing Xu Ming's explanation, Wei Jiahao asked, "Second Brother, if it is a secret, why would someone from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tell you?"

"I said, it was by chance," Xu Ming explained, "After I met that person, we chatted casually for a bit and then had a few drinks together. Who knew that person couldn't hold his liquor well, and after just a few bottles, he was completely drunk, rambling on and on, including the matter of the Nine Elements Pill."

"I see."

While everyone appeared to understand, they all knew clearly that Xu Ming's story was obviously made up.

No matter how careless the people of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion were, they wouldn't easily reveal their secrets to outsiders. Since Xu Ming was unwilling to elaborate, it wasn't good to press further.

"Correct!" Lin Jiawei, who had been silent until now, said, "What he said is right; Ji Gang wants the Nine Elements Pill. Ling Chen, if you can get your hands on the Nine Elements Pill, I can help you reach out to Ji Gang at that time. I believe that as long as you use the Nine Elements Pill for a trade, Ji Gang will definitely agree to exchange Ling Kun."

Nine Elements Pill...

Ling Chen frowned silently. Since the Nine Elements Pill was so important to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it was unlikely that they would easily give it to him. Even though his relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master Su Mei was good, it wasn't to the extent where she would hand over such a valuable pill.

After much consideration, Ling Chen couldn't think of a suitable approach for the time being.

"Sixth Brother, why bother with all this trouble, just directly exchange him for your father," Xia Yue suggested.

Hearing this, Lin Jiawei couldn't help but smile and shook his head, saying self-assuredly, "If you really want to do that, then I advise you to drop the idea. Compared to Ling Kun, I'm essentially worthless. Exchanging someone worthless for someone valuable, do you think the God Organization would make such a foolish decision?" Lin Jiawei looked at Ling Chen and said, "Trust me, apart from the Nine Elements Pill, Ji Gang will not agree to any trade with you. Instead of wasting time with me, you'd be better off thinking about how to get the Nine Elements Pill. Since you have a good relationship with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I think you'll be able to find a solution."

"Alright, I have answered your question, is there anything else you want to know?"

"Lin Guodong," said Ling Chen. "I want to know everything about him."

"Sorry, I can't answer that for you."

"Y-... "

Before Ling Chen could finish, Lin Jiawei had already cut him off, continuing, "It's not that I refuse to tell you, but that I don't know. No one knows the whereabouts of Lin Guodong, including myself, so there's no point in wasting time here with me. I've said before, you won't get anything out of me, because I simply don't know, and asking is futile."

Watching Lin Jiawei speak, Ling Chen wasn't sure whether he was telling the truth or lying.

"Do you have any other questions?"

Ling Chen shook his head; at this moment, his thoughts were on the Nine Elements Pill, worried about his father's safety. As for other matters, he really wasn't in the mood to think about them.

"Big Brother, let's go out first, and later have Fatty take him to the cell," Ling Chen said as he stepped towards the exit of the interrogation room.

However, before he could reach the door, Lin Jiawei called out, "Hey! Ling Chen, I've told you everything, are you going to let me go or not?"

"I'll consider it first."

Lin Jiawei let out a snort of laughter, "Still considering? Since when did you, such a decisive person, become so indecisive?"

Ling Chen didn't bother responding to him and left the interrogation room.

Outside, seeing Ling Chen immersed in thought and not speaking, Qiu Yong couldn't help but ask, "Sixth Brother, you're not seriously thinking of letting him go, are you?"

Ling Chen nodded and replied, "There's no other way, even if I can bear the loss to Wanqing, I can't stand by and watch my father be in danger. Moreover, my father is in the hands of Ji Gang, a master on the Heavenly List; what could I possibly use to fight against him?"

"But... do you think the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will hand over the Nine Elements Pill to you?" asked Xia Yue, still worried.

Ling Chen gave a wry smile. Honestly, he had absolutely no confidence, and could even imagine Su Mei refusing him. But since it was up to him to decide, he had to think of a way, and perhaps there might be other routes to explore.

"Big Brother, don't worry about this; I will handle it."

This time, the usually silent Xu Ming said, "If you really intend to ask the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for the Nine Elements Pill, why don't we accompany you? At the very least, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion should give us some consideration."

