

The Beauty 751

Chapter 751 Teach a Lesson

As soon as Ling Chen's words fell, Qiu Yong and the others immediately understood and, without waiting for Su Mei to speak up and stop them, they all struck at once, charging towards Tang Yan with the intent to teach him a lesson.

If Tang Yan were only facing Xu Ming alone, he might dare to fight back. But facing the combined forces of the eight oddities, Tang Yan had no courage to clash with them head-on.

Seeing the crowd charging at him, Tang Yan's legs kicked against the wall behind him twice, and his body suddenly leaped high, vaulting over Xu Ming's head and heading straight for the door.

However, just as Tang Yan was about to land at the door, he suddenly felt a tight grip on his right ankle.

Startled, he quickly looked down and saw Xu Ming had grabbed his right foot with his right hand. Without waiting for Tang Yan to react, Xu Ming's right arm violently pulled, flinging Tang Yan's body against the wall with great force.

"Still trying to escape?" Xu Ming snorted lightly, took three steps in quick succession which seemed like two, and instantly closed in on Tang Yan, grabbing his collar and yanking him up from the ground.

Just as Tang Yan tried to resist, a sharp arrow suddenly struck him, hitting the collarbone of his right shoulder and piercing from front to back.

In an instant, blood gushed forth, staining his clothes crimson.

Injured by the arrow, the Hua Realm energy that Tang Yan had just gathered was immediately scattered. At the same time, Xu Ming clenched his fist and quickly launched a punch forward, sending Tang Yan flying once again.

Thud!

A spurt of fresh blood, and Tang Yan's face instantly turned pale.

"Elder Tang!"

Seeing Tang Yan in such a state, Su Mei's delicate face was filled with concern, unsure of what to do next.

"Ling Chen!" After some thought, Su Mei could only seek help from Ling Chen. At this moment, except for Ling Chen, no one else could stop Qiu Yong and the others.

If Ling Chen continued to ignore her after she spoke again, it would be too unkind.

"Miss Su, this is a private matter between us and Tang Yan, you'd better stay out of it."

As he spoke, Tang Yan suffered another heavy blow from Qiu Yong, spewing blood and lying on the ground, unable to get up for a while. It was clear that he had sustained severe injuries.

At this moment, Yuan Yun and Xia Yue arrived together, swords and knives in hand, slashing down towards Tang Yan's body from above.

"Stop!"

At this critical moment, a loud shout suddenly rang out. Following that, two whooshing sounds were heard.

Clang clang!

With two crisp sounds, the swords and knives in Yuan Yun and Xia Yue's hands were knocked aside, avoiding Tang Yan's body.

Everyone looked up to see Du Kang rushing over from outside. It was his timely intervention that spared Tang Yan from further injury.

"Everyone, stop!" Du Kang said with furrowed brows, stepping forward.

Xu Ming hesitated for a moment, nodded at Qiu Yong beside him, and then stepped back.

Looking at Tang Yan lying on the ground covered in blood, Du Kang's eyes flashed with surprise. He had rushed over in a hurry when he received the notification, fearing that Qiu Yong and the others would come to harm. As an elder of the Yangxin Pavilion, Du Kang was well aware of Tang Yan's strength; the combined power of the eight oddities was still not enough to deal with Tang Yan.

What he didn't expect was for Tang Yan to end up in such a tragic state, while Qiu Yong and the others were unscathed.

While contemplating, Du Kang looked up at Qiu Yong and said, "Gentlemen, no matter what happened just now, I hope you can all give this old man some face and not continue this further."

"Elder Du has spoken, and we will certainly grant this face," Qiu Yong replied.

When a martial arts expert from the Heavenly List speaks, one cannot fail to give face. Moreover, Ling Chen has a good relationship with Du Kang, so it would be inappropriate to make things difficult for Ling Chen.

"Elder Tang."

At this moment, Ling Chen approached Tang Yan and asked, "I would really like to know, who told you that I had a conflict with Tong Nan?"

Tang Yan bit his lip, snorted coldly, and seemed as if he hadn't heard what was said.

Seeing that Tang Yan refused to respond, Du Kang said in a stern voice, "Tang Yan, answer when you are asked a question."

With Du Kang giving the order, Tang Yan did not dare to disobey, regardless of how much he might resent it.

"It was Liang Zheng who told me."

"Liang Zheng?" Ling Chen nodded to himself; so it was that person, no wonder. His relationship with Liang Zheng was not good, and because of him, Liang Zheng had been taught a lesson by Tong Nan last time. Liang Zheng probably held a grudge in his heart, so he told Tang Yan, trying to use Tang Yan's hand to teach him a lesson.

Unfortunately, Tang Yan never expected that the strength of the Eight Eccentrics would be so strong. It was really a case of losing a wife and an army.

"Alright, I have no more questions to ask. Elder Tang, remember, it was not I who killed your disciple. I have no interest in taking his life, and I ask that you do not disturb us in the future. This time Elder Du has intervened, but if there is a next time, don't blame us for not being polite."

Hearing these words, Su Mei let out a sigh of relief and quickly went to Tang Yan's side, reaching out to help him up.

"Elder Tang..."

"Get out of my way!" Tang Yan shouted coldly, pushing Su Mei's hand away, struggling to stand up from the ground.

Looking at the Eight Eccentrics present, Tang Yan clenched his teeth and said coldly, "Very well, remember this, Eight Eccentrics. I won't forget this debt." After saying that, Tang Yan, holding his wound, quickly walked out of the room.

After Tang Yan left, Du Kang curiously looked at Qiu Yong and the others, "Everyone, Tang Yan has been quite offensive just now, I hope you don't take it to heart."

"Ling Chen, you should rest well. I'll come back to see you later." Su Mei, thinking of Tang Yan's injury, didn't dare to stay longer, and left these words behind as she led a few disciples of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to follow Tang Yan's steps.

Seeing Su Mei and people like Du Kang leaving, Ling Chen took a deep breath and unconsciously turned his gaze towards Xu Ming. It was not just him; Qiu Yong and others also focused their attention on Xu Ming with a trace of curiosity and shock.

Everyone had clearly seen that Xu Ming had easily defeated Tang Yan. Just this fact was enough to testify to Xu Ming's great strength.

From Ling Chen's experience, Xu Ming's strength was probably extremely close to that of a martial arts expert from the Heavenly List.

Tsks! Who would have thought... that a grandmaster of such caliber was hiding right by my side.

Under everyone's gaze, Xu Ming spoke indifferently, "What are you all looking at me for?"

Wei Jiahao was the first to come to his senses and said with a grin, "Second Brother, you're truly awesome. How come I've never seen you..."

"Enough!" Xu Ming cut Wei Jiahao off, saying, "Knowing this is enough. There's no need to ask further. Even if you did ask, I wouldn't tell you." After a pause, he added, "When the time comes, I will naturally tell you all."

Hearing this, everyone had no choice but to suppress their curiosity.

Each of the Eight Eccentrics has an unknown past; if one didn't wish to disclose it, nobody would pursue the matter.

"Alright, Ling Cheng, you rest well. We're going out to take a look. Ling Hu, and Ling Ba, along with Sister Wu, you stay in the room, just in case people like Tang Yan come back to make trouble."

Chapter 752 - The Return Journey (1)

After resting for a day, early the next morning, Ling Chen got up and deliberated, thinking about leaving Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and rushing back to East Sea City.

This trip had already taken quite a bit of time, nearly half a month, and Nanrong Wanqing had called several times. Moreover, too many things had happened at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and Ling Chen really did not want to get involved and waste time.

After much consideration, it still seemed best to leave such matters to Su Mei and Du Kang to handle. After all, he was an outsider, and there was no need for him to meddle unnecessarily.

"Ling Cheng." Wei Jiahao, while yawning, walked in from outside, holding breakfast in one hand.

Ever since the poisoning incident, Ling Chen's meals were taken care of by Wei Jiahao, who borrowed the kitchen facilities and ingredients from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

"Ling Cheng, where are the others?"

"They went out early in the morning to stroll around and said they'd be back soon. Ling Cheng, did you need to see them?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "I was thinking, we've been at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for quite some time now, it's about time we head back."

