

The Beauty 761

Chapter 761 Hawk and Falcon

Is this...a giant bird?

Ling Chen isn't very familiar with this type of bird; the only word that comes to mind is "giant bird."

Xu Ming glanced at Ling Chen and corrected him: "That's not just a giant bird, that's a falcon, a very rare bird. It is said that this kind of bird is highly intelligent. After spending time with its trainer, it can be even more obedient than a dog."

Ling Chen responded in surprise, "Second Brother, are you saying that someone is using falcons to surveil us? Who do you think it could be?"

Having spent many years with the phantom forces, Ling Chen considered himself very experienced, proficient in all manners of tracking and counter-tracking techniques. However, tracking with birds was something he had only heard of in films and had never seen in reality until today.

"There are one or two people I know who can control such birds, and they are not simple characters. Moreover, it's difficult to determine the person behind this just by a falcon. In ancient times, because there were no communication tools like mobile phones, training falcons to deliver messages and spy on enemies was the most common method. However, as times have changed, this method has been gradually abandoned, and only a few people still cherish this old technique."

After giving it some thought, Xu Ming continued, "My guess is that the person behind this falcon is probably an expert."

"Second Brother, why do you think so?"

"Falcons are not ordinary birds; rather, they are extremely fierce raptors. The falcon above us is twice as large as a normal falcon and much more ferocious and brave. Generally, raptors of this size are usually wild, and if it were merely trained, it would be difficult to raise it to such a size. Thus, taming such a wild raptor is not something ordinary people can accomplish."

After hearing Xu Ming's explanation, Ling Chen understood a bit more about the falcon hovering above.

"It seems the God Organization really values me, even dispatching such strange people," Ling Chen said self-deprecatingly.

"It's still hard to say if they are from the God Organization. Just be careful."

Ling Chen nodded and continued driving towards Wealthy Manor.

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Research base.

Shortly after Ling Chen left, Zhao Zhengxiong drove to the base.

After getting out of his car and seeing Hu Fei waiting at the door, Zhao Zhengxiong greeted him with a smile, asking, "Brother Hu, what does Chen want from me, meeting in such a place?"

Hu Fei glanced behind Zhao Zhengxiong and asked, "No one else came with you, right?"

"No. You told me to come alone and not to bring anyone else."

"That's good, come with me." After speaking, Hu Fei turned and walked into the base.

Following Hu Fei, Zhao Zhengxiong directly entered the inner part of the research base. Observing the spacious and well-arranged space within the base, even a boss like Zhao Zhengxiong couldn't help but exclaim.

"Brother Hu, what is this place?"

"This is Ling Chen's research base, our headquarters. This morning, we received news that both Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao have lost contact and disappeared. We were worried that someone might target you, so we brought you here. Stay here until the crisis is over and don't go out unnecessarily to avoid any incidents."

Zhao Zhengxiong looked worried as he said, "No wonder, I've been wanting to invite Jiang Hao and the others for a drink these past two days, but no one answered their phones. I thought they had both gone off on their own to have fun. Hey! Where is Chen?"

"He's out on an errand. I'll have someone arrange a room for you to stay here." Pausing for a moment, Hu Fei pointed around and said, "I still have other things to handle, so feel free to look around and I'll come find you later."

"Alright."

After Hu Fei left, Zhao Zhengxiong wandered alone within the base.

Being a local boss, although he had many subordinates, he was ultimately just a good street gang leader and had never seen such an advanced base before.

As he walked through, several busy base staff members nodded and greeted Zhao Zhengxiong as they passed by. These staff members initially followed Zhao Zhengxiong and Jiang Hao, and were later selected by Jiang Yunkai to join the security company. After rigorous training, these people became the security and staff of the research base.

Therefore, they all recognized Zhao Zhengxiong.

"Brother Xiong."

"Brother Xiong."

"Brother Xiong, it's been a long time since we've seen you."

Hearing a staff member's words, Zhao Zhengxiong, curious, asked, "So, you've been here for a long time?"

"Yes! It's been several months now. Before, we only saw Hao and Haozi, never saw you."

Another staff member chimed in, "Brother Xiong is busy managing so many places, a very busy man indeed, and doesn't have time to come here to wander around." Concluding, the staff member looked at Zhao Zhengxiong with a smile, "Brother Xiong, you go ahead and explore, we still have work to do so we won't disturb you."

Watching the two staff members leave, Zhao Zhengxiong's smile turned somewhat stiff, with a complex expression flickering in his eyes.

From their words, he could tell that this research base had been established for some time, but he had not received any notifications about it. In comparison, Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao had already known about it.

Why?

Zhao Zhengxiong thought to himself. Why did Ling Chen disclose the secrets of this research base to Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao but not to him? Was it because he wasn't trusted?

Even though he was eventually brought here, Zhao Zhengxiong still felt quite uncomfortable, feeling excluded.

Zhao Zhengxiong was a meticulously thoughtful person and could guess the reason behind Ling Chen's actions.

The relationship between Nanrong Wanqing and Ling Chen was clear; Nanrong Hao would later be Ling Chen's brother-in-law, naturally a trustworthy person. Jiang Hao was personally groomed by Ling Chen, unquestionably loyal to a fault. Thus, it made sense for Ling Chen to trust these two.

However, understanding aside, thinking about this situation still left Zhao Zhengxiong feeling unhappy.

"Hey! Brother Xiong, there you are."

Then, hearing Hu Fei's voice coming from behind, Zhao Zhengxiong turned around, forcing a smile and asked, "Brother Hu, have you finished your work?"

"Almost done. Now I have subordinates to command, don't need to do everything myself like before. Come, I'll take you to your room."

"Thank you, that would be helpful."

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Wealthy Manor.

After arriving at the Nanrong family home, Ling Chen and Xu Ming immediately rushed to Nanrong Yong's bedroom.

In the spacious and bright bedroom, Nanrong Wanqing and several caretakers were by the bedside, attending to the comatose Nanrong Yong.

"Ling Chen."

Seeing Ling Chen return, Nanrong Wanqing quickly stood up and asked, "Did you find my brother?"

Chapter 762 Luring the Tiger Away from the Mountain

"There's no news yet, but don't worry too much, I will definitely find him."

After saying this, Ling Chen looked at Nanrong Yong lying on the bed and asked, "How is the old master's condition?"

"His condition has stabilized, but the doctor said that Grandpa's body is extremely weak and he's fallen into a deep coma. It's uncertain when he might wake up—it could be days or years; no one can be sure. The doctor suggested that we, as family members, should spend time with Grandpa when we can, talk to him, chat with him, as it might help his condition. I've been calling Nanrong Hao these past few days wanting him to come back and stay with Grandpa, but I couldn't get a hold of him, so I came to you for help."

"No worries, Haozi is not a three-year-old child, he knows what he's doing."

"Ling Cheng!"

At this moment, Xu Ming, who had been silent all along, suddenly cast his gaze outside the bedroom window and quickly walked to the windowsill to look outside.

After a brief moment of daze, Ling Chen immediately realized what was happening and hurried over to Xu Ming's side. He looked out at the empty lawn and asked, "Brother Xu, what's wrong?"

"Just now that eagle-hawk appeared again, but it vanished in the blink of an eye. I suspect that the person controlling the eagle-hawk is nearby, and they have taken it back."

"What should we do?"

Xu Ming thought for a moment and said, "You stay in the room with them, I'll go outside and take a look. Maybe I can find the owner of that eagle-hawk."

"Alright. Brother Xu, be careful."

"Don't worry about me." Saying that, Xu Ming pushed open the window, propped his hand on the sill, and leaped down, instantly disappearing from view.

Watching Xu Ming disappear, Nanrong Wanqing and the two maids in the room were all stunned.

"Ling Chen, he... how did he just jump down?" Nanrong Wanqing asked in shock.

This bedroom is on the third floor of the villa, a good few meters above the ground. Wasn't he afraid of getting hurt?

"It's alright, Brother Xu's martial arts skills are incredible, this is nothing to him." Saying this, Ling Chen closed the window and turned back to Nanrong Wanqing's side.

A few minutes passed.

Ling Chen paced back and forth in the room, waiting for news from Xu Ming.

Bang!