"That's right, Second Brother has a point," Qiu Yong patted Ling Chen on the shoulder and said, "Sixth Brother, since we're all brothers, rest assured, we'll do our utmost to help rescue your father."

"Thank you, Big Brother."

"What's there to thank among brothers? Alright, that's settled then, just let us know when you decide to go to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Chapter 699 Reunion with Su He (1)

After handling Lin Jiawei's affairs, Ling Chen took Nanrong Wanqing directly back to Wealthy Manor.

On the way back, Ling Chen drove in silence, his thoughts having flown to who-knows-where. Sensing Ling Chen's unusual demeanor, Nanrong Wanqing hesitated several times, but ultimately resisted the impulse to ask what was on his mind.

Upon reaching the Nanrong Family home, Ling Chen escorted Nanrong Wanqing back to her room, then turned around preparing to leave. Seeing him about to take his leave, Nanrong Wanqing grabbed his hand and asked, "You've been distracted ever since we returned. Are you troubled by something?"

Ling Chen put on a strained smile and said, "No, I'm just a bit tired these past few days."

Nanrong Wanqing didn't believe his words at all. Having spent so much time with Ling Chen, she knew him too well. Normally, once Ling Chen entered her room, he wouldn't leave so quickly and would certainly hold her tenderly for a while. But today's Ling Chen was completely different from usual. It was evident that not only was he preoccupied, but his concerns were also significant.

"Is it because of something related to the God Organization?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Don't worry, I will handle everything properly." After a pause, he changed the topic, "By the way, I might leave East Sea City for a while after tomorrow. There are some urgent matters to attend to, and I don't have time to delay." Saying this, Ling Chen, worried that Nanrong Wanqing would be anxious, quickly added, "Rest assured, I'm just meeting a few friends, there will be no danger."

"No matter where you go, just be careful. I don't want anything to happen to you," Nanrong Wanqing urged with much concern.

"I know! It's getting late. You should rest soon and don't stay up too late. You still have to go to work tomorrow."

...

Returning to his own bedroom, Ling Chen lay on his bed with the lamp on, hands cushioning his head, pondering how to get the Nine Elements Pill from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

While deep in thought, Ling Chen's gaze was suddenly drawn to a skull placed on the decorative cabinet.

The skull was positioned directly across from the foot of the bed, its dark hollow eye sockets seemingly staring at him, exuding an inexplicably eerie feeling.

Despite Ling Chen's great skill and courage, the skull's gaze made him feel uneasy. He got up from the bed, walked to the decorative cabinet beside the wall, and reached out to take the skull down.

This skull wasn't merely a decoration, but an actual human skull. Once, Su Lin, who majored in archaeology, attended an auction and purchased an antique weapon, the Blood Dripping Device. This skull was hidden inside the Blood Dripping Device, and it startled Su Lin when she first acquired it.

Looking at the skull in his hands, Ling Chen couldn't help but wonder about the identity of this person. He pondered why someone's head was severed using the Blood Dripping Device.

Blood Dripping Device...

Thinking of this ancient weapon, Ling Chen turned his head and locked his gaze onto the Blood Dripping Device.

Recently, Ling Chen had been too busy to study this ancient weapon. Regarding the Blood Dripping Device, he had only looked up some information online and didn't know much about it.

The Blood Dripping Device was a peculiar weapon, used in ancient times specifically for beheading people, extremely brutal. Once it enveloped someone's head, the victim would almost certainly be decapitated. Therefore, it wasn't just a weapon but also a murderous tool.

Ling Chen put down the skull and held the Blood Dripping Device with both hands, inspecting it thoroughly. At the tip of the Blood Dripping Device was a thin chain, about ten meters long, which could be wound around the wrist, making it highly flexible and convenient to use.

After fiddling with it for a while, Ling Chen discovered a subtle mechanism at the tip of the Blood Dripping Device. By activating the mechanism, one could retract the device, making it convenient to carry on the waist or in hand.

Moreover, once the mechanism was mastered, using the device was simple: just control the mechanism and toss it lightly, and the Blood Dripping Device would unfold instantly, assuming its complete weapon form.

After several attempts, Ling Chen found it increasingly amusing, and it made him forget about his previous headache-inducing issues.

However, mastering the use of the Blood Dripping Device was not easy—it required a perfect combination of wrist movements, arm strength, and force. Any slight deviation could cause the Blood Dripping Device to miss its target.