Wei Jiahao laughed and said, "Actually, the others were also discussing when to leave. They stayed a few more days because they were concerned about your injuries not being fully healed."

Ling Chen patted his chest and replied, "My injuries are not a big issue anymore. Go and tell them that we're leaving today, let's not delay any further. Besides, with all the troubles at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion now, we wouldn't want to get dragged into it."

"Alright!" Wei Jiahao responded. "Ling Cheng, you eat your breakfast first, I'll go call the others." After speaking, Wei Jiahao placed the prepared breakfast on the bedside, then turned and walked out of the room.

After eating two meat sandwiches, Ling Chen patted his belly and got ready to get out of bed and move around. Although his injuries were not completely healed, walking wasn't affected as long as he did not engage in strenuous activities, and moving around occasionally was not a big deal.

Just as Ling Chen began to stretch his limbs, he saw Wei Jiahao rush into the room from outside the door, yelling loudly, "Ling Cheng, something bad has happened!"

Ling Chen was startled and quickly asked, "What happened? Did someone die again?"

"No, no one died. It's the others... they've been surrounded by people from Yangxin Pavilion," Wei Jiahao said, panting.

"What?" Ling Chen was stunned; Qiu Yong and the others were actually surrounded by people from Yangxin Pavilion.

What are those people from Yangxin Pavilion trying to do?

Without time to think further, Ling Chen hurriedly ran outside.

Leaving the residence, Wei Jiahao led Ling Chen to an empty space near the martial arts training ground. From a distance, one could see several elderly men surrounding Qiu Yong and the others, including Huang Zheng and Liang Tian. Tang Yan was the only one missing.

Presumably, since Tang Yan was injured yesterday, he was still recovering today, so he did not show up.

As they approached, everyone noticed Ling Chen's arrival and gave him a look. Yuan Yun reproachfully said, "Ling Cheng, you knew your brother was still unwell, why did you bring him here?"

Ling Chen swept a glance at Huang Zheng and others, frowning and asked, "What's going on here?"

"It's nothing, just heard that there's a great master among the eight eccentrics, so we wanted to see for ourselves." Huang Zheng replied, but his indifferent tone felt quite uncomfortable.

"See for ourselves?" Ling Chen said with a forced smile, "Is this how Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion tests people's skills? Regardless, we are guests of the Pavilion, don't you think this is quite disgraceful?"

Liang Tian said lightly, "Ling Chen, don't say that. We are all from the martial arts world, and it's normal to make friends through martial arts."

"If it had been someone else saying this, I might have believed it, but as for you two... sorry, I really don't buy it. Elder Huang, Elder Liang, if you do not want to make it difficult for Master Su, let us pass quickly and stop troubling us." Pausing, Ling Chen continued, "Such a big incident just happened at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and instead of looking for the perpetrator, you're busy making friends through martial arts, I really don't know what you are thinking."

Scolded by Ling Chen, the faces of Huang Zheng and others did not look good.

"Ling Chen, you, a young lad, what right do you have to lecture us."

"Alright, if you think I have no right to lecture you, then I will go consult Elder Du to see if he permits such actions. If that still doesn't work, I'll ask my Master and see what he thinks."

Hearing this, the eyes of Huang Zheng and others flickered, and for a long while, they couldn't say a word.

Seeing their indecisive looks, Ling Chen secretly smiled. As expected, these old fellows were indeed fearful of Su He; just by mentioning Su He, they immediately became compliant.

It seems having a robust backer is essential for handling matters.

"Fine, let's leave it at this for now, we'll have another chance to consult in the future." With that, Huang Zheng and the others glanced at Xu Ming, then turned and walked towards Yangxin Pavilion.

When they left, Ling Chen quickly walked over to Qiu Yong and the others, and asked with concern, "Big brother, they didn't mistreat you, did they?"

"No issue."

"Big brother, it seems we really should leave Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion soon," Xu Ming began to speak.

Hearing this, Qiu Yong asked, "What's up, little brother?"

"Big brother, when those people came to find us, it certainly wasn't just to make friends through martial arts, but rather to test us."

"Test?" Xia Yue asked, puzzled, "Little brother, test us for what?"

"Don't ask about it, just trust me, let's leave before they take any other measures."

Hearing this, Ling Chen looked meaningfully at Xu Ming, seemingly understanding something.

Without a doubt, the 'test' Xu Ming referred to must be targeting himself. Based on Ling Chen's assumption, Xu Ming probably had some secrets he didn't want exposed, which is why he wanted to leave so quickly.

Regardless, he also wanted to return to East Sea City soon, which coincidentally aligned with Xu Ming's suggestion.

Right away, Ling Chen spoke up, "Big brother, recently, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion hasn't been peaceful. I think we should leave soon to avoid attracting trouble."

"Alright." Qiu Yong nodded slightly, "Since you all say so, let's go. Little sister, you go pack up with Ling Cheng, and I'll go say farewell to Master Su with the others. We'll meet at the entrance later."

"Understood."

Learning that Qiu Yong and the others were leaving, Su Mei seemed somewhat surprised, originally thinking they would stay a bit longer, not expecting them to choose this time to leave.

"Elder Qiu, it's rare for you to visit, why not stay a few more days. Besides, Ling Chen's injuries have not yet healed, why not stay a little longer until his injuries get better before leaving."

Chapter 753 Return Journey (2)

"Master Su, we have been troubling you for quite a while, and besides, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has more important matters to attend to, so we won't hinder your work anymore. Whenever we are free in the future, we, the Eight Oddities, will come to bother Master Su again."

Seeing that Qiu Yong had made up his mind to leave, Su Mei found it inappropriate to ask them to stay any longer and could only say, "Very well, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has indeed not been very peaceful recently, and I have too many things to handle that I can't take care of you all." Saying this, Su Mei turned to Ling Chen and said, "Mr. Ling, please remember the words I told you before."

"Miss Su, rest assured, I will never forget them."

Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen seemed to recall something and asked, "Oh! Miss Su, there's one more thing, is there any progress on Zhu Hong's side?"

"I have already asked Elder Du to investigate, but there is still no news. Mr. Ling, I want to confirm again, are you sure you didn't see it wrong that day?"

"No." Ling Chen was one hundred percent certain, "I trust my eyes, I would never make a mistake."

"Good, since you are so sure, I will definitely urge Elder Du to thoroughly search. If I find out Zhu Hong's whereabouts, I will inform you immediately."

"Thank you for that."

After bidding farewell to Su Mei, Ling Chen and Qiu Yong and the others headed directly to the gate of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Wei Jiahao and Xia Yue had already packed up and were waiting at the doorway for everyone to arrive.

Leaving Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, Ling Chen's group headed straight for the airport.

After more than two hours of flight, the flight carrying everyone finally landed at East Sea International Airport.

Breathing in the fresh air outside, Ling Chen looked up at the distant skyscrapers, his lips curving slightly into a faint smile.

After being away for so many days, I'm finally back!

"Big brother, where are you guys planning to go?"

"We're heading to Siheyuan first to rest and recuperate for a few days, as for later... we'll see then, it's not decided yet."

"Alright, I'll leave then if there's nothing else. I'll come visit you at Siheyuan when I have time."

Hearing this, Yuan Yun jokingly said, "Ling Cheng, can't wait to see your future wife, huh? Ah! Not to criticise you, but Ling Cheng, a man should aim high and not always stay nestled in a woman's embrace, that's too unambitious."

Xia Yue shot Yuan Yun a glare and scoffed, "Ling Cheng is much more ambitious than you are, at least he has many women, and you? You don't even have one and yet have the cheek to criticize others."

"Hey! Ling Cheng, I didn't know you were so popular with women. Alright, if there are more beauties next time, don't forget to introduce me. I don't have any other demands, just as long as her temperament is better than your fifth sister's."

"What do you mean by that?" Xia Yue, hands on her hips, said irritably, "Are you indirectly complaining about my bad temper?"

Yuan Yun, with an expression that said 'you finally get it', looked at Xia Yue, and before he could speak, he provoked a fierce beating from her.

"Alright! You two stop messing around." Qiu Yong said with a laugh, "Ling Cheng, you go back first, we'll keep in touch by phone."

After waving goodbye to Qiu Yong and the others, Ling Chen hailed a taxi on the roadside and headed straight for the Nanrong Family.