Suddenly, a loud noise came from downstairs. Ling Chen's heart skipped a beat. He hurried to the outside of the bedroom and looked down the staircase, shouting loudly, "Uncle Liu!"

Liu Kun had been down at the bottom of the stairs, so if something had happened, he would surely know.

Ling Chen called out several times, but there was no response from downstairs. Seeing this, Ling Chen slightly furrowed his brow and thought to himself, "Nothing bad could have happened, right?"

With this thought, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes and vaulted over the stair railing. After a few jumps, he had descended from the third floor to the living room on the first floor.

Upon reaching the living room, Ling Chen saw Liu Kun being held by a man with a grip on his throat, rendering him unable to speak. In the other hand of the man, he held a sharp dagger, currently raised above his head, ready to strike at Liu Kun's vital point.

With Liu Kun's life at stake, Ling Chen didn't have time to think; he quickly lifted his foot with a flying kick at the lamp beside him.

Struck by his kick, the lamp that was placed on the coffee table instantly flew out, hurtling towards the dagger in the man's hand.

With a 'clang' sound, the dagger was knocked out of hand, making a clear noise as it fell.

Seizing the moment, Ling Chen's body tilted, and he swiftly charged towards the man, his steel fist pounding fiercely towards the opponent's face.

Seeing the fierceness of Ling Chen's punch, the man seemed to be somewhat wary, not daring to take it head-on. He quickly let go of Liu Kun and stepped back to avoid Ling Chen's attack.

"Mr. Ling." Liu Kun, clutching his painful neck and gasping for breath, said: "This man suddenly barged in, I..."

"Enough!" Ling Chen cut off Liu Kun's words, saying: "Stop talking, Wanqing and the old master are upstairs. Go protect them; leave this guy to me."

"Alright, be careful yourself." With that, Liu Kun hurriedly rushed toward the stairs, heading straight for the third floor of the villa.

Once Liu Kun left, Ling Chen stared at the strange man before him, his dark eyes emitting a sharp gleam.

This man was around thirty-odd years old, with an average appearance that wouldn't stand out in a crowd, unlikely to attract any attention.

"Are you from the God Organization?" Ling Chen asked.

The man looked at Ling Chen without saying a word, as if he hadn't heard the question, with a cold and murderous look in his eyes.

"Ling Chen, I heard you were seriously injured at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. I wonder if you still have the strength to defeat me."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's heart sank, inwardly cursing. This guy actually knew he was injured.

Not only was he seriously injured now, but his body was also seriously overdrawn. The kick he had just performed was done with all his might. He had managed to rescue Liu Kun from the man's clutches by bluffing, but if it came to a real fight, he was as good as paper-thin, easily punctured.

He had wanted to scare the other party into fleeing without a fight, but it seemed that strategy was no longer working.

Damn!

Who the hell was this guy and how did he know so much about him? It was a pity that Xu Ming had gone to find the man who controlled the hawks, with no telling when he'd come back. If Xu Ming didn't arrive in time, Ling Chen might be in mortal danger.

As thoughts raced through his mind, Ling Chen grabbed a chair next to him and flung it at the man. Immediately after, he turned around and ran swiftly towards the outside of the villa. He couldn't worry about other things now; both Nanrong Wanqing and Nanrong Yong were inside the villa, and he absolutely couldn't let the opponent harm them.

For now, he could only do his best to lure the man away from the villa.

Bursting through the villa's front door, Ling Chen glanced back only to find that the man had not followed.

Damn it!

The guy wasn't fooled.

This was bad—the man not chasing after him would definitely be bad news for Nanrong Wanqing and the others. With this thought, Ling Chen sighed and quickly turned around, running back into the villa.

When he reached the living room, just as he expected, the man had already vanished. At the same time, a scream came from the third floor of the villa. The voice seemed to be Nanrong Wanqing's.

Without a second thought, worried for the safety of Nanrong Wanqing and the others, Ling Chen immediately rushed upstairs.

As he entered the bedroom, he saw Liu Kun lying on the ground, clutching his chest, blood streaming from the corners of his mouth, his complexion deathly pale. In another corner of the room, two housemaids cowered, shriveling in fear, their faces terror-stricken.

Scanning the room, Ling Chen's heart skipped a beat.

The bedroom window was wide open, Liu Kun and the others were there, but Nanrong Wanqing was nowhere to be seen; presumably, she had been snatched away by the man from before.

"Ling Chen..." Liu Kun shakily lifted a hand, pointing out the window, stammering: "Hurry... follow..."

"Uncle Liu, rest up; I'll go save Wanqing."

Chapter 763 Taming Master

Standing before the window, Ling Chen looked down from his high vantage point only to see the man from before carrying Nanrong Wanqing and hurrying away from Wealthy Manor.

It won't do!

He can't be allowed to escape. Ling Chen eyed the several-meter-high floor, a hint of hesitance flashing in his eyes. Given his current state, jumping from such a height would likely mean he couldn't protect himself from harm. But taking the stairs would waste too much time. By the time he got down, that man would have probably already fled with Nanrong Wanqing.

Biting his teeth, Ling Chen finally made up his mind, leaped from the third-floor bedroom, and landed directly on the ground.

As his legs touched the ground, Ling Chen's body immediately leaned forward and rolled to dissipate the force of the fall. Despite shedding much of the force, Ling Chen's body was too weak to bear such an impact.

Puh!

A mouthful of fresh blood spurted out, and Ling Chen's complexion instantly turned as pale as paper, his legs so weak that he couldn't even stand up, let alone chase after Nanrong Wanqing.

Watching as Nanrong Wanqing disappeared from his line of sight, Ling Chen's eyes were filled with unwillingness.

"Sixth Brother."

After a while, Xu Ming rushed over from the other side of the villa and hurried to Ling Chen's side.

"How are you?"

Ling Chen rubbed his legs and smiled wryly as he shook his head.

"Second Brother, did you find the person controlling the hawk and falcon?"

"I found him, but he managed to escape."

"He escaped?" Ling Chen was taken aback. With Xu Ming's strength, how could he let the other party get away? Could it be that person's strength surpassed Xu Ming's?

Xu Ming seemed to see through Ling Chen's thoughts and said, "I know that person, I'll explain the details to you later. Let's get you inside first."

Back in the living room, Ling Chen leaned against the sofa, took a couple of sips of water, and immediately felt much better.

Once the pain from his injuries had somewhat subsided, Ling Chen looked at Xu Ming beside him and asked, "Second Brother, who is that person?"

"You mean the one controlling the hawk and falcon? His name is Song Mingzhe, also a man of the martial arts world. However, he is considered an odd figure within it. His martial arts are not very strong, just passable, but his ability to tame birds and beasts is very impressive. Within the martial arts community, there are few who can match him."

Xu Ming said, "I've heard that Song Mingzhe was abandoned in the mountains at birth and grew up among wild beasts, which is why sometimes his temperament resembles that of a wild animal. It wasn't until he was over ten years old that he was discovered and brought into modern society. However, because Song Mingzhe's temperament was too wild, he struggled to fit in. Not long after, he ran back to the mountains. Since then, he has lived there among the wild beasts. Over twenty years ago, I met Song Mingzhe once when he mistook me for an enemy and ventured into his territory, so we had a confrontation. I had no intention of hurting him, so I left immediately."

At this point, Xu Ming suddenly shifted the topic, "I've been suspecting whether God Organization is behind this attack on you. Now that Song Mingzhe is here, I think I can be sure."

"Sure of what?"

"Sure that it's not God Organization who moved against you, but someone else."

Curious, Ling Chen asked, "If it's not God Organization, then who could it be? Second Brother, apart from God Organization, I can't think of anyone who holds a grudge against me."

"Who the mastermind behind this incident is, I'm not quite clear. Someone like Song Mingzhe can't be bought by God Organization. Given his character, he wouldn't serve God Organization." After this, Xu Ming seemed to think of something and sank into deep thought.

"Second Brother, what are you thinking about?"

"I'm thinking..."

Xu Ming hadn't finished speaking when a ringing tone came from Ling Chen's pocket.

Pulling out his phone, Ling Chen looked at the caller ID, his gaze suddenly sharpening.

Nanrong Hao!