To train his precision, Ling Chen placed the skull five meters away on the ground and, holding the Blood Dripping Device in one hand, gently threw it towards the skull. Unfortunately, after several attempts, the device kept falling beside the skull instead of accurately covering it.

However, after a few failures, Ling Chen gradually learned to control the strength and technique.

Thankfully, Su He once guided Ling Chen on the skill of 'control', so he mastered the control of force quite quickly. After more than two hours of trying, Ling Chen understood the key to using the Blood Dripping Device.

At around five meters distance, although he couldn't guarantee one-hundred percent accuracy, he could at least ensure about eighty percent, which was rapid progress.

However, when he extended the distance to six meters, Ling Chen's accuracy dropped to twenty percent, not even half.

"So that's how it is," Ling Chen murmured to himself, nodding thoughtfully.

To accurately control the Blood Dripping Device, not only did one need the coordination of technique and strength, but also strong enough Inner Strength to support it. The longer the distance, the harder the control. With Ling Chen's current ability, it wasn't difficult to manage within five meters, but beyond that, the difficulty increased dramatically.

It seems I still need to improve my Inner Strength cultivation, Ling Chen thought to himself.

Indeed, ever since learning the skill 'control', his mastery over Inner Strength had greatly improved, and even when facing opponents slightly stronger than himself, he could remain unbeatable.

However, technique was just technique, and the enhancement of one's own strength was what truly mattered. It seemed that he still needed to intensify his training to join the ranks of the high-level fighters on the Earthly List sooner.

Had this been in the past, Ling Chen certainly wouldn't have such motivation. In his eyes, practicing martial arts was merely for fun, no concern for strength or weakness, without excessive pursuit. But after experiencing so many events recently, Ling Chen felt his lack of power more and more. If only he were stronger, he could handle crises with greater ease.

Heavenly List top fighters...

Sigh!

Thinking of Ji Gang, Ling Chen couldn't help but let out a sigh.

Initially, to rescue the porridge girl, Ling Chen specifically made a trip to Jinhai City, seeking out the reclusive Su He, hoping the latter could lend a hand. However, Su He directly refused his request, indicating he would no longer emerge from retirement.

It was because of this that Ling Chen had to seek help from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Thinking of his upcoming visit to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, a thought crossed Ling Chen's mind, and he once again entertained the idea of seeking out Su He.

If... perhaps there was indeed a chance of success.

Chapter 700 Reunion with Su He (2)

The next day.

Ling Chen woke up from the bed, and not long after having breakfast, he received a call from Hu Fei, Lin Jiawei had been released.

Ling Chen had already made his decision last night, so he was not surprised. Although Hu Fei said that someone had been secretly sent to follow him, Ling Chen did not hold much hope.

"Right! Ling Chen, when Lin Jiawei left, he left a phone number, he asked me to pass it on to you. Remember to contact him using that number after you get the Nine Elements Pill."

"Got it." Saying this, Ling Chen changed the topic, instructing, "Help me tell my big brother to go to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion first, I will make haste to meet up with them."

"You are not going with them?"

"No, I still have an important matter to handle, I'll head there afterward."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen and Zhong Wei escorted Nanrong Wanqing to the Hongyu Group headquarters. After saying goodbye to Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen drove to the airport alone. By then, Hongyu Group's private jet was already arranged and waiting for Ling Chen to board.

After an hour-long flight, the plane safely landed at Jinhai City Airport.

Leaving the airport, Ling Chen rented a car nearby and spent approximately two hours on the road before finally arriving at Su He's secluded residence.

Looking at the dilapidated wooden cabin, Ling Chen quickly walked to the door, knocked, but no one responded inside.

Pushing open the door, unsurprisingly, the cabin was empty. At this time, Su He probably went out to sea fishing.

Living here, with wilderness all around and not even a power line, let alone electronics and mobile phones, Ling Chen had no way to contact anyone else. No other choice, Ling Chen sat outside the house, gazing at the rolling waves, patiently waiting for Su He's return.

By dusk, after waiting for several hours, Ling Chen finally saw a fishing boat approaching from the sea.

When Su He's gaunt face came into view, Ling Chen quickly stood up and waved to him.

"Elder Su."

As the fishing boat reached the shore, Ling Chen smiled and went up to help Su He with his fish basket and fishing net, and also helped drag the boat ashore.