Today is Saturday, Hongyu Group is off work, Nanrong Wanqing should be at home resting.

Sitting in the taxi, Ling Chen watched the traffic flash by outside the window, feeling a growing anxiety in his heart.

It's been so many days, and there's still no news from porridge girl and Yang Tao. I don't know if they are safe or if they've encountered any danger.

...

Wealthy Manor, No. 118.

Stepping out of the taxi, Ling Chen pushed open the gate and strode in.

Passing through the mansion, Ling Chen saw Nanrong Yong sitting on a rattan chair on the balcony, facing away from him, swaying to and fro with Beijing opera playing beside him, utterly leisurely.

"Old master."

Ling Chen took the initiative to greet him, but whether it was because the opera was too loud or some other reason, Nanrong Yong didn't seem to hear him and didn't respond, still squinting his eyes.

Worried that Nanrong Yong was resting, Ling Chen didn't go over to disturb him but went directly to the villa where Nanrong Wanqing lived.

Inside the spacious and bright living room, Nanrong Wanqing was dressed in loose home clothing, her long snowy legs exposed and curled up on the sofa, holding a fashion magazine in her hands and intently flipping through it. Her delicate, flawless face was pale and smooth, like that of a baby, her finely arched eyebrows exuding endless charm and allure.

The central air conditioning was on in the living room, so despite it being early spring, the room remained warm and felt not the slightest chill.

Looking at Nanrong Wanqing on the sofa, Ling Chen's gaze slid from her beautiful face down to her long, white legs.

On either side of her thighs were secured with several slender braces.

Exoskeleton armor!

Ling Chen inwardly sighed; Nanrong Wanqing's legs were his biggest concern, as he had yet to find a solution and could only temporarily use the exoskeleton armor to restore her ability to walk.

Every time he saw those legs, Ling Chen felt incredibly guilty, thinking himself incompetent for failing to cure Nanrong Wanqing.

Although he had mastered quite a few medical skills, those were only good for minor injuries and ailments; they were powerless with this kind of problem.

While thinking, Nanrong Wanqing noticed Ling Chen's presence and shifted her beautiful eyes from the magazine towards the villa's entrance.

Gazing at the not-so-far Ling Chen, Nanrong Wanqing's charming face bloomed like a resplendent flower, a sweet smile instantly appearing on both cheeks.

Facing Nanrong Wanqing's joyous eyes, Ling Chen opened his arms and said with a smile, "What are you spacing out for, come over and give me a hug."

Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing was about to get up, but then it seemed she thought of something, her leaning body suddenly fell back, her faint smile completely withdrawn, expressionless.

Then, she turned her head, lightly huffed, and picked up the magazine again, engrossed as if treating Ling Chen as air.

Well, well!

Ling Chen was amused, this girl had actually learned to sulk.

Cough, cough!

Ling Chen coughed lightly twice, trying to catch Nanrong Wanqing's attention. However, she completely ignored his presence, no matter what sound he made, she remained unmoved.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen sighed helplessly and muttered to himself, "Sigh! Coming home and not even a person to welcome me, might as well go find Fatty for a drink."

Saying this, Ling Chen turned around, and pretended he was going to walk out.

Nanrong Wanqing secretly peeked to see if Ling Chen was really leaving. When she looked up, she found that the entrance to the living room was empty; Ling Chen had already disappeared.

This jerk!

Nanrong Wanqing pursed her sexy lips, angrily throwing the magazine on the couch, her face full of displeasure.

How could he just walk away like that, such a jerk. If he dares to come back, she would definitely make him pay.

Chapter 754 Crisis at Home

"My beautiful lady, what's bothering you?"

Just as Nanrong Wanqing was thinking about how to deal with Ling Chen, the latter suddenly appeared from behind the sofa, startling her so much that she almost bounced off the couch.

It was only when she saw it was Ling Chen, Nanrong Wanqing went from worry to joy, and looked at him reproachfully, "I thought you had left. Why did you come back? Hmph! If you're leaving, then go far away and stop being an eyesore here."

Listening to Nanrong Wanqing's petulant words, Ling Chen found it amusing. In all the time he had known her, he had never seen her exhibit such girlish behavior, nothing like her usual tough woman persona. If outsiders saw this, they would likely be shocked by her demeanor.

"There, there!" Ling Chen said with a laugh, hugging Nanrong Wanqing from behind the sofa, "Don't be mad anymore. I'm back now, aren't I?"

Nanrong Wanqing grumpily said, "If you take so long to come back next time you go out, I will definitely lock the door and not let you in."

"Yes, yes, I promise I'll rush back as soon as I can," Ling Chen cooed, not knowing how many sweet words and promises he made before a smile finally appeared on Nanrong Wanqing's face.

Sitting side by side on the sofa, Ling Chen held Nanrong Wanqing's slender waist with one hand and gently stroked her thigh with the other. Although Nanrong Wanqing's legs were numb, years of maintenance meant her skin was still delicate and elastic, feeling very pleasant to the touch.

Seeing Ling Chen's suggestive actions, even though she couldn't feel them, a blush still spread over the beautiful face of Nanrong Wanqing, and she buried her whole head into Ling Chen's arms, her shy demeanor rendering him momentarily speechless.

The two enjoyed a warm moment in the living room, and occasionally, Nanrong Wanqing would ask him about his experiences in recent times, which Ling Chen casually brushed off.

Nanrong Wanqing was aware of the God Organization, but she had little knowledge of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion issues, and Ling Chen preferred not to discuss it. After all, in the eyes of ordinary people, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion belonged to another world, difficult for the average person to grasp.

"How has everything been at home recently?"

"It's been okay, just too boring without anyone to talk to," Nanrong Wanqing said, playing with her hair.

Ling Chen smiled, saying, "Weren't you often alone before as well?"

"You said it yourself, that was before. I used to be accustomed to the solitude at home, but now I'm used to having you by my side. Alone at home, I always feel like something is missing." As she spoke, Nanrong Wanqing looked up at Ling Chen's handsome face, asking, "If you have to travel far in the future, can you bring me along?"

"If I take you away, who will manage the Hongyu Group?"

"The Hongyu Group is already on the right track, it doesn't need me watching over it every day. Besides, now that Nanrong Hao is there, I don't need to worry too much."

"Haozi?" Ling Chen asked in surprise. "Has he taken over the company?"

"Not yet, he's still in his internship phase. First, let him familiarize himself with the business of the company, and after a few years of training, when he is ready to handle things independently, then I will let him take over completely. The Hongyu Group is a big company; becoming the chairman takes at least a few years."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Can that kid sit still?"

"Don't even mention it, I feel he has changed a lot compared to before. Now he is very serious and responsible in his work. Honestly, if it weren't for your help, I wouldn't know how to change him. You didn't see how happy grandpa has been these past few days. Hearing that Nanrong Hao is finally focusing on the company, grandpa praised him for being sensible and said that it's all thanks to you, insisting on rewarding you greatly."

"Reward me? How will he reward me?" Ling Chen's eyes darted as he brought his lips close to Nanrong Wanqing's earlobe and whispered, "Does it mean marrying you to me?" While speaking, Ling Chen intentionally or unintentionally touched Nanrong Wanqing's tender ear.

Instantly, Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face turned exceedingly red, her bright eyes filled with a spring-like allure, making Ling Chen utterly captivated.

If it weren't broad daylight, and fearing being seen, Ling Chen really wanted to do something naughty.

"When I just came back, I saw the old man sitting alone on the balcony, probably asleep, and he didn't hear me when I greeted him," Ling Chen changed the topic.

"You mentioned Grandpa?" Nanrong Wanqing lifted her head, looking puzzled at Ling Chen, "Are you sure you weren't mistaken? Grandpa's illness relapsed in the last few days, and he hasn't been feeling well, so he's been lying in bed with Uncle Liu by his side. I told Uncle Liu not to let him get out of bed until his health improved."

Saying this, Nanrong Wanqing put on her shoes and quickly walked towards the outside.

"Hey! Wanqing, don't be so anxious, maybe your grandpa just wanted to get some sun..." Before he finished his sentence, Ling Chen closed his mouth.