It was Nanrong Hao's number.

The phone connected, and Ling Chen put it to his ear, saying, "Speak. Who are you?"

"Mr. Ling, I'm impressed. You're quite clever to know I'm not Nanrong Hao."

Ling Chen said coldly, "Quit the nonsense, tell me who you are and what you want."

"I'll give you an address; I expect to see you in one hour. Remember, just you alone. If I find out anyone else is following, don't blame me for not being polite."

After that, the caller hung up.

Putting down the phone, Ling Chen frowned at Xu Ming, saying, "They asked me to come to a place, and they want me alone."

Xu Ming nodded and responded, "With Song Mingzhe around, they'd detect even if I followed you. Sixth Brother, what are you planning to do?"

"Nanrong Hao, Wanqing, Jiang Hao, they're all in their hands, I have to go."

"The way these people are acting, they're clearly targeting you. With your current condition, if you go, it's certain death."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, "Everyone dies eventually. I came to terms with this a long time ago. If I can trade my life for the lives of those three, it would be a worthwhile transaction."

"You... sigh!" Xu Ming sighed lightly, "In that case, I won't stop you. Unfortunately, I can't be of help to you."

"Second Brother, it's okay, I can handle it myself."

With that said, Ling Chen checked the time. The other party only gave him an hour, and the location was quite far. If he didn't set out now, Ling Chen worried he'd miss the appointment.

Then, without further concern for his physical weakness, Ling Chen got up and walked out of the villa.

"Sixth Brother, wait!"

Seeing Ling Chen leaving, Xu Ming seemed to remember something and quickly caught up with Ling Chen, placing his hand on his shoulder.

"Sixth Brother, don't be in a rush, I have something to tell you."

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An hour later.

Outside an abandoned warehouse in the West District of East Sea City, an Audi sedan slowly drove near.

As the car stopped by the roadside, Ling Chen stepped out from the driver's side.

Gazing at the nearby abandoned warehouse, Ling Chen took a deep breath and then stepped toward it.

Upon reaching the warehouse entrance, before Ling Chen could knock, the tightly closed door suddenly slid open. A disheveled young man walked out, looking at Ling Chen with a smirk.

Ling Chen gave the man a glance and asked, "Are you the one on the phone?"

"That's me. Ling Chen, I've long admired your reputation. Number one on the Newcomer List, number one among the disciples of Yangxin Pavilion, tsk tsk! I'm really curious, how did a Dragon List master like you manage it?"

"That doesn't seem like your business. Where are they, the people I'm looking for?"

"They're all inside." Saying that, the young man glanced behind Ling Chen, and upon seeing no one following, he turned and walked into the warehouse.

"Come with me!"

Chapter 764 Enemies Blush in Anger When They Meet

Entering the abandoned warehouse, the door behind him closed tightly again. Ling Chen was on alert, his sharp eyes scanning the surroundings from time to time. However, what puzzled him was that in the vast abandoned warehouse, apart from the young man before him, there was no sign of anyone else.

After advancing a short distance, Ling Chen followed the young man to the outside of a dilapidated office. Through the cracked windows and doors, the observant Ling Chen saw that Nanrong Hao, Jiang Hao, and Nanrong Wanqing were all held captive inside.

Thank goodness!

Ling Chen quietly breathed a sigh of relief. From the looks of it, everyone, including Nanrong Wanqing, was unharmed. However, probably because Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao had been locked up for a longer time, with insufficient food and sleep, they appeared dispirited, with bags under their eyes.

"The people you're looking for are in there." The young man stood at the doorway, showing no intention of entering.

Ling Chen looked at him and said deliberately, "Let them go. You've gone to all this trouble just to target me. Now that I'm here, they're no longer involved in this matter."

Hearing this, the young man smiled smugly and said, "Ling Chen, don't be naive. It's not that simple. Besides, I'm just following orders and don't have the authority to make that decision. If you want to save them, you'd better talk to the person who can call the shots."

"Who?" Ling Chen frowned and asked.

Right after his question, the sound of wheels gliding could be heard from the warehouse door.

Ling Chen turned to look, and saw the door being pushed open from the outside, as several figures appeared at the entrance.

The young man's lips curled into a smile and he said, "Speak of the devil and he shall appear. Ling Chen, the person you're looking for has arrived."

Watching the people at the door drawing closer, Ling Chen's eyes suddenly became fierce.

Among the several people opposite him, a strangely dressed man wearing a mask that only revealed his mouth and eyes, was leading. His tall figure and the slight upturn of his lips gave him an intriguing air, even without seeing his full face.

When the masked man approached, Ling Chen asked, "Did you capture my friends? Why?"

"Why?" The masked man chuckled, his eyes flickering with a cold glint, as his icy voice slowly said, "Ling Chen, don't you remember who I am?"

Hearing the familiar voice, Ling Chen could no longer maintain his composure. His eyes widened in shock as he stared at the masked man.

"You... it's you!"

Ling Chen's pupils contracted, and with a burst of chilling light, he swiftly moved forward, charging towards Zhu Hong.

"Get lost!"

As Ling Chen approached, a man standing behind Zhu Hong shouted. Immediately after, a figure swiftly moved in front of Zhu Hong, shielding him.

After protecting Zhu Hong, the man raised his fist and struck out.

Both fists collided, and Ling Chen felt his entire arm go numb, unable to muster any strength, and his body became limp. He stumbled backward, barely managing to steady himself after several steps.

This guy...

Ling Chen sized up the man who had thrown the punch, frowning secretly. The man's strength was not very formidable, at best ranked fifth on the Dragon List. Yet even so, in Ling Chen's current state, he was no match for him.

At this moment, Zhu Hong looked at Ling Chen with a smile and said, "Didn't expect this, did you? That you too would face this day."

Ling Chen shook his sore arm, and undaunted, said, "Zhu Hong, to be honest, I'm really curious about how exactly you managed to escape from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

During the previous period, Ling Chen entrusted Su Mei and others to thoroughly search for Zhu Hong's whereabouts within the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, but there was no progress. At that time, when he was competing in martial arts with Wang Hao, he clearly saw Zhu Hong appear among the crowd, yet Du Kang and the others searched the entire Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and could not find Zhu Hong.

Now, Zhu Hong was appearing before him, how could he not be surprised?

The defenses of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion were rigorous, and anyone entering or exiting had to undergo strict inspections, yet Zhu Hong could come and go freely within the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, which was truly puzzling.

In addition, what Ling Chen found most incomprehensible was the people around Zhu Hong. In such a short amount of time, how could Zhu Hong have gathered so many experts, including the animal-taming expert mentioned by Xu Ming, Song Mingzhe?

Zhu Hong was not a martial artist and completely ignorant in martial arts, so why would these people obey his orders?

Considering all these, Ling Chen was filled with doubts.

Zhu Hong raised his head, looking at Ling Chen with a slanting gaze and said, "I think you've used the wrong word. Ling Chen, to tell you the truth, I don't need to run away. For me, as long as I want, I can return to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion at any time, and I can do so openly and honorably, without anyone daring to do anything to me."

Hearing Zhu Hong's confident tone, Ling Chen's first reaction was that it was impossible.

"Zhu Hong, do you think I would believe you?"

"Whether you believe it or not is your business, but what I'm telling you is the truth." Saying this, Zhu Hong seemed to remember something and suddenly laughed.

"Ling Chen, I heard you have a good master, and now you are also a disciple of the Yangxin Pavilion. That being said, we can be considered as senior and junior brothers."

"Senior and junior brothers? What do you mean?"

Zhu Hong smiled and said, "Your master is an old man of the Yangxin Pavilion, and my master is the same."

"What?" Ling Chen exclaimed in surprise, asking, "Who is your master?"

"I'm not afraid to tell you, my master is Liang Tian."

Him!

Ling Chen's heart sank. He never expected that Zhu Hong's master would turn out to be Liang Tian.

No, that's not right... Zhu Hong doesn't know martial arts, so why would Liang Tian take him as a disciple? As these thoughts churned in his mind, Zhu Hong seemed to see through Ling Chen's thoughts and said, "Although I don't understand martial arts, my master said I have excellent aptitude and an extraordinarily suitable constitution for practicing martial arts, which is why he made an exception to accept me as a disciple."

