

The Beauty 771

Chapter 771 Expelled from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion

Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Liang Tian came alone to Su Mei's living quarters, and upon pushing open the door, he saw not only Pavilion Master Su Mei but also Du Kang and others, all of whom were staring at him. For some reason, Liang Tian suddenly had a bad feeling.

"Pavilion Master." Liang Tian clasped his hands and bowed to Su Mei as a form of greeting.

"Elder Liang, please have a seat." Su Mei indicated the chair next to her and said.

Liang Tian said with a half-smile, "Pavilion Master, let's skip the sitting." After finishing his words, Liang Tian turned his head to look at Du Kang and asked, "Elder Du, you've called me here, but I don't know what for. I have matters to attend to later and can't stay long. If you have anything to say, please speak directly to avoid wasting my time."

"Liang Tian." Du Kang's face was stern, and he sharply called out, not showing the slightest bit of courtesy. As the most senior elder of Yangxin Pavilion, Du Kang saw no need to save face for Liang Tian.

Hearing Du Kang's rebuke, Liang Tian's brows furrowed slightly, and a flicker of foreboding crossed his murky old eyes.

"Elder Du, if you have something to say, just say it. Why stare at me like that?"

"Liang Tian, do you still not recognize your wrongs?"

"Elder Du, be clear with your words. What wrong have I done, that even I myself am unaware of?" Liang Tian defiantly met Du Kang's stern gaze.

"Humph! At this point, you still don't realize your fault. Liang Tian, considering your long service in Yangxin Pavilion, I gave you a chance today. But if you continue in this vein, concealing the truth, don't blame me for being rude. Tell us, what exactly have you done wrong?"

Seeing Du Kang's exasperated demeanor, Liang Tian's heart skipped a beat, and his complexion showed a subtle change.

"Could it be... No way?" Liang Tian thought to himself. Nobody knew about that matter except himself; he hadn't breathed a word of it to anyone else. How did Du Kang find out?

As thoughts raced through his mind, Liang Tian steeled his resolve and said, "Elder Du, Pavilion Master, if you have something to say, just say it. Don't beat around the bush, I don't have time to play charades with you here."

"Fine, since you've said so, I'd like to see how you explain yourself. Liang Tian, you should be familiar with Zhu Hong, right?"

Zhu Hong?

A heavy feeling settled in Liang Tian's heart, and he inwardly cursed at the bad turn of events. Indeed, it was about that matter.

Seeing Liang Tian's silence, Du Kang said gravely, "You clearly knew Zhu Hong was a fugitive we were searching for, yet you protected him in secret, helping him escape our pursuit. Liang Tian, do you realize that by doing so, you are opposing Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? As an elder of Yangxin Pavilion, to commit such an act, you truly disappoint me."

"No, I haven't..." Liang Tian hurriedly defended himself, "Elder Du, this is slander. I have never done such a thing. Besides, what evidence do you have?"

"Evidence?" Du Kang said with displeasure. "At this point, you still refuse to repent. Well, if you want evidence, then I'll tell you. After Zhu Hong left Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, he went to seek revenge on Ling Chen alone, and he confessed this himself. Liang Tian, I'd like to see how you'll wriggle out of this."

"I..." Liang Tian was rendered speechless for a moment.

At this point, Su Mei spoke up, "According to Ling Chen, Zhu Hong is not alone; he has many capable people with him. Moreover, he repeatedly told Ling Chen that all of this was arranged by his master. Elder Liang, the matter has come to this point; do you still intend to keep hiding? It's better to confess than to be stubborn. If you are willing to explain everything, maybe we can show leniency and forgive past actions. But if you remain obdurate, then don't blame me for disregarding past feelings."

Hearing Su Mei's serious words, Liang Tian hesitated for a moment and then said, "Pavilion Master, you just said that I sheltered Zhu Hong; I admit to that. Indeed, I came across Zhu Hong hiding in Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion one night. Despite his age, he has quite a potential. I thought to myself, I need a disciple, so why not take him as one and nurture him well. Hence, I deceived those who came searching for Zhu Hong and protected him."

"And then what?"

"Elder Du, I admit to that, but I have no connection to the other matters you mentioned."

"What do you mean?" asked Du Kang sternly.

"After I took Zhu Hong as my disciple, the youngster was initially well-behaved, but after a few days, he suddenly disappeared. I searched everywhere for him to no avail, throughout Yangxin Pavilion. Therefore, his actions ever since have nothing to do with me."

Hearing this, Du Kang couldn't help but slam the table and rise up, glaring at Liang Tian with fury and snorting, "Liang Tian oh Liang Tian, despite being an ancient figure of Yangxin Pavilion, have you forgotten our rules? Yangxin Pavilion has always forbidden outsiders from entering, yet you dared to harbor a fugitive of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion within its walls. Do you realize the trouble you've invited?"