The weather today is quite cool; there isn't any sun.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing running towards the main house, Ling Chen hurriedly followed her to the room where Nanrong Yong lived.

Thump, thump, thump!

He knocked on the door, but it seemed like nobody responded inside.

"Wasn't Uncle Liu supposed to be watching Grandpa? Where did he run off to?" Nanrong Wanqing muttered while pushing the door open.

As the door opened a crack, Ling Chen seemed to sense something, his face changed drastically, and he quickly grabbed Nanrong Wanqing who was about to enter, speaking in a low tone, "Stay outside, don't go in yet."

Seeing Ling Chen's serious expression, Nanrong Wanqing couldn't help but get worried and hurriedly asked, "What happened?"

Without a word, Ling Chen stepped up to the crack of the door, grabbed the doorknob, and gently pushed it inwards. His movements were slow; as the door opened, his gaze swept through the gap, taking in everything inside the room.

Liu Kun?

Suddenly, the sharp-sighted Ling Chen noticed someone lying in the corner of the room—the Nanrong Family's butler, Liu Kun.

Without a moment to think, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes and quickly dashed into the room.

At this moment, apart from Liu Kun lying on the floor and Nanrong Yong sitting on the balcony, there was no one else in the room.

Ling Chen rushed to Liu Kun's side and checked his breathing.

Thankfully!

Liu Kun had only fainted and was not in life-threatening danger.

"Grandpa!"

At that moment, a scream came from the balcony.

Ling Chen turned his head to look, only to see Nanrong Wanqing lying on top of Nanrong Yong's body, her face full of sorrow, crying loudly, tears falling like broken raindrops onto the floor.

"Wanqing..."

Ling Chen was shocked and hurriedly rushed to the side of Nanrong Wanqing and Nanrong Yong.

Looking at Nanrong Yong sitting in the wicker chair, Ling Chen internally expressed concern. At this moment, Nanrong Yong's old face was deathly pale, his breath was faint, clearly showing signs of nearing his end.

His gaze shifting, Ling Chen suddenly noticed something next to Nanrong Yong, his pupils abruptly sharpening.

What a ruthless move!

Chapter 755 Nanrong Yong in Danger

Ling Chen frowned tightly, watching Nanrong Yong who remained unconscious, and a harsh glint flashed through his Mo Che-like eyes.

On Nanrong Yong's wrist, a cut had been made by someone, and blood gushed out from it, dripping onto the ground, almost entirely surrounding the rattan chair with fresh blood.

"Grandfather! Grandfather!"

Nanrong Wanqing cried out loudly for her grandfather, tears unstoppably streamed from her eyes, sliding down her cheeks to the ground, blending with the blood.

"Wanqing, calm down first."

Ling Chen gently patted Nanrong Wanqing's shoulder and then checked Nanrong Yong's injuries. Fortunately, they had discovered it in time. Had it been a few minutes later, even a deity would have difficulty saving Nanrong Yong's life.

Nevertheless, Nanrong Yong's condition was far from optimistic. Originally afflicted with illness and weak constitutionally, coupled with his advanced age and significantly reduced resistance, it was already very difficult for him to retain a breath of life after losing so much blood.

Relying on his years of experience, Ling Chen lifted Nanrong Yong's wrist, tore two strips of fabric from his clothing, and wound them tightly around the wound to temporarily stop the bleeding. Then, Ling Chen picked up Nanrong Yong's body, moved him from the balcony to the bedroom, and gently laid him on the bed.

Looking at Nanrong Wanqing who was standing beside, dazed and clueless, Ling Chen said, "Don't just stand there, hurry up and get someone to prepare saline solution."

"Oh!" Nanrong Wanqing hurriedly responded and rushed out of the room.

At this moment, Nanrong Yong was barely breathing, showing almost no signs of life.

No, this won't do!

Ling Chen inwardly frowned. If things continued this way, Nanrong Yong would inevitably die. He had to quickly find a way to transfuse blood.

But time was pressing, where could he find a suitable source of blood instantly? The time it would take could be wasteful. By then, it was likely that Nanrong Yong would be finished.

There's no other way... Ling Chen thought for a moment, placed his palm on Nanrong Yong's heart, and began to channel his Inner Strength, sending it through the palm of his hand into Nanrong Yong's body, struggling to maintain his life.

Since Nanrong Yong's body was greatly weakened and severely injured, Ling Chen dared not employ his Inner Strength too fiercely, fearing that Nanrong Yong couldn't withstand it, and that ruptured blood vessels would lead to death - that would be counterproductive. Therefore, Ling Chen's movements were extremely careful, always maintaining a steady rhythm.

Moreover, his own injuries had not healed, and his Inner Strength was limited; he had to use it sparingly.

Minutes passed, and Ling Chen's forehead began to be covered with sweat, his breathing growing more and more rapid.

Why hasn't she come back yet?

Ling Chen occasionally looked towards the bedroom door, growing secretly anxious. So much time had passed, and Nanrong Wanqing still hadn't returned, and he didn't know where she had gone.

Now, Nanrong Yong's body had weakened to an extreme. Once Ling Chen withdrew his Inner Strength, Nanrong Yong would undoubtedly die, unable to hold on for even a second. However, the most pressing issue was that Ling Chen himself wouldn't be able to hold on much longer in his current state.

If Nanrong Wanqing doesn't show up soon, let alone Nanrong Yong, even Ling Chen himself would be in danger.

Just as he thought this, suddenly there came a series of urgent footsteps outside the door. Then, Nanrong Wanqing appeared, accompanied by several doctors in white coats rushing in from the outside.

"Quick, quick!"

Under Nanrong Wanqing's urging, several doctors hastily opened their portable medical kits, taking out saline solution, as well as some emergency-specific drugs and equipment, and began to administer aid to Nanrong Yong.

After a minute of resuscitation efforts, Ling Chen, who had been continuously channeling Inner Strength, finally collapsed, his legs giving out beneath him as he fell to the ground, gasping for air, his complexion deathly pale and his lips devoid of any color, as if he had been seriously ill.

"Ling Chen!"

Seeing Ling Chen in such a weakened state, Nanrong Wanqing was startled and rushed to his side, helping him to sit down.

"How are you?" Nanrong Wanqing asked worriedly.

"I'm fine," Ling Chen replied weakly. Although he said this, Ling Chen knew his condition the clearest. Overexerting his Inner Strength had caused severe depletion to his body. At this moment, he was devoid of any strength, his body aching and feeling indescribably uncomfortable.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen looked at the doctors who were busy with their work, only to see them hang several bags of blood at the bedside from their medical kits to begin a blood transfusion for Nanrong Yong.

In less than a few minutes, Nanrong Yong's pale complexion finally showed some improvement.

"Wanqing, where did you find these people?" Ling Chen curiously asked.

Nanrong Wanqing had only been away for a few minutes, yet she had not only brought doctors but also prepared blood packs, and at an incredibly fast pace.

"These are private doctors hired by the Nanrong Family. Because grandpa's health is poor, he needs to undergo regular check-ups, so we've rented a villa in Wealthy Manor for them to live in, so they are available at a moment's notice. I was terrified earlier and forgot to notify them. Thankfully, they didn't come too late, or else..." Saying this, Nanrong Wanqing also felt a wave of relief.

"Ling Chen, who do you think is so malicious to harm my grandfather?"

Ling Chen shook his head, finding the situation strange as well. Nanrong Yong didn't have many enemies, save for members of Nanrong Gang's family from the past. Moreover, the grudges with the Nanrong Gang's family had already been cleared and were not pursued further. If not them, who else could it be?

While contemplating, Ling Chen saw a doctor in a white coat approach and say, "Miss Nanrong, the old master's condition is temporarily stable now. However, the old master's body is too weak; we will need to observe him for a few more days."

"Alright, then I'll be troubling you all."

"Miss Nanrong, you are too polite; this is what we should do." After speaking, the doctor looked at Ling Chen with interest and said, "To be honest, if Mr. Ling hadn't lent a hand just now, even if we had arrived, it would have been too late. I'm quite curious to know what method Mr. Ling used to sustain the old master's life?"

Ling Chen wanted to wave his hand dismissively, but his arms felt as heavy as if filled with molten lead—so heavy that they seemed impossible to lift.