Hah!

Ling Chen sneered, thinking Liang Tian must be crazy for disciples, even accepting someone like Zhu Hong.

Yes, that's it!

Ling Chen suddenly remembered something. At the grand event held by the Yangxin Pavilion this time, besides Liang Tian, every elder of the Yangxin Pavilion had disciples participating. It was probably because of this reason that Liang Tian was urgently eager to find a disciple to cultivate.

However, martial arts practice must start from a young age; only by laying a solid foundation can one seek a higher realm. Zhu Hong was already of such an age, even if he were taken in as a disciple, what could he do?

Forget it!

Ling Chen shook his head, dismissing the miscellaneous thoughts in his mind. Regardless, that was Liang Tian's own business and had nothing to do with him.

However, Su Mei had previously sent people to search for Zhu Hong's whereabouts, so Liang Tian must have known about it. Knowing Zhu Hong was a criminal of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and still taking him as a disciple, wasn't that openly opposing Su Mei?

If there was a chance, he must tell Su Mei and Du Kang about this matter.

Chapter 765 Malicious Revenge (1)

No wonder, under the protection of Liang Tian, no matter how Du Kang and his people search, they can't find Zhu Hong.

Thinking this, Ling Chen glanced at the men beside Zhu Hong and asked, "You are Liang Tian's disciple, then where did you find these people?"

"That's none of your business." With those words, Zhu Hong looked through the transparent door and windows at the three people, Nanrong Wanqing included, in the dilapidated office, and with a slight smile, coldly said, "Ling Chen, you've caused me such misery and even ruined my face. How should we settle this score?"

"Since you've lured me here, you must have made up your mind, so why bother talking nonsense with me?"

"Haha!" Zhu Hong laughed heartily, "Ling Chen, you really are clever. You're right, I've thought it through. From the moment I was imprisoned in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I was determined that once I left that hellish place, I would make you suffer a fate worse than death. Although we haven't known each other for long, I know you well enough; you value loyalty and righteousness, which is your weakness. Hence, just by letting you watch your friends die right before your eyes..."

"You dare!" Ling Chen's complexion changed, he coldly shouted, "Zhu Hong, I am your enemy, why hurt the innocent? Let them go. Come at me if you dare."

Zhu Hong shook his head, "That would be too boring. If we're going to play, let's enjoy ourselves fully." With that, Zhu Hong disregarded Ling Chen's angry stare and walked towards the dusty office.

In the dusty office, Nanrong Wanqing, Nanrong Hao, and Jiang Hao were laying on the ground, all in a deep sleep, completely unaware of Zhu Hong's arrival.

Seeing Zhu Hong enter the office, Ling Chen quickly followed, fearing he might harm Nanrong Wanqing and others. He stood in front of Nanrong Wanqing and said in a deep voice, "Zhu Hong, setting aside Jiang Hao, Wanqing and Nanrong Hao are your childhood friends. Moreover, Wanqing is your childhood sweetheart, how can you bear to hurt them?"

"Friends?" Zhu Hong scoffed, "From the moment my face was destroyed, I have had no friends. As for Wanqing..." when mentioning Nanrong Wanqing, Zhu Hong's tone slightly paused, and he coldly said, "I devoted myself to her, wanting to marry her, to give her the best life. Unfortunately, she was blinded, actually choosing you. Since she won't accept me, why should I be kind to her? Don't worry, Wanqing is the woman I love most in this life, no matter what, I will not harm her life."

"What do you want then?"

"What do you think I will do?" Zhu Hong glanced at the sleeping Nanrong Wanqing, his gaze greedy, and with a smirk stated, "Since I can't have her heart, having her body wouldn't be too bad."

Hearing this, Ling Chen was shocked and immediately shouted, "Zhu Hong, if you dare do such a thing, I will never let you go, even in death."

Zhu Hong sneered, sarcastically saying, "Ling Chen, you better worry about yourself first. Oh, by the way! You like Wanqing a lot, don't you? I just got a very interesting idea. What do you say, watching me turn the clouds over with Wanqing later on, while you enjoy the show?"

"You..." Ling Chen clenched his teeth, his toes lightly tapping, and his body instantly rushed forward, his fist flying towards Zhu Hong's face.

Ling Chen knew very well that Zhu Hong meant what he said. If Nanrong Wanqing really was humiliated, given her character, she definitely would not want to live. So, the only thing he could do was kill Zhu Hong as soon as possible.

However, although Zhu Hong had no martial arts skills, the several men beside him were masters.

Seeing Ling Chen approach, the several men acted without a word, grabbing his arms from both sides and pinning his body against the wall.

The two men acted together, making Ling Chen's body seem glued to the wall, unable to move. No matter how he struggled, he could not break free from the men's shackles.

Seeing Ling Chen restrained, Zhu Hong chuckled to himself, then gave a young man beside him a look.

The latter immediately understood, took a small bottle from his pocket, and walked over to Jiang Hao, holding the bottle under his nose. What was in the bottle was unknown, but merely smelling it Jiang Hao immediately woke up from his deep sleep.

"This... where is this?" Looking around at the unfamiliar surroundings, Jiang Hao was momentarily disoriented, his face full of confusion.

"Um..."

Beside him, Nanrong Hao touched his forehead, sitting up from the ground.

"Hey! Brother Chen?"

Seeing Ling Chen present, Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao's faces immediately lit up. However, when they clearly saw Ling Chen's situation, their smiles quickly faded, their eyes showing a hint of surprise.

"Chen, who are you... who are you people? Let Chen go quickly!"

Jiang Hao noticed the other people in the office and immediately got up from the ground, shouting loudly.

While speaking, Jiang Hao ran towards Ling Chen, trying to rescue Ling Chen from the hands of those two men.

However, before Jiang Hao could get there, a young man standing beside suddenly flew up a kick and sent Jiang Hao flying out.

Puh!

A mouthful of fresh blood spilled, and Jiang Hao, clutching his stomach, rolled continuously on the ground, his face full of pain.

"Hao!"

Nanrong Hao was shocked and was about to run over when he realized that his sister was lying nearby.

"Sister?" Nanrong Hao hurriedly picked up Nanrong Wanqing and called out her name loudly.

"Haozi!" Ling Chen said sternly, "Protect your sister well, and don't let Zhu Hong harm her."

"Zhu Hong?" Nanrong Hao was stunned for a moment, looked at the people present, and asked, "Chen, are you confused? Zhu Hong isn't here."

"That one wearing the mask is Zhu Hong; he wants to harm your sister."

Hearing this, Nanrong Hao immediately cast his gaze towards the masked man, saying in surprise, "You... you are Zhu Hong?"

"Nanrong Hao, long time no see."

"Zhu Hong, what do you want?"

Zhu Hong coldly smiled and said, "Don't worry, I don't want much, just your life."

"You..."

Before Nanrong Hao could finish speaking, Zhu Hong directly interrupted him and said, "Chu Huaiyang, what are you waiting for? Get moving."

The young man named Chu Huaiyang nodded, quickly walked towards Nanrong Wanqing.

"Don't come over!"

Nanrong Hao quickly stood up, posing to strike.

Chu Huaiyang sneered, not taking Nanrong Hao seriously at all, and continued moving firmly.

Ah!

Nanrong Hao shouted loudly and swung his fist towards Chu Huaiyang's head.

Seeing Nanrong Hao approaching, Chu Huaiyang scoffed with disdain and kicked out fiercely, hitting Nanrong Hao's abdomen and sending him flying.

Easily dispatching Nanrong Hao, Chu Huaiyang squatted next to Nanrong Wanqing, then reached his hand into his pocket.

Chapter 766 Malicious Revenge (2)

Seeing Chu Huaiyang pulling out a bag of powder from his pocket, Ling Chen's eyes immediately became sharp.

"What do you want to do?" Ling Chen shouted.

Just now, Chu Huaiyang had used a bottle to wake up Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao, but when it came to Nanrong Wanqing, he took out a bag of powder. Remembering what Zhu Hong said, that powder was definitely not something good.

Unfortunately, no matter how loudly Ling Chen shouted, it was useless. His body was bound by two men, unable to move at all, let alone stop Chu Huaiyang.