Du Kang continued, "This... Elder Du, I've recognized my mistake. Besides, this was a minor issue," Liang Tian replied dismissively. "After all, Zhu Hong didn't cause any major trouble."

"If he did cause major trouble, then everything would be too late. Liang Tian, you're not young anymore, yet you still commit such foolish acts. You've not only disappointed me, but I'm sure Elder Su would be even more disappointed when he learns of this. He nurtured you himself and allowed you into Yangxin Pavilion, but you've repaid his kindness with such actions."

"I..." Hearing Du Kang mention Su He, Liang Tian's face showed a look of shame. He opened his mouth but found no words to say.

"Enough, I don't want to talk about this anymore. Pavilion Master, you are the steward of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; this matter is for you to handle."

Su Mei nodded gently and looked at Liang Tian, "Elder Liang, in light of your actions that have gravely violated the rules of both Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and Yangxin Pavilion, as of today, you are no longer a part of Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Hearing this, Liang Tian's face instantly changed as he hurriedly said, "Pavilion Master, you can't do this. I'm an elder of Yangxin Pavilion, you..."

"You what?" Du Kang cut him off sharply. "If you truly considered yourself part of Yangxin Pavilion, you wouldn't have done things that betray Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Liang Tian, I've given you chances before, but unfortunately, you've repeatedly denied and concealed the truth, refusing to admit your faults. If this is the case, then this is the best punishment for you. Say no more, just leave. From now onwards, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion has nothing to do with you."

"Pavilion Master..." Liang Tian looked at Su Mei with a face full of pleading, hoping she would reconsider.

Su Mei sighed lightly and said, "Elder Liang, take care on your way; I won't see you out." Having said that, Su Mei stood up and walked straight out of the room.

Chapter 772 The Missing Experimental Subject

Watching Su Mei leave, along with Du Kang who was unwilling to deal with himself, Liang Tian gritted his teeth and said coldly, "Fine, since you all want to drive me away, I'll just leave. Du Kang, remember this day. It's you who are sending me away, so don't come begging me to return later."

With those words, Liang Tian walked out without looking back.

After Liang Tian had left, Du Kang shook his head, sighed, and then took steps to exit the room.

At this moment, outside the room, Su Mei stood alone in front of a window, looking out at the practice field, her brows slightly furrowed, evidently pondering over something.

"Pavilion Master."

Hearing Du Kang's voice from behind, Su Mei turned around and asked, "Elder Du, do you think Liang Tian's words are credible?"

"Although Liang Tian made a mistake in this matter, he is still trustworthy in other aspects. After all, he is an old member of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, having devoted decades to the pavilion with little contact with the outside world, so I believe his words are credible. However, I am quite curious about where Zhu Hong went after leaving Liang Tian, and what could have caused such a significant change in him. It's really unbelievable."

"Elder Du, how much do you know about Song Mingzhe?"

"I can't say I know much about him, but I've heard of him and am aware of his abilities. Truly, Song Mingzhe is also considered a remarkable talent of his generation. Pavilion Master, why don't you assign more people to conduct a thorough search of the Yangxin Pavilion and see if any clues can be found?"

"Alright."

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East Sea City.

In the research base, Ling Chen sat in Hu Fei's office, looking at the bustling Hu Fei and asked, "Fatty, have you found anything yet?"

"Not yet, Zhu Hong has not shown up, and I have no idea where he is hiding. He might have already left East Sea City by now."

"Not necessarily." Ling Chen shook his head, "Zhu Hong's main purpose for coming back this time was to seek revenge against me. He won't give up easily before achieving his goal. Besides, you know Zhu Hong, a person who will stop at nothing to reach his goals. We need to stay vigilant to make sure nothing like that happens again."

"Don't worry, I know what to do." As he said this, Hu Fei looked up, his tone turning, "Hey! Ling Chen, seriously, ever since Elder Zhou arrived, everything at the base has been managed orderly. He truly deserves his reputation as the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion's professional butler. I used to be so busy with trivial matters that I was almost out of my wits, but now with Elder Zhou here, I don't have to worry about anything."

"Of course," Ling Chen said with a smile, "It's already a great favor that someone with Elder Zhou's abilities is willing to work with us. Fatty, you should treat Elder Zhou well in the future and not neglect him."

"Do you even need to tell me that?" Hu Fei gave Ling Chen a disgruntled look and said, "I'm almost treating him like a grandfather now."

"Alright then!" After a brief bit of laughter, Ling Chen got serious and asked, "By the way, Fatty, is there any news about Xia Mutong and the others?"

"No, I've sent people everywhere to look for them, but they haven't shown up at all. I'm a bit worried that they might have fallen into someone else's hands."