After a brief response, Ling Chen let Nanrong Wanqing help him out of the bedroom.

Upon returning to his own room, the moment Ling Chen lay down on the bed, he fell into a deep sleep without uttering another word.

...

In a research base in East Sea City.

Hu Fei, with arms akimbo, sauntered through the production workshop, inspecting the output of exoskeleton armor.

Just then, Kaelina hurried over from outside and said, "Fatty, there's been progress in the laboratory."

"Really?" Hu Fei's eyes lit up, and without saying another word, he hurried toward the laboratory.

Arriving outside the laboratory, Hu Fei peered through the bulletproof glass to look inside; he saw Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun lying on the beds, continuously struggling and distorting their faces with pain as if enduring inhuman suffering.

Chapter 756 Incident at the Research Base (1)

Seeing this scene, Hu Fei immediately pushed open the laboratory door and asked the busy researchers, "How are they doing?"

"Right now, the situation isn't very clear; let's talk about it later."

Zhu Xiaozhu dropped a sentence and continued to stare at the instrument in front of her, her expression tight and highly focused.

Hu Fei moved closer, examining the data on the instrument with a curious expression.

"Miss Zhu, what do these numbers mean? And this... what does this waveform indicate?"

Hearing Hu Fei's question, Zhu Xiaozhu gave him an annoyed look and impatiently said, "Can you please leave quickly and stop hindering us here?"

After being reproached by Zhu Xiaozhu, Hu Fei obediently shut his mouth and honestly exited the laboratory.

Looking at the situation in the lab, Hu Fei thought for a while and then took out his phone and dialed Ling Chen's number directly.

However, although the call connected, no one answered.

Strange!

Hu Fei shook his head, muttering to himself, "Why isn't anyone answering the phone? That guy should have already returned."

Just as he was thinking, Hu Fei's view suddenly went dark, and the entire research facility plunged into darkness.

"What's happening?"

"Everyone, don't panic; the backup power will kick in soon."

Hu Fei had barely finished speaking when the facility's backup power immediately started up, instantly restoring the light.

Seeing all the instruments in the lab running normally again, Hu Fei breathed a sigh of relief and turned to Kaelina beside him, "Go check quickly what caused the power cut."

Kaelina nodded and immediately rushed toward the electrical room.

Upon reaching the door to the electrical room, Kaelina pushed the door open and quickly stepped inside. However, the moment her right foot crossed the threshold, she felt a gust of wind rushing toward her, pressing close in an instant.

Before Kaelina could react, a powerful force suddenly struck, heavily landing on her.

Puh!

Instantly, Kaelina spat out a mouthful of blood; her body flew backward, crashing into the wall and she fainted.

As Kaelina fainted, a person walked out of the corner of the electrical room, looked at Kaelina with a cold laugh, and then started walking out. Before exiting, that person also made sure to close the room's door tightly.

"Hey, hey! How is everything on your end?"

Outside the laboratory, Hu Fei was holding a walkie-talkie, maintaining communication with various departments, inquiring whether everything was normal after the power outage.

After receiving replies from various departments, Hu Fei finally felt relieved and continued to focus on the lab.

At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu and other researchers were not affected by the power outage; they were completely absorbed in monitoring the instruments, paying attention to the physical changes of Jiang Yunkai and Bai Huanjun, and recording them one by one.

Watching everyone busy, Hu Fei picked up the walkie-talkie, intending to send someone to check on Kaelina. So much time had passed, and there was still no sign of Kaelina returning. The electrical box room wasn't that far away; it shouldn't take this much time, unless...

However, before Hu Fei could speak, his attention was captivated by something in the lab.

At that moment, a dark shadow suddenly appeared in a dark corner of the lab. Although it was not very clear, Hu Fei was certain that it was definitely a person.

One... two... three...

Hu Fei swallowed nervously, counting the researchers present in the lab.

Five people, no one missing. In that case, why was there an extra shadow? Could it be...

Thinking this, Hu Fei's eyes widened suddenly, and he hurriedly shouted, "Quick! Come out!"

Hearing Hu Fei's cry, Zhu Xiaozhu and the others were taken aback for a moment, each wearing a puzzled look, wondering what had happened, and staring strangely at Hu Fei, not understanding what was going on.

Just as they were stunned, a cold light suddenly flashed under the light.

Following that, they saw blood splattering everywhere as a head flew up, crossed the air, and then fell to the ground under everyone's gaze.

After a brief moment of shock, Zhu Xiaozhu and the others finally came to their senses. A chorus of screams filled the lab as they each frantically ran towards the exit.

Hu Fei quickly pulled open the door of the lab, loudly urging, "Hurry up and get out!"

However, that dark shadow relentlessly followed right behind everyone. Before they could escape, the last two researchers in the line were decapitated, their heads completely severed, gruesomely bloody.

"Someone, quick, help!"

Seeing this, Hu Fei shouted into the intercom, hoping the guards at the research base would immediately arrive.

However, distant water cannot put out a nearby fire. By the time Zhu Xiaozhu reached the door of the lab, excluding her, the four other researchers had all tragically died by that person's hand.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu escape, Hu Fei immediately closed the lab door and pressed the nearby password lock.

Click!

A soft sound, and the lab door was immediately locked, trapping the assassin inside.

"Miss Zhu, quick, you go first, I'll hold them off here."

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded and hurriedly ran towards the outside of the research base.

Bang!

Not long after Zhu Xiaozhu left, a loud noise was heard as the bulletproof glass of the lab was shattered by someone inside, cracks spreading everywhere.

Seeing this, Hu Fei widened his eyes, incredulously staring at the person.

Is this... even human?

To shatter bulletproof glass with just fists.

A master!

This person must be a master like Ling Chen.

Recognizing the opponent's skill, where would Hu Fei dare to stay, he quickly turned and chased in the direction Zhu Xiaozhu had left.

Against such a master, it's better to run first.

Upon reaching the entrance of the research base, Hu Fei suddenly stopped, staring blankly at the ground.

At that moment, at both sides of the base entrance, lay several bodies. Hu Fei knew these people; they were specifically responsible for the security of the base's entrance. Not only were they dead, but their deaths were extremely gruesome, throats slit, no mercy shown.

Who on earth is so ruthlessly brutal!

Hu Fei, deviating from his usual carefree demeanor, frowned at the bodies, silently pondering.

Suddenly, Hu Fei seemed to think of something and hurried outside. Once outside the research base, his expression drastically changed.

Outside the base was a parking lot where everyone usually parked their cars. He had instructed Zhu Xiaozhu to leave, but her car hadn't driven away, could it be...

A chill ran down Hu Fei's spine, fearing that something might have happened to Zhu Xiaozhu.

At that moment, more than ten guards responsible for the security of the base quickly arrived, loudly calling Hu Fei's name.

"Quick, go look for Miss Zhu." Hu Fei hurriedly said.

"Yes."

Everyone responded and immediately dispersed outside the base, searching for Zhu Xiaozhu.

More than ten minutes passed, and as Hu Fei waited at the door, he saw his subordinates gradually returning and hurriedly approached asking, "Did you find her?"

"Mr. Hu, we've searched all around, Zhu Xiaozhu is nowhere to be found."

Chapter 757 Incident at the Research Base (2)

"Didn't find Zhu Xiaozhu?" After listening to his subordinates' report, Hu Fei's face suddenly turned extremely ugly.

This is bad!

Hu Fei muttered to himself that this was not a good sign. He knew the relationship between Zhu Xiaozhu and Ling Chen the best. Now that Zhu Xiaozhu had disappeared, Ling Chen would be so anxious if he found out.

With that in mind, Hu Fei turned around, looked at the entrance of the base, and said in a deep voice, "Let's go, follow me in, and I'm going to see who dares to act wild on my turf."

...

The next afternoon.

Ling Chen finally woke up from his deep slumber.

Touching his still slightly swollen forehead, Ling Chen slowly sat up, leaning against the headboard.

Sigh!

Yesterday really took a toll on my body, making me sleep for so long.

Hearing his stomach rumble, Ling Chen touched his belly, pushing himself up wanting to find something to eat in the kitchen. However, before his feet even touched the ground, he saw Nanrong Wanqing walking in through the door.