Seeing Chu Huaiyang pour the powder into Nanrong Wanqing's mouth, Ling Chen's eyes reddened as he struggled desperately.

"Well done." Seeing Nanrong Wanqing swallow the powder, Zhu Hong couldn't help but smile triumphantly.

"Ling Chen, just wait, the show will start soon."

While he was speaking, a sharp scream suddenly came from outside the warehouse.

Hearing that scream, Chu Huaiyang abruptly raised his head, looked at the broken window, and coldly said, "That's Uncle Song's hawk calling; there must be someone outside."

"Ling Chen!" Zhu Hong looked at Ling Chen coldly, gritting his teeth, "I warned you to come alone and not to bring any help. It seems you didn't heed my advice."

Ling Chen's expression shifted slightly as he shook his head, "No, I didn't deceive you. It really was just me. Their lives are in your hands; I wouldn't dare to act recklessly."

"Fine, I'll trust you for now. Chu Huaiyang, let's go and check it out. You two, keep a good watch on them. If you let them escape, prepare to face death."

After speaking, Zhu Hong and Chu Huaiyang quickly headed out of the warehouse.

"Chen, Haozi..." Jiang Hao, enduring the pain in his body, slowly crawled on the ground.

Ling Chen looked at the two men beside him, slightly frowning and quickly thinking of a strategy. Now that Zhu Hong and Chu Huaiyang were gone, it was the best opportunity to escape.

However, though the timing was right, he didn't have any strength, and the two men in front of him were high-ranking experts from the Dragon List. In his current state, it was impossible to defeat them.

At that moment, Ling Chen suddenly felt the gazes of Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao on him.

Their eyes met, and without verbal communication, they immediately understood each other's intentions.

"Run!"

Lying on the ground, Nanrong Hao suddenly shouted and leaped up from the ground, then rushed towards the direction of the warehouse door.

"Trying to escape? Get back here!"

One man, seeing Nanrong Hao attempting to escape, immediately let go of Ling Chen and quickly chased after him. In just two or three steps, the man caught up to Nanrong Hao and locked his shoulders.

Before Nanrong Hao could escape five meters, he stumbled and fell directly onto the ground, his forehead hitting a stone, instantly bleeding profusely.

Hmph!

The man picked up Nanrong Hao by the collar from behind, like a cat lifting a mouse, and threw him back to where he was.

"Behave yourself." After speaking, the man lifted his foot and fiercely stomped on Nanrong Hao's calf. Instantly, Nanrong Hao let out a miserable cry of pain, his face as pale as paper.

After dealing with Nanrong Hao, the man walked over to Jiang Hao and stomped down.

Although they didn't cripple Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao's right legs, that kick was enough to cause serious injuries to their right legs, making it impossible for them to stand up again any time soon.

Seeing that both Jiang Hao were unable to get up, Ling Chen's face turned much uglier.

He had originally hoped that Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao could lend a hand, but now there was no hope at all.

Sigh!

Ling Chen sighed lightly, it seemed that they were doomed this time.

Honestly, Ling Chen wasn't afraid of death, since he had embarked on this path, he had been prepared. However, what he feared was Nanrong Wanqing being humiliated. If he had to watch Nanrong Wanqing being bullied by Zhu Hong, that feeling might be more unbearable than death.

At this moment, outside the warehouse, Zhu Hong and Chu Huaiyang were looking up into the sky, seemingly searching for something.

After a while, an eagle falcon swooped down from the sky and hovered at a height of over twenty meters, occasionally emitting sharp cries.

"There are people approaching us, and not just one."

Hearing a deep voice coming from beside them, Zhu Hong and Chu Huaiyang turned their heads to look. Not far from them, a middle-aged man was striding toward them.

The middle-aged man was between forty and fifty years old, his cold, expressionless face resembling an ageless iceberg, exuding a chilling aura.

Besides his memorable cold face, the middle-aged man's height was also exceptional, standing at about one meter ninety, inherently imposing a suffocating sense of oppression.

Seeing the middle-aged man approaching, Zhu Hong spoke, "Uncle Song, do you know who they are?"

"No need to look to know, Ling Chen is a member of the Eight Eccentrics, and they never abandon their comrades. They must have come to rescue Ling Chen."

"Hmph!" Zhu Hong sneered, "I knew he wouldn't be so compliant. But, it's good that they've come. If they hadn't shown up, wouldn't my meticulous arrangements have been in vain? Uncle Song, can you handle them?"

"It might be a bit troublesome," Song Mingzhe said, "I'm not afraid of the others, but I am worried about Zhang Zhongfeng. He is recognized in the Martial Arts as the Archer God, my eagle falcon can hardly gain an advantage against him. Besides Zhang Zhongfeng, there is also Xu Ming among the Eight Eccentrics, whose identity is quite mysterious and he has powerful hidden strength, this man must be guarded against."

"Enough!" Zhu Hong snapped impatiently, "I don't care about the details, in any case, I've arranged everything, and if we can't capture them all in one go, it will just show that you're incompetent. Uncle Song, do your best, don't disappoint my Master."

Hearing Zhu Hong mention the word 'Master', a slight change finally appeared on Song Mingzhe's icy face.

"I will handle them."

After saying this, Song Mingzhe put his hand to his mouth and whistled. The falcon hovering in mid-air immediately soared into the sky and disappeared in an instant.

At this moment, in the office of the abandoned warehouse, Ling Chen hung his head low, completely giving up resistance.

However, at that moment, a faint moan suddenly reached Ling Chen's ears.

Wanqing?

A thought crossed Ling Chen's mind, and he quickly lifted his head to look toward Nanrong Wanqing's position. Indeed, the previously unconscious Nanrong Wanqing finally woke up.

She was holding her forehead with one hand, slowly standing up from the ground as if she hadn't fully awakened yet.

"Ling... Ling Chen..."

Seeing Ling Chen not far away, Nanrong Wanqing whispered and took a step towards him.

As soon as she stepped forward, Nanrong Wanqing felt her legs give out, and she collapsed to the ground once again. Meanwhile, her pretty face gradually flushed, and her breathing became rapid.

Chapter 767 Battle with Chu Huaiyang (1)

Wanqing...

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing waking up, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry. The sight in front of him, especially her red cheeks and confused gaze, made one feel that something was off.

"Wanqing!" Ling Chen shouted Nanrong Wanqing's name loudly, hoping to catch her attention.

However, Nanrong Wanqing seemed not to hear Ling Chen's shouts, appearing dazed as she slowly stood up from the ground.

"Sister... Sister!" Nanrong Hao, enduring his pain, was struggling to crawl on the ground with his hands, trying to reach Nanrong Wanqing.

But at that moment, Nanrong Wanqing suddenly held her head, moaning in pain.

Seeing Nanrong Wanqing in such a state, Ling Chen immediately panicked, wanting to rush to her side but was restrained by the two men, rendering him helpless.

"Haozi!"

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Nanrong Hao immediately understood, gritting his teeth and laboriously crawling towards Nanrong Wanqing.

"It's hot...so hot...I'm so hot..."

Nanrong Wanqing gently stroked her cheeks, her moaning voice becoming increasingly clear, her bright beautiful eyes completely devoid of sense, filled with lust.

Seeing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but curse silently.

The powder that Chu Huaiyang had fed Nanrong Wanqing was indeed no good thing—it was an aphrodisiac.

Moreover, from the way Nanrong Wanqing was acting, it seemed she had taken a strong dose.

Zhu Hong!

Ling Chen clenched his teeth, feeling an immense rage inside. This bastard...too cruel, using such despicable means on Nanrong Wanqing.

Tsk tsk!

Watching Nanrong Wanqing exude a charming demeanor, the two men nearby couldn't help but praise.

"This chick is really something."

"I heard this chick is a renowned beauty in East Sea City, it really is not an empty reputation. Too bad for us, if only we were so lucky..." Upon saying this, the man laughed greedily, his eyes full of desire.

"Forget it, don't even think about it, this is the woman Zhu Hong wants. But, well, maybe after Zhu Hong is done with this chick, we might get a taste," one man said.