At this point, Hu Fei continued seriously, "On the day our base was attacked, the experiment was in a critical phase, and later the research was interrupted due to the death of the scientists. But, what I'm not sure about is whether the experiment was successful at all, and whether Xia Mutong, Jiang Yunkai, and Bai Huanjun have returned to normal. If they are still violent, they will continue to commit crimes after leaving the research base. Yet, so much time has passed, and they haven't appeared, nor has there been any report in the news."

"That's strange," Ling Chen frowned slightly. So much time had gone by, and the complete lack of news was quite abnormal. He wondered what could have happened to the three of them.

After pondering for a while, Ling Chen temporarily set aside this problem and asked, "Fatty, is Zhao Zhengxiong still at the base?"

"Yes, he is. The crisis is not yet over, so I didn't dare to send him away. Why, do you want to see him?"

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "No need, I was just asking. Since Zhu Hong has escaped, he probably won't dare to make a move anytime soon. Later, tell Zhao Zhengxiong to go back. After all, he's a busy man, and we shouldn't hold up his important work."

"Okay, I got it."

Leaving the office, Ling Chen came face to face with Zhou Qi, who was walking toward him, and quickly greeted him.

"Ling Chen, Zhou Jun told me you were attacked. Are you alright?"

Feeling Zhou Qi's concern, Ling Chen smiled and said, "Elder Zhou, I'm fine. Not only am I fine, but this incident has also turned out to be a blessing in disguise, allowing me to successfully advance to the ranks of the Earthly List masters."

"Oh?" Zhou Qi's eyes brightened, and he looked at Ling Chen with an approving gaze, nodding, "Not bad, I wasn't wrong about you. To enter the Earthly List at such a young age is truly a rare feat. I've been on the Earthly List for many years, and although my strength isn't great, I do have a wealth of experience. If you ever have any questions in the future, feel free to ask me, and I'll do my best to help you."

"I'll thank you in advance."

After chatting briefly with Zhou Qi, Ling Chen didn't linger at the base. Driving away from the base, he didn't go straight back to Wealthy Manor or the hospital, but instead headed to Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

There were too many things to take care of lately, and he hadn't had much time to visit He Ziyun at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall. Besides that, there was another important guest at the hall he wanted to see.

Arriving outside Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, Ling Chen got out of the car and walked directly to the vermilion gate, lightly knocking on the door.

Before long, the door opened from the inside, and a small head peeked out, looking at Ling Chen who was standing outside.

"Little Hua."

Seeing those round black eyes and the little goat horn braid on top of her head, Ling Chen's mouth broke into a wide smile. He hadn't seen the girl for a while, but she was still the same.

"Come here, Little Hua, let big brother give you a hug."

Saying this, Ling Chen stretched out his hand, ready to pick up Little Hua.

However, before his hand reached her, the Little Hua at the door immediately stepped back, avoiding Ling Chen's gesture. Following that, the little girl pouted, huffed a little, turned around, and walked back, showing indifference to Ling Chen's arrival.

Heh!

Playing hard to get.

Ling Chen laughed helplessly. Despite looking only five or six years old, Little Hua was actually over twenty, a full-fledged adult. If it weren't for He Ziyun telling Ling Chen, he never would have taken Little Hua for a whimsically cute little girl.

"Hey! Little girl."

Ling Chen hastened his steps, catching up with Little Hua as she walked on, grabbed her arm, and asked, "Little girl, who's been bothering you again? Come on, tell big brother, and I'll stand up for you."

Chapter 773 Back-to-School Seminar

Little Hua pouted and said discontentedly, "Other than you, who else would dare to provoke me?"

"Me?" Ling Chen pointed at his nose, asking in puzzlement, "My little grandaunt, how did I provoke you? I haven't been to Qingyun Martial Arts Hall for a long time. Hey, I'm telling you, don't wrong me."

"Hmph!" Little Hua turned up her nose and couldn't be bothered with Ling Chen, she headed straight towards her bedroom.

"Hey, little girl..." Ling Chen quickly followed, but saw Little Hua suddenly turn around, extend her palm in front of him and said coquettishly, "Girls' bedroom, men stop here. You're not allowed to follow me inside, otherwise, I'll cry harassment."

Hearing that, Ling Chen gave a wry smile. She's clearly a grown adult over twenty, yet insists on acting like a child, without any change in her tone or demeanor.

Looking at the closed door, Ling Chen shook his head helplessly. Actually, there was no need to ask; he knew why Little Hua was angry - it must be because of Zhu Xiaozhu.

The issue with Zhu Xiaozhu was too complicated, and Ling Chen didn't want to overthink it; the more he thought, the more his head hurt. It was better to just let things take their course. Besides, now with Zhu Hong acting as a mediator, it would be better for him and Zhu Xiaozhu to reduce contact.