Seeing Ling Chen awake, Nanrong Wanqing's expression immediately relaxed a lot, and she said with a light smile, "You're finally awake. I thought you were planning to sleep till evening."

Ling Chen looked at the clay pot in Nanrong Wanqing's hands and asked, "Wanqing, what's this?"

"Your body is too weak, so I simmered chicken soup all morning just to nourish you."

Ling Chen asked in surprise, "You made this?"

"Yes!" Nanrong Wanqing said shyly, "I have never cooked before, and it's always been Nanny Wang taking care of my diet. This is also my first time cooking for a man."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen smiled broadly, "It's rare for you to cook, then I must taste it well."

As he spoke, Ling Chen took the bowl that Nanrong Wanqing handed over and sniffed it right under his nose.

It smells pretty good.

Under Nanrong Wanqing's expectant gaze, Ling Chen held the soup bowl with both hands and took a sip of the chicken soup.

As soon as the soup hit his mouth, Ling Chen's face changed instantly, holding the soup bowl without reacting for a long time, his eyes flickering uncertainly.

"How is it, is it tasty?"

Ling Chen looked at Nanrong Wanqing and squeezed out a smile uglier than crying, "Good, the taste is nice, and for a first-time cooking, this is already quite an achievement."

"Really?" Hearing this, Nanrong Wanqing beamed with joy, her face full of happiness, "Since you think it's not bad, then finish it all. I've still got half a pot simmering in the kitchen."

What?

There's half a pot more?

Ling Chen secretly lamented, this is like asking for my life. I can hardly swallow this bowl of soup, let alone a whole pot. If I were to finish that pot, I probably wouldn't survive.

Sigh!

It seems that some people are just not cut out for cooking.

As he was thinking, a ringtone from a cellphone started ringing beside the bed. Ling Chen picked up the phone and saw there were more than twenty missed calls, all from Hu Fei, including the one currently coming in.

So many calls overnight, it must be something extremely important.

Ling Chen answered the phone and greeted, "Fatty, what's the urgent matter you have for me?"

"You, you finally decided to answer your phone. Come back quickly, there's trouble at the base."

"Trouble?" Ling Chen was startled and asked hastily, "What happened?"

"Sigh! Don't ask, just come quickly. This time it's really serious."

Seeing Hu Fei speaking so gravely, Ling Chen immediately hung up the phone and started running outside.

"Ling Chen, you... you haven't finished your chicken soup, hey..."

Regretfully, Ling Chen had already run out of the bedroom and didn't hear Nanrong Wanqing's cries. Even if he had, he would pretend not to.

After leaving the Nanrong family house, Ling Chen drove his car straight to the research facility.

More than half an hour later, when Ling Chen arrived at the research facility, Hu Fei had been waiting outside already.

Seeing Ling Chen getting out of the car, Hu Fei hurriedly went up to welcome him.

"You're finally here."

"Tell me, what's happened?"

Hu Fei said with a look of despair, "There are dead people... A lot of people are dead..."

"What?" Ling Chen's face slightly changed as he asked, "Can you be more specific?"

Hu Fei sighed and said, "Follow me, you'll see for yourself."

Following Hu Fei into the facility, Ling Chen's gaze immediately sharpened, bristling with cold intensity.

At the entrance of the facility, more than twenty bodies lay side by side, each covered with a white cloth, the surface stained with a lot of blood.

"Fatty, how did so many people die?" Ling Chen asked with furrowed brows.

"Last night, the facility was attacked. The assailants were all experts, very very formidable experts. No one here was their match; everyone was like fish on a chopping board, ruthlessly slain, including several research scientists from the laboratory. Except for Miss Zhu, the others were killed, decapitated."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's complexion turned exceedingly grim.

Those research scientists were all recruited by Zhu Xiaozhu upon his request, all renowned experts, and now they were all dead. How was he supposed to explain this to the families of those scientists?

"Fatty, how about Xiaozhu?"

"She..." Hu Fei's eyes shifted to change the topic, "Right! Jiang Yunkai and the others are missing."

"What? Could it be they've all been abducted?"

"No." Hu Fei shook his head and said, "They did not take Jiang Yunkai and the other two, simply let them go. However, they took away all the research materials belonging to Zhu Xiaozhu and the others."

Strange!

Ling Chen thought to himself.

Those guys didn't want Jiang Yunkai, but took the materials. What are they trying to do?

Could it be the God Organization again? After thinking it over, it seems like there is no other suspect but the God Organization.

"Ling Chen, do you want to go see Kaelina? She's been seriously injured and is now resting in her room."

"Let's check on her."

Upon arriving at Kaelina's room, Kaelina was seen lying in bed, covered with a blanket, her face still somewhat pale, looking extremely weak, without any energy.

"Miss Kaelina, how do you feel? Are you okay?" Ling Chen asked with a concerned look as he stood beside the bed.

"I'm fine."

"Kaelina, tell Ling Chen about what happened last night."

Hearing Hu Fei speak, Kaelina nodded her head and recounted roughly what had occurred.

"Ling Chen, the opponents were incredibly powerful; I had no chance to fight back. I think, besides the God Organization, no other force could have such strong subordinates."

"I understand." Ling Chen replied, "You rest well, and don't worry about anything else."

After leaving the room, Ling Chen looked at Hu Fei and asked, "Fatty, aren't you in charge of the intelligence system? How come there was no news at all about the God Organization's people coming to East Sea City?"

Hu Fei said with a wry smile, "I really didn't know. Besides, who knew the God Organization would bring out so many new faces."

"Never mind! Make sure to properly handle the aftermath for the deceased." After that, Ling Chen walked out.

"Hey! Where are you going?"

"Don't worry about me, just do your job."

Chapter 758 Zhu Hong Appears

Walking on the spacious street, Ling Chen sighed inwardly as he looked at the ebb and flow of people around him.

There had been too many affairs lately, so many that he was nearly breathless. After returning from Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he thought he could have a good rest, relax for a while, and nurse his injuries. However, first there was the incident with Nanrong Yong, followed by the attack on the research base. Could this series of events be the God Organization's retaliation?

If that was the case, it was time for him to take some measures.

...

Nightfall.

In a bright villa in East Sea City, Zhu Xiaozhu sat on a leather sofa, staring steadfastly at a young man lounging opposite her with his leg over the other, amidst a coffee table laden with an assortment of gourmet delicacies and an expensive bottle of red wine that she hadn't touched.

The young man looked at Zhu Xiaozhu with a smile that was not quite a smile and said, "Miss Zhu, this dinner was meticulously prepared for you. Show a little appreciation and try a bite, at least. Otherwise, I'd be in trouble if you went hungry."

Zhu Xiaozhu met his gaze and responded, "Who exactly are you, and why have you captured me?"

"No, no, no." The young man hurriedly corrected, "Miss Zhu, you've got it wrong. We didn't capture you; we invited you here. Think about it, if you were a prisoner, would you be treated this well? We consider you a distinguished guest."

"If I'm a distinguished guest, then why is my freedom restricted?"

"Because the master has not yet arrived, so you cannot leave for the time being. Trust me, Miss Zhu, you will definitely want to meet the master when he arrives."

As the words fell, the sound of car tires approached from outside the villa.

The young man smirked slightly, stood up, and said, "Zhu Xiaozhu, the person has arrived; I will leave you two to meet." With that, the young man headed straight to the second floor of the villa.

Once the young man had left, the villa's main door was pushed open from outside. Following that, a dapper man in a sharply-tailored suit with effortless charm walked in.

The man was in his twenties, with the corners of his mouth slightly raised, carrying a sinister smile, exuding an indescribable charisma that naturally drew people into his smile.

However, besides his mouth and eyes, the rest of the man's face was covered by a silver mask.

Seeing the man approaching, Zhu Xiaozhu's beautiful eyes filled with astonishment as she quickly stood from the sofa.

"Little sister, long time no see," the man said, his lips curving into a smile.

"You... are you... my brother?" Zhu Xiaozhu stood frozen in shock, unable to recover from her surprise.

"It's me."

"Brother, how did you become like this? Why are you wearing a mask?"

"You don't need to ask about that for now; you'll know in due course."

With that, Zhu Hong smiled slightly at Zhu Xiaozhu's dazed expression, then stepped forward, took her delicate hand, and sat down beside her on the sofa.