Su He, unceremoniously, drank water and sat aside to rest.

Only after Ling Chen finished the chores did Su He speak, "What brings you here this time? I remember I made it very clear last time that I would not leave my seclusion unless it's something special. If you want me to help you, I advise you to dismiss that thought."

Ling Chen hurriedly replied, "Elder Su, you misunderstand, I indeed came to ask for your help, but I'm not asking you to come out of retirement."

Hearing this, Su He's expression slightly softened, "If that's the case, I might consider it. Tell me, what do you need help with?"

"It's like this." Ling Chen cleared his throat and seriously said, "Elder Su, you must be aware of the Nine Elements Pill."

At the mention of the Nine Elements Pill, a hint of surprise flashed across Su He's calm face. He put down the water bottle, looked up at Ling Chen, and asked neutrally, "How do you know about the Nine Elements Pill?"

"It was mentioned by a friend of mine. Elder Su, although you don't want to talk about your past, I understand that there must be a history between you and the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Hence, I hope you can help me see if there's a way to obtain the Nine Elements Pill."

"You want the Nine Elements Pill?" Su He shook his head and said, "I advise you to let go of that thought, it's impossible. Not just any outsider, even the key members within the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion can't easily obtain the Nine Elements Pill. Kid, regardless of how you learned about the Nine Elements Pill, you should give up early on."

Seeing Su He present a stance that leaves no room for negotiation, Ling Chen was forced to speak the truth.

"Save your father?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Elder Su, not to hide it from you, the Pavilion Master of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is also my friend, I wouldn't have asked this if it wasn't for something extremely important. There's no other way this time, my father has fallen into Ji Gang's hands, other than the Nine Elements Pill, there's nothing else that can exchange for my father's release. Elder Su, he's my father, I can't just watch him die, no matter the cost, I must ensure his safety."

"This..." Su He pondered for a moment and said, "Since you know that only a Heavenly List expert can consume the Nine Elements Pill, then you should be even more aware that once you give the Nine Elements Pill to Ji Gang, it will greatly enhance his strength. At that time, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion will certainly face threats from Ji Gang. You're only thinking about your father, have you considered the consequences?"

"As for the consequences, those are matters for later, I can't even save my father now, how can I think about other things." Saying this, Ling Chen suddenly knelt to the ground, kowtowed to Su He, and earnestly said, "Elder Su, I've never asked anything from you, I hope you can help me this time. If there's ever a day you need me, whether through hell or high water, I will not refuse."

Looking at Ling Chen's hopeful face, Su He sighed helplessly and said, "Well, since you put it that way, I'll help you this time. However, I must clarify, even though I'll help you, whether you can achieve it still depends on your own ability."

Ling Chen was overjoyed and said, "Thank you, Elder Su!"

"Don't thank me just yet, wait until you successfully obtain the Nine Elements Pill." Saying this, Su He stood up and walked into the house. After a while, Su He returned, approached Ling Chen, and handed over a finely crafted dagger engraved with the character 'He,' saying, "Take this dagger to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, if I remember correctly, soon there will be a grand event at the Yangxin Pavilion, that will be your only chance to obtain the Nine Elements Pill. With this dagger, they won't stop you from attending."

Ling Chen held the dagger with both hands and gratefully said, "Thank you, Elder Su."

"Remember! Don't reveal any information about me to anyone asking, including my current whereabouts. If you dare say an extra word, don't blame me for turning my back on past kindness," Su He instructed.

"Yes, Elder Su, rest assured, I won't say a word."

"Good, it's getting late, you can make do for the night here, and head to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tomorrow. Before you go, I still have some things to explain to you."

As night fell!

The darkness engulfed the sea, with only the rumbling sound of the waves, surging powerfully, ceaselessly beating against the shore.

Outside the cabin, Ling Chen and Su He sat in front of the bonfire, under the light of the flames, enjoying the freshly roasted sea fish.

Ling Chen took a bite of the crispy on the outside, tender on the inside sea fish and asked, "Elder Su, what else do you need to explain?"

"The grand event at Yangxin Pavilion... I won't elaborate on that, you'll naturally understand when you get there. What I need to tell you is, everyone participating in that event is from Yangxin Pavilion, and

everyone will stop at nothing to defeat their opponents and win the final victory, so you must be careful."