Arriving at the Martial Arts Academy's main hall, he saw He Ziyun sitting in the central seat, holding an invitation deep in thought, not even noticing Ling Chen entering. Only when Ling Chen greeted him did He Ziyun come back to senses and turned his gaze to Ling Chen.

"When did you come back?"

"I've been back for quite a few days. Recently I've been resting at home, and with some incidents happening, so I haven't been around to visit you."

As he spoke, Ling Chen glanced at the invitation in He Ziyun's hand, and curiously asked, "Mr. He, what's this?"

He Ziyun handed the invitation to Ling Chen, saying, "Take a look for yourself."

Ling Chen took the invitation and was immediately captivated by the first line of the content.

Respectfully inviting Mr. He Ziyun to Beijing for the Martial Arts Conference.

Martial Arts Conference?

This was the first time Ling Chen had heard of this name. He looked at He Ziyun and asked, "Mr. He, what kind of event is this Martial Arts Conference?"

"I've told you before, the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony hosted by Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is for the Tiger List and Dragon List experts, while the Martial Arts Conference is an exclusive gathering for Earthly List masters. Now, to keep up with the times, it's renamed the Martial Arts Conference."

So that's it! Ling Chen nodded, thinking to himself that the name indeed had a prestigious ring to it.

"Mr. He, are you going to attend?"

"Nothing much else to do, might as well go for a walk. Maybe I'll encounter a few real masters and exchange martial skills."

"Real masters? Mr. He, what do you mean by that? Aren't all Earthly List experts considered real?"

"It's not about being real or fake. The Martial Arts Conference covers a wide range, not just Earthly List experts, but also Dragon List, Tiger List, and some unaffiliated martial practitioners. I've been a couple of times before, and it was quite lively. If you're interested, you might as well come with me to see for yourself."

Ling Chen glanced at the date on the invitation; the Martial Arts Conference was scheduled to take place in a month, giving him ample time. If he could settle all his affairs within a month, he could indeed accompany He Ziyun to Beijing.

"Mr. He, let's talk about it when the time comes. If I'm free, I will definitely accompany you."

After a pause, Ling Chen changed the subject and asked, "By the way, Mr. He, how is Nanrong Yuan doing recently?"

"No need to worry about him, his body is recovering and there is no major issue. Just a little more rest and his injuries should fully heal."

"That's good to hear. Mr. He, thanks for your trouble these past days."

Since transferring Nanrong Yuan to East Sea City last time, he had been staying at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, with Lonely Wolf's people in charge of guarding him. Lonely Wolf's side had wanted to move Nanrong Yuan back and send him to a secret prison in Beijing. However, Ling Chen still wanted to find an opportunity for Nanrong Wanqing and Nanrong Yuan to meet.

After all, no matter what, they were father and daughter. Therefore, Ling Chen specially pleaded with He Ziyun to allow Nanrong Yuan to stay at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall a bit longer.

He had intended to have Nanrong Wanqing meet Nanrong Yuan earlier, but unfortunately, there hadn't been a chance, so it was postponed. Currently, Nanrong Wanqing was still recuperating in the hospital and it wasn't the right time, so they had to wait longer.

Having stayed at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall for a while, Ling Chen then bid his farewell and returned to the hospital.

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In the blink of an eye, three days passed.

On this day, Nanrong Wanqing finally got permission from the doctor to be discharged and go home.

Back at Wealthy Manor, before Ling Chen had a chance to sit down, he received a call from Hu Fei, who said he had discovered the whereabouts of Xia Mutong and others.

These past days, in order to find Xia Mutong, Jiang Yunkai, and Bai Huanjun, Ling Chen had used countless resources, with manpower almost covering all of East Sea City. Now at last, there was news of them.

Without delay, Ling Chen told Nanrong Wanqing, promptly drove to the research base.

"Fatty."

Ling Chen pushed open the office door, and before entering, his voice had reached Hu Fei's ears.

"Hurry over here." Hu Fei waved to Ling Chen.

Ling Chen marched quickly to the computer, looked at the screen in front of him, and asked, "Fatty, how is it, where are they?"

"Half an hour ago, our people sent news saying they'd found Jiang Yunkai, and they're now bringing him here."

"Bringing him here?" Ling Chen was taken aback, surprisedly said, "Jiang Yunkai is not in his right mind now, he's extremely dangerous, how could you let them bring him over?"

"Don't worry," Hu Fei said with a smile, "When they found Jiang Yunkai, he was indeed delirious, but at that time, Yunkai was digging through a trash can, just like a beggar, hardly a threat."

"Digging through a trash can?" Ling Chen was taken aback. How could Jiang Yunkai have fallen to such a state?

"By the way, Fatty, other than Jiang Yunkai, have Xia Mutong and Bai Huanjun been found?"