Listening to the conversation of the two men, Ling Chen felt extraordinarily angry, wishing he could smash both of them with a single punch.

At this moment, under the influence of the strong aphrodisiac, Nanrong Wanqing's actions became increasingly bold and provocative, unbearable for any man to withstand her alluring demeanor.

The two men standing beside Ling Chen stared intently at Nanrong Wanqing, their desire growing more intense, and Ling Chen could even clearly hear them swallowing their saliva.

Faced with Nanrong Wanqing's enticing appearance, even the usually resolute Ling Chen felt stirred by a wicked fire.

At this moment, outside the abandoned warehouse, Zhu Hong and Chu Huaiyang stood shoulder to shoulder, closely watching their surroundings, on guard for the enemy's appearance.

Suddenly, a whooshing sound struck. Immediately after, a blurred figure shot from a distance, rapidly approaching Zhu Hong and aiming straight for his forehead.

At this critical juncture, Chu Huaiyang, who had been closely guarding Zhu Hong, fiercely grabbed Zhu Hong's shoulder and pushed him aside forcefully. Instantly, Zhu Hong's body leaned forward, and the sharp arrow just missed the edge of Zhu Hong's clothes, embedding itself into the wall of the abandoned warehouse.

Looking at the trembling arrow, Chu Huaiyang secretly heaved a sigh of relief, a hint of wariness flashing in his eyes.

"That was close." Chu Huaiyang looked at Zhu Hong and said, "Fortunately, Zhang Zhongfeng was quite far away. If he had been any closer, you would have been dead."

Zhu Hong said in a deep voice, "Is that Zhang Zhongfeng really that powerful? Are his arrows stronger than guns?"

"Do you think the title of 'Archery God' was given to him for nothing?" Chu Huaiyang replied indifferently, "Huaxia is vast, filled with hidden dragons and crouching tigers. There are countless experts, but there is only one recognized as the Archery God, Zhang Zhongfeng. At the right distance, almost no one can escape his arrows, not even the experts on the Earthly List."

Chu Huaiyang pointed towards the abandoned warehouse behind him and said, "You better go inside quickly. Now that the Eight Eccentrics have arrived, there will definitely be a fierce fight soon. You are his disciple, and I need to ensure your safety. Otherwise, if something happens to you, how will I explain when I return?"

Hearing this, Zhu Hong didn't hesitate and walked straight toward the abandoned warehouse.

He had already experienced Zhang Zhongfeng's arrow just now and, considering his own safety, it was better to hide quickly to avoid being accidentally injured later.

Returning to the abandoned warehouse, Zhu Hong walked and thought. The potent medicine Chu Huaiyang had administered to Nanrong Wanqing should be taking effect. Perfect timing, while Chu Huaiyang is dealing with the Eight Eccentrics, I should take care of my own matters.

Thinking of taking revenge on Ling Chen, Zhu Hong couldn't help but lift the corners of his mouth and smiled proudly.

Huh?

When he reached the dilapidated office, Zhu Hong pushed open the door, and his gaze instantly sharpened. To his surprise, there were only two people left in the office, his two subordinates.

At this moment, the two men lay on the ground, their necks broken, with traces of blood still at the corners of their mouths.

Dead...

Seeing the two bodies, Zhu Hong was greatly shocked and quickly looked around. No, this can't be possible!

Zhu Hong muttered to himself internally. Ling Chen was seriously injured and subdued, and both Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao were ordinary people; they didn't have the capability to kill two Dragon List experts.

Amid his contemplation, Zhu Hong suddenly heard footsteps coming from behind.

Not good!

Zhu Hong swiftly turned his head, looking behind him. In an instant, he saw Ling Chen approaching, hands behind his back and a detached expression, step by step.

"You..." Seeing Ling Chen approaching, Zhu Hong was momentarily stunned. It was only when Ling Chen had approached within ten meters that Zhu Hong finally reacted and said in shock, "You... how could you..."

Ling Chen spoke indifferently, "Are you asking why I could escape?"

"Although those two subordinates of mine were not very powerful, they were still Dragon List experts. You were obviously severely injured; how could you have killed them? Could it be..."

At this point, Zhu Hong seemed to realize something, his pupils suddenly constricted, and he said coldly, "Could it be that you have been deceiving me all this time? That you weren't actually injured and everything was just an act you put on?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "No, you're wrong. I was indeed injured, and quite severely. However, heaven always looks after the good people, so someone like me who is a good person cannot die just yet."

Chapter 768 Battle with Chu Huaiyang (2)

"No, this is impossible." Zhu Hong stepped back, his gaze towards Ling Chen filled with a hint of fear.

He had originally wanted to take revenge on Ling Chen, but he had never expected the situation to escalate like this. Could this guy really be favored by heaven? No, that couldn't be it. Ling Chen must have some unknown tricks up his sleeve, which is why he managed to kill his two subordinates.

Unable!

Wrinkling his brows, Zhu Hong knew that without Chu Huaiyang by his side, he was no match for Ling Chen alone.

In a split second, Zhu Hong suddenly raised his hand, his wrist flicking lightly and several streaks of cold light shot out, aimed directly at Ling Chen's vital points.

Watching the incoming cold light, Ling Chen snorted softly, his body unmoved. He merely waved his arm, and without any apparent movement, the streaks of cold light were knocked to the ground, creating a 'clang clang' sound.

Darts!

Ling Chen glanced at them, then withdrew his gaze and continued to stare at Zhu Hong.

Seeing Ling Chen easily knock down the darts, Zhu Hong gritted his teeth and stretched both hands into his pockets. Then, with both hands, he fired over a dozen more darts.

After throwing the darts, Zhu Hong didn't wait for Ling Chen to catch up and immediately turned around to run towards the exit of the abandoned warehouse.

He couldn't handle Ling Chen alone; now he could only ask for Chu Huaiyang's help. Only by quickly meeting up with Chu Huaiyang could he have a chance to save his life.

"Trying to flee?" Ling Chen squinted his eyes and murmured, "I'd like to see where you can run."

With that, Ling Chen moved his legs and chased after the fleeing Zhu Hong like an arrow leaving the bowstring.

Turning his head, Zhu Hong saw Ling Chen getting closer and used every ounce of his strength, screaming Chu Huaiyang's name.

Finally, just as Ling Chen was about to catch up with Zhu Hong, Chu Huaiyang finally heard Zhu Hong's cries for help and appeared at the entrance of the warehouse.

Seeing Ling Chen closely pursuing Zhu Hong, Chu Huaiyang's expression slightly changed, and he quickly rushed towards Zhu Hong.

The moment Ling Chen threw a punch towards Zhu Hong's back, Chu Huaiyang finally reached Zhu Hong and threw a palm strike.

Their fists and palm collided, and Chu Huaiyang's expression immediately darkened, his body retreating several steps. In contrast, Ling Chen stood firm like a resilient pine, unshaken.

Seeing this, Chu Huaiyang was shocked, reacting just like Zhu Hong earlier.

This guy... He was seriously injured just a moment ago, powerless, unable to deal with two Dragon List masters, yet now he could withstand his own attack. Although he used less than seventy percent of his strength, it wasn't easy.

Facing Chu Huaiyang's astonishment and confusion, Ling Chen spoke, "To be a master of the Earthly List at such a young age, the person behind you must be extraordinary. I'm curious why such a promising young man like you would serve Zhu Hong; don't you feel aggrieved?"

"Cut the nonsense," Chu Huaiyang coldly shouted: "Ling Chen, with me here, don't think you can escape."

"Chu Huaiyang, instead of talking so much, just kill him," said Zhu Hong. "He killed those two men."

Killed?

Chu Huaiyang glanced at Ling Chen in surprise, and nodded lightly, saying, "If that's the case, let me see what you've got."

With that, Chu Huaiyang lightly tapped his toes, and swiftly charged at Ling Chen.

Chu Huaiyang was very fast, closing the distance in a blink of an eye, a palm strike aimed at Ling Chen's chest.

Even though the flesh palm hadn't yet closed in, Ling Chen had already felt a powerful force.

Hua Realm!

Ling Chen's eyes brightened, a cold light flickering. He then clenched his fingers tightly, instantly forming a fist, and fiercely struck out.

Bang!