Then, Zhu Hong picked up a glass of red wine from the coffee table, poured himself a drink, and gently swirled it in his glass, every gesture exuding a different charisma than before.

After momentarily coming to her senses, Zhu Xiaozhu blurted out, "Brother, I heard from my family that you were imprisoned by Ling Chen. Why are you here?"

Previously, Zhu Xiaozhu had received a phone call from her family saying that Zhu Hong had gotten into trouble and was being held in a highly secret place by Ling Chen.

Since then, Zhu Xiaozhu's mood had been dejected, torn between her biological brother and the man she fancied. Yet, these two had come to this pass, leaving her at a loss for what to do.

After a torturous inner conflict, Zhu Xiaozhu had made up her mind to rescue her brother. She had nearly planned everything, just waiting for the right moment to act. But to her surprise, before she could make her move, Zhu Hong had returned.

Could it be... the family's information was mistaken?

Lost in thought, Zhu Hong began to speak, "The news your family told you was not wrong. Ling Chen indeed imprisoned me, and it was in a very remote place. But I was lucky, I escaped from the prison. Afterwards, I met a benefactor. Without him, I wouldn't be here today."

Hearing this, Zhu Xiaozhu seemed to realize something, and her face suddenly took on an uncomfortable expression.

"Brother, so everything that happened last night was orchestrated by you?"

Zhu Hong nodded and said, "Ling Chen has gone too far, imprisoning me for so long and subjecting me to harsh interrogation. My actions are only for revenge. Little sister, you can't imagine the suffering your brother has endured, so there's no point in trying to persuade me. Before I escaped, I swore an oath. If I ever got out, I would make Ling Chen pay back a hundredfold. I know you and Ling Chen are on good terms, but I hope you won't be deceived by him. He's a hypocrite, one way in front of others, and another behind their backs. Sister, trust me, better to cut ties with Ling Chen from now on."

"Brother, I..."

Before Zhu Xiaozhu could finish, Zhu Hong waved his hand and said, "Sister, no more. Your brother won't harm you." Pause for a moment, and then Zhu Hong added, "Recently, things might get unstable in East Sea City, you should head back to Beijing and stay with mom and dad for a while. Once things here are settled, I'll come to find you."

With that, Zhu Hong sipped his red wine, stood up from the sofa, and headed toward the door.

"Brother, where are you going?" Zhu Xiaozhu asked, taking a few steps after him.

"I still have some things to take care of. Have a good rest, my friend will send you back to Beijing tomorrow. Until I return, he will always be by your side, protecting you."

"Brother, Brother!"

Zhu Xiaozhu wanted to say more, but Zhu Hong had already left the villa.

Watching Zhu Hong's retreating figure, Zhu Xiaozhu's eyes were filled with complex emotions.

She knew all too well the intention behind Zhu Hong having someone follow her; it was merely to have someone watch over her and prevent her from contacting Ling Chen again.

Ling Chen...

Thinking of Zhu Hong's earlier words, Zhu Xiaozhu began to worry.

Whether it was Zhu Hong or Ling Chen, they both held significant places in her heart. Whoever got into trouble, it would be difficult for her.

Now, with Zhu Hong seeking revenge on Ling Chen, a fierce battle between the two seemed inevitable.

This wouldn't do!

With her lips slightly bitten, Zhu Xiaozhu fished her phone out of her pocket and found Ling Chen's phone number.

Yet, as she was about to dial, she hesitated again. If she informed Ling Chen, giving him time to prepare, it could be her own biological brother, Zhu Hong, who would be at a disadvantage.

What to do?

For the moment, Zhu Xiaozhu fell into deep contemplation, unsure of the right course of action.

Meanwhile, on the second floor of the villa, the young man looked down at the pensive Zhu Xiaozhu, his lips slightly curving, revealing a cold smile.

Chapter 759 Old Friends Reunite

"Fatty, how has the aftermath of those people been handled?"

In the research base, Ling Chen sat in the office inquiring about Hu Fei's situation.

"Everything's arranged, no problems there. However, we are facing quite a few issues now. The last card you gave me had enough funds, so money is not a worry, but we are short on staff. Jiang Yunkai had finally trained a group of elite, but after two incidents, some died, some got injured, and there aren't many left who can be used. Although we can hire people from outside, loyalty is a big issue."

Hearing Hu Fei's words, Ling Chen helplessly scratched his head, recognizing these were indeed major issues. If he couldn't find a solution, the security of the research base couldn't be ensured, putting everyone at risk.

Human resources... Ling Chen sighed bitterly, realizing his foundation was still too shallow, unlike the Secret Society and Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion that had rich heritage, never lacking in funding or manpower.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen said, "Fatty, can you tally up how many people in the base we can actually utilize?"

"Sure."

After Hu Fei had left, a pleasant ringtone sounded from Ling Chen's pocket.

Pulling out his cellphone and seeing the caller ID, Ling Chen quickly answered the call, smiling, "Zhou Jun, what brought you to call me today?"

"I'm in East Sea City now, this is your territory, of course I have to call you. Eh! Have you returned? If you're free, shouldn't you play the good host?"

"Of course, no problem." Ling Chen replied with a smile, "Where are you? I'll come pick you up."

After arranging the time and place with Zhou Jun, Ling Chen immediately drove towards the destination.

Soon, Ling Chen arrived at a teahouse in East Sea City. Entering the private room, he saw both Zhou Jun and Zhou Qi leisurely sipping tea while sitting on solid wood chairs.

"Elder Zhou." Ling Chen greeted.

"Here you are." Zhou Qi gestured to the chair beside him, "Sit down."

Ling Chen nodded and sat next to Zhou Jun.

"You're injured?" Zhou Qi examined Ling Chen, noticing his pallor, and couldn't help asking further.

"I got a minor injury at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, it's nothing serious." After finishing, Ling Chen changed the subject, "Elder Zhou, what brings you to East Sea City?"

"Ai, don't ask." Before Zhou Qi could respond, Zhou Jun took over, saying, "After leaving the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we wandered around with nowhere to settle, so we came to East Sea City to see if there were any opportunities for work."

Hearing this, an idea struck Ling Chen, he suggested, "Elder Zhou, if you don't mind, I actually have a job offer for you."

"You have a job for us?" Zhou Jun asked with interest, "Ling Chen, not bad, thinking of being our boss. Tell me, what's the job?"

"It's still your old expertise."

Zhou Qi used to be an overall manager at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, handling all kinds of tasks, not only capable but also very experienced. If he could help manage the research base, it would definitely lighten the load.

Moreover, the most important point is that Zhou Qi is also an Earthly List expert.

Having an Earthly List master stationed at the research base would provide resistance even if enemies attacked.

Hearing Ling Chen's proposal, Zhou Jun looked at Zhou Qi and said, "Old man, what do you think? Now that we can't go back to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, we grandsons have to find a place that provides food and shelter. Ling Chen is an old friend, it's all work wherever you go, why not help him?"

Zhou Qi responded calmly, "I trust Mr. Ling's character, you decide."

"Really?" Ling Chen's expression lit up with joy.

Great!

Winning over Zhou Qi was undoubtedly a strong addition to his side.

"By the way!"

At that moment, Ling Chen seemed to remember something and said, "Elder Zhou, Zhou Jun, I need to tell you something. Before I returned from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, there was a big incident there, both Tong Nan and Song Yi are dead."

"Dead?" Zhou Qi and Zhou Jun were taken aback, quickly asking, "They both belonged to Yangxin Pavilion, how could they die, who killed them?"

"I'm not sure," Ling Chen shook his head, "Miss Su and the others are still investigating, with no progress yet."

"Forget it!" Zhou Qi sighed lightly, "We are no longer people of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, let them handle their own affairs. Mr. Ling, since we have decided to work for you, please arrange a place for us to live."

"No problem, there's plenty of room in the base. I'll take you there now."

Back at the base, Ling Chen asked Hu Fei to gather everyone and formally introduced Zhou Qi and Zhou Jun to them.

"Fatty, you've met Elder Zhou, moving forward let Elder Zhou handle the base's affairs, that way you can relax a bit and focus on intelligence work."