"No sightings of them yet, but since we've found Kai, finding the other two shouldn't be hard. Don't be too anxious, take it slowly. As long as they haven't left East Sea City, we'll definitely locate them."

As they were talking, a young man rushed into the office and said, "Big Brother Hu, Chen, Kai has been brought back."

Hearing this, Ling Chen and Hu Fei quickly headed outside.

At the entrance of the research base, they saw four or five youths carrying Jiang Yunkai, bringing him into a room.

Looking at Jiang Yunkai lying flat on the bed, moaning incessantly, Ling Chen slightly frowned. After some time without seeing him, he didn't expect Jiang Yunkai to have become like this, with ragged clothes, looking even worse than a beggar.

Chapter 774 Father and Son Meet

How did it come to this?

Ling Chen muttered in surprise. Before undergoing the experiment, Jiang Yunkai was completely a killing machine, devoid of any emotions. Now, he's changed into this state; could it be that he has lost his memory?

"Kai." Ling Chen approached Jiang Yunkai, calling his name.

"Eat... I want to eat... eat..." Jiang Yunkai mumbled hazily, his speech slurred and he seemed to have lost his sanity.

Ling Chen sighed helplessly and said, "Fatty, have someone prepare some food." After speaking, Ling Chen placed his hand on Jiang Yunkai's pulse to check his physical condition.

After a while, Ling Chen raised his hand and touched his nose.

Strange!

Jiang Yunkai's bodily functions were all normal, lacking any abnormalities. If so, why has he changed like this? Could it be due to issues with the experiment that caused brain damage?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry. If the brain was damaged, his medical skills would not be able to detect it. Moreover, the brain is the most mysterious part of the human body. Once there is a problem with the brain, it is very likely to lead to dementia, as shown in Jiang Yunkai's current behavior.

"Fatty, quickly have someone take Kai to the hospital," Ling Chen said sternly.

"Alright, I'll arrange for someone immediately."

"You stay here, continue to look for the whereabouts of others; I'll accompany Kai to the hospital."

"Remember to inform me once there's a result, to put my mind at ease."

Leaving the research base, Ling Chen took Jiang Yunkai to the car and drove straight to the hospital.

Upon arriving at the hospital, after completing the procedures, Jiang Yunkai was taken by a doctor to the equipment room.

After waiting outside for a moment, the doctor in charge came out of the equipment room and asked Ling Chen, "Are you the patient's relative?"

"No, he's my friend. Doctor, how is his condition?"

"His condition is rather strange. I've checked his brain, and there isn't anything unusual. However, his consciousness is unclear, and I don't know what caused it. How about this, let your friend stay in the hospital, and later I can ask a few brain specialists to examine him thoroughly to see what exactly is wrong with your friend."

Ling Chen thought for a moment, then nodded, "That sounds good. However, I have a request..."

Ling Chen's request was actually very simple; Jiang Yunkai must be arranged in a private room, and he wanted his own people to guard him. Jiang Yunkai was too dangerous, and even though his consciousness was unclear now, there was still the possibility that he might harm someone. It's better to be safe than sorry.

After settling Jiang Yunkai, Ling Chen left a few people there, then drove back to the research base alone.

On the way back to the research base, Ling Chen suddenly received a phone call. The number displayed was an unknown call, from East Sea City.

Upon answering, Ling Chen greeted, and was about to inquire when he heard a voice from the other end of the phone: "Ling Chen?"

"It's me, who are you?"

"I'm Yang Tao."

"Yang Tao?" Ling Chen was startled, then quickly realized and said: "Yang, are you also in East Sea City?" After finishing his question, Ling Chen suddenly remembered something. Initially, Yang Tao and his brother Yang Zhe had accompanied Porridge Girl to find Ji Gang for a swap, and so much time had passed without any news from the three of them, it was unknown if they had succeeded.

Now that Yang Tao called, could it be that they already have a result?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen immediately asked, "Yang, have you... have you swapped the person back?"

"Ling Chen, let's not talk about this for now, come quickly to Yunshui Hotel, room 302, we are waiting for you here."

"Okay, I'll be right there."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen found the address of Yunshui Hotel on the mobile map and drove there.

Yunshui Hotel.

Ling Chen took the elevator to the third floor of the hotel and found room 302. After knocking, the door was quickly opened by Yang Tao.

"Brother Yang."

Yang Tao nodded, glanced out into the corridor, and seeing that no one was around, he welcomed Ling Chen inside.

Seeing Yang Tao acting so cautiously, Ling Chen felt something was odd and asked as they walked, "Brother Yang, what's wrong?"

"Ji Gang is searching everywhere for us, it's better to be careful."

"Ji Gang?" Ling Chen was shocked. Ji Gang was actually in East Sea City and searching for Yang Tao and the others.

Inside the room, porridge girl and Yang Zhe were both there, sitting on the sofa looking somewhat weak, as if they had suffered internal injuries.