In an instant, Chu Huaiyang, who was charging forward, flew out before he could approach, and heavily fell to the ground, his face pale.

Seeing this, Zhu Hong, who was watching from the side, was momentarily stunned.

Was he... defeated?

Faced with this sudden turn of events, Zhu Hong froze for a moment, his face showing disbelief as he looked at Ling Chen.

Chu Huaiyang was different from those two Dragon List experts; he was an Earthly List expert, yet he was sent flying by Ling Chen with a single punch, such a change was too great.

Back when Ling Chen was competing in the Yangxin Pavilion, Zhu Hong had secretly watched. At that time, Ling Chen was also a Dragon List expert, and although he could defeat an Earthly List expert, it took a lot of effort. However, when facing Chu Huaiyang now, he did it effortlessly, easily sending Chu Huaiyang flying.

At this moment, Ling Chen raised his hand and beckoned Chu Huaiyang with a finger.

"Come, continue, let me see the might of an Earthly List expert."

Hearing this, Chu Huaiyang immediately got up from the ground and stared coldly at Ling Chen. Faced with Ling Chen's provocation, Chu Huaiyang felt a nameless rage boiling inside him.

This guy... is too arrogant!

"Die!"

With a furious shout, Chu Huaiyang charged again, both palms striking towards Ling Chen.

As Chu Huaiyang approached, Ling Chen didn't move at all; instead, he fixed his gaze on Chu Huaiyang.

Three meters... Two meters... One meter...

When Chu Huaiyang was within one meter, Ling Chen suddenly raised his steel fist and struck the air.

Instantly, there was a 'pu' sound, and Chu Huaiyang spat out a mouthful of fresh blood, his body flying out again.

Seeing Chu Huaiyang being hurled away two times, Zhu Hong's pupils involuntarily shrank.

Hua Realm... It's the Hua Realm!

He had clearly seen Ling Chen using the Hua Realm to send Chu Huaiyang flying within a meter.

This could only be done by an Earthly List or Heavenly List expert. Ling Chen used to be a Dragon List expert, and now deploying Hua Realm indicated that he had advanced to the Earthly List, becoming a genuine Earthly List expert.

How... How is this possible?

Zhu Hong found it incredible; just a short while ago, Ling Chen had suffered severe injuries, but now he had successfully advanced to become an Earthly List expert. It was hard to imagine what Ling Chen had gone through just before.

While Zhu Hong was still dazed, Chu Huaiyang struggled to stand up from the ground and hurriedly came to Zhu Hong's side, grabbing his arm and speaking gravely, "What are you dazed for, let's go!"

Hearing Chu Huaiyang's reminder, Zhu Hong finally snapped into action and hurriedly ran towards the outside of the abandoned warehouse.

"Where do you think you're going!"

Ling Chen called out lightly, quickly following them. He wouldn't easily let go of this opportunity to capture Zhu Hong. No matter what, he had to catch Zhu Hong this time and settle matters with him.

However, before Ling Chen could catch up, a figure suddenly flashed in front of him. As Ling Chen focused, he stopped in his tracks and spoke, "Chu Huaiyang, this is a grudge between me and Zhu Hong, I advise you not to interfere."

Chu Huaiyang shook his head, saying, "I don't want to meddle, but I have no choice. He can't have an accident; if he does, my life won't be spared either."

"Why?"

"Because..." Chu Huaiyang opened his mouth, but it seemed like he had some unspeakable secrets, abruptly changing the topic, "Forget it! It's better for you not to know about such matters."

Chapter 769 Battle with Chu Huaiyang (3)

"Feel free to speak," said Ling Chen.

His heart was filled with curiosity; Zhu Hong's appearance this time was too unusual. Zhu Hong used to be an ordinary person, at most a low-level manager in the God Organization. But now, Zhu Hong had completely changed, surrounded by so many masters for protection; not only the masters from the Dragon List but even those from the Earthly List were deployed.

Thus, Ling Chen really wanted to figure out what exactly Zhu Hong had experienced to have transformed this way.

"Do you want to know?" Chu Huaiyang looked at Ling Chen, asking with a deep and meaningful tone.

Ling Chen nodded, saying, "Tell me, and perhaps I might let you off."

"Since you want to know, I can tell you. However, you also have to tell me something."

"What is it?"

"I am really curious why your strength..."

"Why it suddenly increased?" Ling Chen suddenly laughed as he spoke, "I have you to thank for that."

"Me?" Chu Huaiyang was puzzled as he looked at Ling Chen, not understanding what he meant. Having been outside the warehouse this whole time without any contact with Ling Chen, how could it be related to him?

Amid his contemplation, Ling Chen continued, "It's because of the medicinal powder you gave Wanqing."

Hearing this, Chu Huaiyang was even more bewildered. The potent medicine he gave to Nanrong Wanqing was only effective on her; what did this have to do with Ling Chen?

Observing Chu Huaiyang's confused appearance, the corners of Ling Chen's mouth slightly lifted as he chuckled to himself.

His words were indeed not wrong, the sudden increase in his strength was completely due to Chu Huaiyang.

After Nanrong Wanqing had taken the potent medicine, she had inadvertently displayed all her charm. At that moment, seeing Wanqing, Ling Chen felt his evil desires being stirred.

Under the effect of the Prajnaparamita Sutra, a strong evil fire blazed wildly within him. When the fire grew intense enough, there was a reaction in the Dantian, and the Prajnaparamita Sutra began to operate automatically.

The stronger the fire, the faster the Prajnaparamita Sutra ran, and it eventually broke through the bottleneck.

Honestly, even Ling Chen had not anticipated this.

As his strength broke through the bottleneck, elevating him to the ranks of the Earthly List masters, Ling Chen instantly freed himself from binds and effortlessly killed the two masters from the Dragon List. It was because of this that he could catch Chu Huaiyang off guard and defeat him.

However, even if he explained this, Chu Huaiyang would likely not believe it.

Therefore, Ling Chen thought for a moment and found some random pretext to brush Chu Huaiyang off.

"I have said what I needed to say, now isn't it your turn?"

"I willingly serve Zhu Hong not for any other reason but mainly because of his Master."

"Master?" Ling Chen was startled, a hint of confusion flickering in his eyes. Zhu Hong had mentioned his Master before, named Liang Tian. So, he could not understand how a Liang Tian could have such great influence and power to mobilize so many people to protect Zhu Hong.

If Liang Tian had such great power, why would he condescend to stay in Yangxin Pavilion? He could simply establish his own sect, why should he follow orders from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and serve others.

"Exactly who is this Liang Tian?" Ling Chen asked.

Since Chu Huaiyang seemed to know so much, he surely must be well-acquainted with Liang Tian.

Hearing Ling Chen's inquiry, Chu Huaiyang shook his head and said, "Sorry, that's all I can tell you." After saying that, Chu Huaiyang glanced at the warehouse door. By now, Zhu Hong had already escaped without a trace.

"Ling Chen, you're lucky today. You'd better be careful, Zhu Hong won't let things go so easily." After saying this, Chu Huaiyang didn't linger any longer and quickly ran outside.

Watching Chu Huaiyang's figure getting farther away, Ling Chen did not attempt to stop him. He had already promised Chu Huaiyang that as long as he told him the reason, he would let him go. Moreover, he could tell that Chu Huaiyang served Zhu Hong unwillingly.

Liang Tian... who exactly are you?

Just as he was thinking, several figures suddenly appeared at the warehouse door. Seeing the person in the lead, Ling Chen quickly waved his hand and called out, "Third brother, I'm here."

"Sixth brother." Once Yuan Yun saw Ling Chen, he immediately ran over to him, looking and feeling here and there with a concerned expression, asking, "Sixth brother, that kid Zhu Hong didn't harm you, right?"

Ling Chen grinned and said, "Third brother, do I look like someone who's been troubled?" After speaking, Ling Chen changed the topic and asked, "Third brother, where are the others?"

"They are still outside. I didn't expect Zhu Hong to arrange so many people, wanting to ambush us. But, he underestimated the strength of the 'Eight Eccentrics.' Hmph! With Second Brother there, these little fish stand no chance. Eh, Sixth Brother, how come it's only you here, are the others alright?"

"No worries, just some minor injuries."