"Sure, no problem." Hu Fei grinned, easily agreeing.

"I have been so busy recently, Elder Zhou, I'm relying on you now." After finishing, Hu Fei changed the subject, "By the way! Ling Chen, when you left earlier, your elder brother and the others arrived, they are now resting in the reception room."

"Is that so? Elder Zhou, come, I'll take you to meet my elder brothers."

"You guys go ahead, I have other things to do." Hu Fei said, "Xia Mutong, Jiang Yunkai, and Bai Huanjun are still unaccounted for. If we let them stay outside, who knows what trouble they might cause."

"Okay, go on, inform me immediately if you get any news about them."

"Don't worry about my work."

...

Due to various matters at the base, Ling Chen had been staying in the base, helping with the work.

Now, with Zhou Qi joining, and others like Qiu Yong coming to help, the security of the research base was temporarily not a problem.

Early in the morning, Ling Chen yawned as he walked out of his room, appearing unawake.

Perhaps because his body had not yet recovered, Ling Chen had been very sleepy recently, feeling like he could never wake up and wanted to linger in bed longer.

"Ling Chen."

At that moment, Hu Fei quickly ran over from not too far away.

"What is it?"

"I found Miss Zhu."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up.

The other day, Hu Fei had already told Ling Chen about Zhu Xiaozhu's disappearance, and these past few days, Ling Chen was constantly worried about Zhu Xiaozhu's safety. Now hearing there was news about her, how could he not be thrilled?

"Hurry, where is she?"

"Beijing."

"Beijing?" Ling Chen paused, puzzled, "How did she end up in Beijing?"

"I'm not sure, but what I can confirm is that Zhu Xiaozhu has returned to her home in Beijing."

Chapter 760 Weird Incidents One After Another

Gone back?

Ling Chen muttered to himself, feeling puzzled. According to Hu Fei, Zhu Xiaozhu was kidnapped by the people who attacked the base that night. If so, why would Zhu Xiaozhu show up at her home in Beijing? Could it be that she had escaped from the clutches of those villains?

But if that were the case, Zhu Xiaozhu should have made a phone call to let him know she was safe, to make him worry less.

Weird, really weird!

After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen asked, "Fatty, when did Xiaozhu get home?"

"According to our investigation, she arrived in Beijing yesterday. Ling Chen, do you think this is a bit strange? If Miss Zhu was kidnapped, why would she be released, and why didn't they even notify us? Hey, Ling Chen, you have such a good relationship with Zhu Xiaozhu, why don't you give her a call to ask about her situation, see what exactly she went through that night, and find out if she knows who took her."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, I will contact her now."

Saying this, Ling Chen took out his mobile phone and dialed Zhu Xiaozhu's number.

However, as soon as the phone connected, the system's automated message indicated that the device was powered off.

It was actually off!

Ling Chen was slightly taken aback. Zhu Xiaozhu had returned to Beijing and even turned off her mobile phone; what on earth was going on?

"Fatty, help me check thoroughly to see what has happened with Xiaozhu. It would be best if you could send someone to Beijing, meet Xiaozhu, and ask her clearly."

"Okay, I'll arrange that right away."

Once Hu Fei left, Ling Chen, having lost any urge to sleep, headed toward the laboratory.

But at this moment, Ling Chen suddenly received a call from Nanrong Wanqing.

The call connected, and Ling Chen asked, "Wanqing, what's the matter?"

"Nanrong Hao hasn't come home for two days. No one answers his phone, and people at the company say that Nanrong Hao left two days ago, whereabouts unknown, and he didn't return home either. I'm a bit worried about him. You know his friends better than I do, can you help me inquire?"

"Okay, wait for me; I'll ask around for you." After a pause, Ling Chen reassured, "Wanqing, don't worry too much, Haozi is an adult, he knows how to protect himself."

After hanging up, Ling Chen made calls to Jiang Hao and Zhao Zhengxiong separately to inquire about Nanrong Hao's whereabouts. However, apart from Zhao Zhengxiong's call going through, no one answered Jiang Hao's phone, which also indicated that the user had powered off.

Why are they all off?

Ling Chen frowned slightly. First Zhu Xiaozhu, then Nanrong Hao, and now Jiang Hao as well; on the same day, all three individuals had their phones turned off. This was probably not as simple as a coincidence.

Thinking this, Ling Chen hurried to Hu Fei's office.

"Fatty, help me look for Haozi and Jiang Hao, see if there's any way you can contact them. Both these guys have their phones turned off, and who knows where they've run off to."

Hu Fei was stunned for a moment, then dismissively said, "I think you're worrying for nothing. Haozi and Jiang Hao's character is clear to you, these two birds of a feather probably found a beauty in some bathhouse and are too engrossed to remember home."

"No, I think it's not that simple," Ling Chen said. "Jiang Hao and Haozi are not kids. They can tell what's important. Even if they enjoy playing around, they wouldn't put their phones off."

Seeing how seriously Ling Chen was taking it, Hu Fei nodded and said, "Alright then, I'll ask their subordinates for you. They should know where Jiang Hao and Haozi are."

Saying this, Hu Fei picked up the phone from his desk and dialed several numbers.

After a round of calls, Hu Fei's expression was no longer as relaxed as before.

"Ling Chen, I'm afraid your guess might be correct. Jiang Hao and Haozi have been missing for two days, and not even their subordinates know their whereabouts."

"Find them!" Ling Chen said firmly. "You must find a way to locate the two of them."

"Dammit," Hu Fei cursed. "It must be those bastards from the God Organization at work again."

"Not necessarily."

"Who else could it be? Do you have any other enemies?"

"I know very well who the God Organization is. They wouldn't waste time on small fry. If the God Organization really made a move, they would directly target me, not waste energy on others. Fatty, no matter what, you must find a way to locate them. I don't want anything to happen to them."

With that, Ling Chen seemed to recall something, and quickly added, "Right! Remember to call Xiong and tell him to rush to the base immediately."

"Have him come to the base?" Hu Fei was puzzled and asked, "Why? I remember you said before that the secrets of the research base could only be told to Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao, and you couldn't let Zhao Zhengxiong know."

"That was before; the current situation has changed. Now that Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao are in trouble, we can't assure that those people won't target Zhao Zhengxiong. Right now, only the base is the safest place. That's enough! Don't ask so much, just notify him quickly. I have other matters to attend to; I'll contact you later."

Leaving the office, Ling Chen quickly walked towards the outside of the base.

With Nanrong Hao missing and Nanrong Yong seriously injured and unconscious, only Nanrong Wanqing was left at home, and he must go back and check on her.

Reaching the exit of the base, Ling Chen stopped and asked Xu Ming, who was standing at the gate, "Brother, why are you here?"

"Your body hasn't fully recovered, and in the past few days, you forcibly used your Inner Strength on top of your injuries, leaving you without even the ability to protect yourself. Big Brother is worried about you encountering danger outside, so he asked me to follow you to ensure your safety."

Hearing this, Ling Chen felt a warm feeling in his heart.

Although the members of the eight eccentrics each have a past they do not speak of, and no one knows the details of the others, it did not prevent them from having a close relationship.

Even someone like Xu Ming took the word 'loyalty' very seriously.

Leaving the base, Ling Chen drove, taking Xu Ming with him towards Wealthy Manor.

On the road, Ling Chen drove the sedan with focus, while Xu Ming, sitting in the passenger seat, looked expressionless out of the window, seemingly deep in thought.

"We are being followed."

Suddenly, the usually silent Xu Ming blurted out a sentence.

Being followed?

Ling Chen was shocked and looked up at the rear-view mirror. However, he did not see any vehicle following them. With his extensive experience and professional habits, if someone was following them in secret, they would not escape his eyes.

Therefore, Ling Chen was quite perplexed, not understanding why Xu Ming would say this. Could it be that he was mistaken?

As he pondered, Xu Ming seemed to have read Ling Chen's thoughts and said, "There are many ways to follow someone, not limited to just the few you know of."

With that, Xu Ming rolled down the car window, pointed his hand upward towards the sky, and said, "The one following us is up there."

Up there?

Ling Chen quickly stuck his head out of the car window to look at the car roof. Suddenly, he saw a large bird circling mid-air, constantly flying around the sedan.