"Brother Yang." Ling Chen greeted Yang Zhe, then quickly went to porridge girl's side, asking with concern, "How are you? Are you okay?"

Porridge girl gently shook her head, whispering, "It's just some minor injuries, nothing serious."

"Then..." Ling Chen initially wanted to ask if they had managed to bring back his father, but seeing the severity of their injuries, he guessed that their mission had not been successful and decided not to ask.

Porridge girl looked up at Ling Chen and softly said, "Don't worry, Master has been rescued, he's in the bedroom over there."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up. He looked towards the neighboring bedroom, his eyes filled with anticipation and excitement.

After so many years, he was finally going to see his father. Thinking about this, Ling Chen's excitement grew, almost wishing to burst into the room immediately.

Taking a deep breath, Ling Chen approached the bedroom door, grasped the handle, and gently turned it, pushing the door open.

"Dad..."

The long-missed word slipped from his mouth, and Ling Chen felt a sting at the corners of his eyes. It had been so many years since he was an ignorant young boy, and now he stood as a man who had faced numerous dangers, relying on luck and his own efforts to get through.

Now about to meet his father, Ling Chen felt he had so many things to tell Ling Kun.

However, when the bedroom door opened, Ling Chen only saw a middle-aged man lying on the bed, his father Ling Kun.

At that moment, Ling Kun lay quietly on the bed, motionless, akin to a dead man, devoid of any signs of life.

"Dad..."

Ling Chen paused, hurried to the bedside, and called out his name.

"Dad, you..."

"Stop calling."

Before Ling Chen could finish, porridge girl's voice came from the doorway. Ling Chen turned to look at her, anxiously asking, "What happened to my dad?"

Porridge girl bit her lip and stammered, "When we escaped from Ji Gang, Master took a blow from him to buy us time, and ended up seriously injured and fell into a coma. It's been many days, and he hasn't woken up yet."

"Why didn't you take him to the hospital?"

Porridge girl sighed, "We wanted to, but Ji Gang has been tracking us. We can't stay put; we have to keep moving. We've been moving around a lot these days, only arriving in East Sea City today."

Chapter 775 Escaping After Switching People with a Fake Pill

Ling Chen said in a deep voice, "Could it be that Ji Gang, that old bastard, didn't keep his promise, took the Nine Elements Pill, and still wants to keep you here?"

"That's not it. Actually... actually, we used a stratagem, using a fake Nine Elements Pill to exchange our Master back from Ji Gang. Later, Ji Gang saw through our trick, so he tracked us relentlessly, and we had no choice but to run everywhere."

"You deceived Ji Gang?" Ling Chen asked in surprise.

Ji Gang is no ordinary person; he is a master of the Heavenly List. It's daring of them to deceive Ji Gang like that. However, Ling Chen still found it odd that if they could deceive Ji Gang with their stratagem, why did they still use the Nine Elements Pill to exchange for Ling Kun? That seemed redundant.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen couldn't help but voice the doubt in his mind.

"It's because we had the real Nine Elements Pill that we were able to deceive Ji Gang. After Ji Gang's people verified the Nine Elements Pill, we secretly swapped it with a fake one. By the time Ji Gang realized, we had already escaped with the Master. However, we didn't expect Ji Gang to find out so quickly; we didn't even have the chance to escape. If it wasn't for the Master sacrificing himself at the critical moment, we all would have died by Ji Gang's hand."

"You... Ah, you took too many risks."

Porridge girl said guiltily, "We didn't want the Nine Elements Pill to fall into Ji Gang's hands, so this was the only way. Ji Gang is already a master of the Heavenly List; if he obtained the Nine Elements Pill, who could stand against him in the future."

"Let it be!"

It's too late to say anything now. Ling Chen shook his head and looked at Ling Kun on the bed, asking, "How is my father's condition?"

"Master is severely injured and is in critical danger. At the last moment, he used a special technique to put himself into a state of suspended animation. In this way, the consumption of his body functions can be minimized, which prolongs his life."

"When will he recover?"

"I don't know. However, Master's body will gradually recover, and once his injuries are sufficiently healed, he will naturally wake up."

Ling Chen smiled bitterly, "So, no one knows when my father will wake up."

"You don't need to worry too much. I know Master's capabilities the best, he will wake up sooner or later, there won't be any issues. I called you here to find a safe place for Master to recuperate properly."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately thought of the research base. However, as soon as this idea appeared, Ling Chen denied it. Although the research base is a good choice, its defensive power is weak, with not many experts present. If Ji Gang were to come, his father would definitely be in danger.

"Ling Chen, do you have any good places?"

"This..." Ling Chen touched his head, suddenly, he seemed to think of something, his eyes lighting up.

I got it!

"I know where to take my dad."