Then, Ling Chen quickly took Yuan Yun to a corner of the abandoned warehouse. After moving a pile of miscellaneous items, they saw Nanrong Hao, Jiang Hao, and Nanrong Wanqing all hiding behind.

While Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao were still conscious, Nanrong Wanqing had once again fallen into unconsciousness. Unable to help it, as Nanrong Wanqing had taken a strong medicine, Ling Chen had to knock her out and performed simple treatment. At this moment, the effects of the medicine were not yet clear, and Nanrong Wanqing's pretty face was still flushed red, breathing hurriedly, requiring immediate treatment.

Immediately, Ling Chen picked up the delicate body of Nanrong Wanqing and said, "Third brother, do me a favor, take these two out."

"Okay."

Yuan Yun nodded, supported Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao with both hands, and then led them outside.

Upon coming out of the warehouse, Ling Chen looked around and saw Qiu Yong and others rushing over.

"Big brother, Second brother..." Ling Chen greeted each of them.

"Big brother, are those people taken care of?" Yuan Yun asked.

Qiu Yong shook his head and sighed, "Only got a few small fish, the big ones got away. Zhu Hong has too many capable protectors, we couldn't handle him."

"Never mind!" Ling Chen glanced at Nanrong Wanqing's flushed face and said, "Let's not worry about that now, rescuing people is more important."

...

Half an hour later, Nanrong Wanqing, Nanrong Hao, and Jiang Hao were all sent to the hospital.

While the three were receiving treatment, Ling Chen and Qiu Yong and others sat outside, patiently waiting, while discussing the recent events.

After hearing the information from Chu Huaiyang that Ling Chen shared, Qiu Yong frowned and said, "Liang Tian? I didn't expect it to be him."

"Hmph! That old man is indeed no good. Big brother, let's go to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion immediately and settle the score with that old man."

Qiu Yong glanced at Yuan Yun who was speaking and said, "Don't be impulsive just yet." After saying that, Qiu Yong turned back to Ling Chen and asked, "Sixth brother, what are your thoughts?"

"I..."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Xu Ming, who was beside him, said, "This matter might not be as simple as you all think."

Chapter 770 Song Mingzhe's Past

Seeing Xu Ming's insinuating manner, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "Second Brother, could it be that you know the inside story?"

Xu Ming shook his head and replied, "It's not exactly insider information, it's just... I'm more familiar with Song Mingzhe as a person, so I might know a bit more than you do."

Pausing for a moment, Xu Ming continued, "As far as I know, Song Mingzhe was not alone. Many years ago, his situation was much like ours with the Eight Eccentrics. He also had a group of brothers. These people were very much like us, each with unique skills. However, there was one difference—they were morally ambiguous, acting solely on personal preferences without reservations, which attracted quite a few enemies in the martial arts world."

"It is said that many enemies sought them out, but unfortunately, none of them were a match for Song Mingzhe and his group. Therefore, not a single one seeking revenge ever came back alive. Over those years, the number of people who died at their hands was significant."

"What happened after that?" Xia Yue asked curiously.

"After that..." Xu Ming looked up out the window and said, "Something happened later that forced Song Mingzhe and his group to disband. I'm not very clear on the specifics, I've only heard bits and pieces. It seems they offended someone significant, someone with backing from a top-ranked expert of the Heavenly List. Because of this, Song Mingzhe and his group paid a heavy price. I'm not sure what happened afterward, but I heard they disbanded and each went their own ways."

Hearing this, Qiu Yong said solemnly, "Second Brother, are you suggesting that Song Mingzhe and his group have gotten back together?"

"I can't be sure of that. But Song Mingzhe is a reclusive character, never mingling with others. Moreover, he has always listened to only one person, which is his initial Boss," Xu Ming explained. "If someone could persuade Song Mingzhe to come out of retirement, it would definitely be his Boss, no one else, and definitely not from God Organization."

Confused, Ling Chen asked, "Second Brother, not only has Song Mingzhe come out of seclusion, but he is also handling affairs for Zhu Hong. Why is that? Chu Huaiyang told me it's all because of Zhu Hong's Master. But, Zhu Hong himself told me his Master is Liang Tian. Could that old fellow really have such influence to command Song Mingzhe? Or is it possible... that Liang Tian is Song Mingzhe's Boss?"

"No," Xu Ming outright denied Ling Chen's speculation, "Liang Tian has been in Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion since he was young. He used to work under Su He, and when he got older, he was granted the eligibility to retire in Yangxin Pavilion. So, it's impossible for him to be Song Mingzhe's Boss." Xu Ming then changed the subject and said, "Anyway, this matter is highly unusual and must be thoroughly investigated soon. Ling Cheng, you have a good relationship with Master Su. Please, reach out to her and explain the situation, to help clarify the truth. If Zhu Hong truly is relying on Liang Tian's support to do wrong, he must be dealt with severely."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Okay, I'll call Miss Su right away."

After speaking, Ling Chen stood up and walked to the window to pull out his cell phone.

Once the call was made, a doctor in a white coat walked out of the emergency room.

"Doctor," Ling Chen hurried over and asked impatiently, "How is my girlfriend doing?"

"Don't worry, her condition has been stabilized now," the doctor answered, then reproachfully looked at Ling Chen and lectured, "Young man, it's just—I have to say, youngsters should have fun, but don't overdo it. Luckily, she was brought in in time. If it had been any later, even if her life had been saved, she would have become a vegetable. Remember to be careful in the future."

"Yes, yes," Ling Chen replied awkwardly, unable to retort.

"Doctor, can I go in to see her now?"

"She needs to rest now, try not to disturb her. She needs to stay in the hospital for observation these few days, and she can be discharged once her body has fully recovered."

"Okay," Ling Chen didn't dare to be negligent concerning Nanrong Wanqing's health.

In the hospital room.

Nanrong Wanqing lay weakly on the hospital bed, looking pale and completely listless.

Ling Chen sat by the bed with a cup of hot water, gently helping her sit up. After sipping water a few times, Nanrong Wanqing's complexion seemed slightly better, but she still sounded breathless when she spoke.

"Ling Chen, what... what exactly happened to me, what happened earlier?"

From the time Nanrong Wanqing was captured until she was drugged with a strong aphrodisiac, she had been semi-conscious. Under the effect of the aphrodisiac, she lost her reason completely and had no memory of what she had done.

"Nothing much," Ling Chen smiled faintly and said, "Just a small incident, don't worry, it's all settled now. The doctor has instructed that you stay in the hospital and rest well for a few days, and we'll go back once you've recovered."

Ling Chen wasn't ready to tell Nanrong Wanqing about Zhu Hong yet, to avoid her worrying unnecessarily.

"By the way! I've found Nanrong Hao, that kid has been causing trouble outside for a few days, don't worry, I'll discipline him well when I get back."

"Forget it, as long as he's okay," Nanrong Wanqing rubbed her temples and said tiredly, "I'm a bit sleepy."

"Then you better rest up, I'll come see you later."

Watching Nanrong Wanqing fall asleep, Ling Chen got up and left the room, then entered the adjacent room.

In the spacious and bright hospital room, Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao were each lying on a bed, both of their right legs wrapped in thick plasters.

Fortunately, their right legs were only fractured, not broken, otherwise both of them would have become cripples.

"Chen Bro."

"Chen Bro."

Seeing Ling Chen enter, Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao both greeted him.

"Chen Bro, has Zhu Hong been caught?" Nanrong Hao asked. Mentioning Zhu Hong, he looked furious, as if he couldn't wait to slap Zhu Hong right then.

That bastard, daring to mistreat his sister.

"He got away. Haozi, Jiang Hao, you two be careful from now on. Zhu Hong is hell-bent on taking revenge on me; he might still target you. Never go out alone, always try to have more people with you," Ling Chen earnestly instructed. "Also, keep this incident from Wanqing. I don't want her to worry."

"Chen Bro, don't worry, I won't mention a word in front of Sister."

"That's good. Alright then, you guys rest up, I've got some things to handle." With that, Ling Chen turned and left the hospital room.

Zhu Hong might still be in East Sea City. Ling Chen wanted to ask Hu Fei for help, to see if he could find that guy.