"Where?"

Ling Chen opened his mouth about to speak. But, thinking of Yang Tao and Yang Zhe outside the bedroom, Ling Chen immediately lowered his voice and said, "Elder Su's place."

Hearing the word 'Elder Su', porridge girl immediately understood Ling Chen's intention, nodding and saying, "If Elder Su can really shelter Master, that would indeed be a good choice."

"Alright, no time to delay, I will immediately arrange for someone to take my father to Elder Su's place." Saying this, Ling Chen paused, then changed the topic and asked, "If I leave, what will you do?"

"Yang Tao and his brother will return to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. There are so many experts there, even Ji Gang with all his abilities wouldn't dare to cause trouble at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. As for me... don't worry about me, I can disappear on my own. Ling Chen, don't worry about anything else, just settle Master first. After everything with Master is settled, come find me."

"Okay, take care."

Leaving the room, Ling Chen carried Ling Kun on his back, covered him with a bedsheet, and directly took the elevator down to the hotel lobby.

Upon reaching the parking lot outside, a Mercedes-Benz van was parked by the road.

"Chen, over here."

Jiang Hao sat in the driver's cabin of the van, waved at Ling Chen, and hurriedly got out of the vehicle to greet him. Seeing Ling Kun on Ling Chen's back, Jiang Hao curiously asked, "Chen, who is this?"

"Don't ask too many questions, just open the car door."

Jiang Hao dared not go against Ling Chen's words and quickly opened the rear door of the Mercedes-Benz van.

Although Ling Chen himself drove a car, that car was too small and not suitable for long distances, that's why he had Jiang Hao prepare a spacious van.

The seats in the back of the van had been folded down to make a bed.

Ling Chen placed Ling Kun on the makeshift bed, then got into the driver's seat.

"Chen, aren't you going to let me come with you?"

"No need." Saying that, Ling Chen threw his car keys to Jiang Hao, instructing, "Help me drive the car back to Wealthy Manor."

"Got it, Chen."

Driving alone, Ling Chen headed straight onto the highway towards Jinhai City.

After about a day's drive, Ling Chen finally arrived in Jinhai City. However, Su He lived on the outskirts of Jinhai City by the sea, which was still a few hours away.

Having driven all day, Ling Chen was incredibly tired. He yawned, parked the car on the roadside, checked on Ling Kun in the back, and then walked to a nearby fast-food restaurant.

He bought two hamburgers, nibbling on one as he walked back to the Mercedes-Benz van.

But just leaving the fast-food restaurant, Ling Chen discovered that the Mercedes-Benz van parked by the roadside had disappeared.

Where's the car?

Ling Chen paused in shock, not caring about the hamburger in his hand anymore, he quickly threw the hamburger on the ground and hurried to the roadside.

Looking around, there was no sign of the Mercedes-Benz van. Ling Chen grew anxious inside; the area was mostly crossroads, and it was unclear in which direction the van had gone.

Damn it!

Ling Chen cursed inwardly. Who would do such a thing, stealing the van while he wasn't paying attention.

Could it be Ji Gang?

No way.

Ling Chen furrowed his brow. He had been rushing to Jinhai City with Ling Kun without any stops; it was impossible for Ji Gang to have received the news so quickly. And even if Ji Gang knew, he couldn't have gotten here that fast.

Who could it be then?

Right!

Surveillance footage.

This area was full of crossroads, each equipped with surveillance cameras. If someone had stolen the Mercedes-Benz van, it should be captured by the cameras.

With a plan in mind, Ling Chen immediately pulled out his phone and called Tang Yuan.

Tang Yuan's current status was not simple; he worked for a special department. With his help, checking the surveillance footage should be much more convenient.

The call connected, and before Ling Chen could speak, he heard Tang Yuan's voice from the other end of the phone, "Tang Yuan, what a coincidence. I was just about to call you."

"Did you need something from me?"

"Of course, and it's actually good news."

Chapter 776 Tang Guoxiong's Revenge (1)

"Tang Yuan said cheerfully on the other end of the phone, 'Brother, I've upgraded.'"

"Oh? What's your position now?"

"I am now Colonel Pang's deputy, and also a core member of Lonely Wolf. Han Bing, Jiulin, and I, as veterans of Ghosts, now control Lonely Wolf. It won't be long before we bring back the glory days of Ghosts."

Glory?

Ling Chen bitterly smiled to himself. The glory of Ghosts had long become a thing of the past, and as for Lonely Wolf, its glory had yet to start and was unlikely to arrive.

In fact, upon learning of Jiulin's military rank, he knew that the mysterious organization Lonely Wolf was no longer a priority for the higher-ups.

In the past, both Ghosts and Lonely Wolf were managed by General Qiao Zhen. Not only was Qiao Zhen experienced, but he was also a general, a high rank given due to the high value placed on the development of Ghosts and Lonely Wolf. Now, the general has retired, looked after by the state, and with Ghosts dissolved, only Lonely Wolf remains.

Jiulin was once an instructor for Ghosts and is experienced; now chosen as the new leader of Lonely Wolf, he was only given the rank of Colonel. This is a large gap compared to Qiao Zhen. Of course, Jiulin having relatively less tenure in the military division, couldn't be directly given a general's rank—that would be too frivolous. However, considering Jiulin's age and rich experience, along with his contributions to the country, he definitely deserved a general's rank.

By doing this, the higher-ups undoubtedly aimed to weaken the influence and privileges of Lonely Wolf.

At this rate, it wouldn't be long before the higher-ups find a replacement for Lonely Wolf, turning it into an expendable asset, possibly even following in the footsteps of Ghosts.

Tang Yuan wasn't foolish; he must be aware of such issues.

Seeing Ling Chen remain silent over the phone, Tang Yuan seemed to guess what he was thinking, and said with a laugh, "I know what you're thinking. The higher-ups used to value Ghosts and Lonely Wolf, or rather they recognized General Qiao Zhen. They trusted the General and his capabilities, which is why they were comfortable delegating powers to Ghosts and Lonely Wolf. Colonel Pang has just taken over the leadership of Lonely Wolf, and although the General knows him, the higher-ups aren't fully aware of his capabilities, so they wouldn't delegate all powers to him just yet. As long as we produce results, I believe Lonely Wolf will gradually grow."

Ling Chen silently nodded, agreeing with Tang Yuan's reasoning. Everything is difficult at the start; he hoped that Jiulin and Tang Yuan could work together to strengthen and expand Lonely Wolf.

"Old Tang, did you contact me just for this?"

"No, there's another matter," Tang Yuan's tone suddenly grew serious.

"Ling Chen, be careful these days, someone might harm you."

"Who?"

"Do you remember Tang Guoxiong?"

"Of course." How could Ling Chen forget Tang Guoxiong? Initially, the higher-ups had sent Tang Guoxiong into Lonely Wolf to participate in all its operations. Indeed, everyone understood that Tang Guoxiong's purpose in joining Lonely Wolf was to monitor it and limit the General's power.

Later, when the General and Tang Yuan tried to help themselves, breaking Lonely Wolf's regulations, Tang Guoxiong captured them. For this, Tang Guoxiong repeatedly opposed them, seizing their

achievements. Not long ago, Ling Chen had managed to get He Ziyun out of retirement and then used a little strategy to make Tang Guoxiong suffer a major setback, resulting in his imprisonment.

Thinking back, this was only a matter of months ago. Given Tang Guoxiong's offenses, he should have been imprisoned for some time, not likely to be released soon.

"Tang Guoxiong has been released from prison early."

Hearing what Tang Yuan said, Ling Chen was surprised, "How could this be?"

"Tang Guoxiong has connections and a background, with someone secretly pulling strings for him, enabling his early release. From what I know, Tang Guoxiong has already left Beijing, his whereabouts unknown. However, I know that Tang Guoxiong has had contact with some unscrupulous individuals, I worry he might seek revenge on you, so I wanted to warn you to be careful."

Ling Chen looked at the spot where the Mercedes-Benz business van had just parked, his eyebrows slightly furrowing.

He had been wondering who could have stolen that business van. Now, hearing about Tang Guoxiong from Tang Yuan, could it have been him?

Thinking this, Ling Chen immediately shared the events that had happened with Tang Yuan.

"Is that so? Wait for me, I'll make a call to the traffic department in Jinhai City and ask if they have any surveillance footage." After saying this, Tang Yuan immediately hung up.

Less than two minutes later, Tang Yuan called back.

"Tang Yuan, I'm afraid your guess was right; it was Tang Guoxiong."

Ling Chen urgently asked, "Did the surveillance video catch it?"

"It did catch it, but the record is now gone. I just called to inquire with the traffic department, and they told me that just a few minutes ago, someone went to the traffic department and deleted a segment of the footage. The person showed credentials from a special government department, so the traffic leaders didn't dare stop it. Given such authority, that person must have government backing, so besides Tang Guoxiong, I can't think of anyone else."

"It must be him." Ling Chen said in a deep voice. Although he had many enemies, they all came from the God Organization and Martial Arts world, with no ties to the government. Since the individual showed credentials from a special government department, it was undoubtedly Tang Guoxiong.

This bastard... He had spared him once, and he dared to cause trouble over him? Did he really think he had no temper?

"Old Tang, Tang Guoxiong and his group must still be in Jinhai City, help me think of a way to find their whereabouts."

No choice, as Ling Kun was still in that Mercedes-Benz business van, and it concerned the safety of his father, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry.

"Wait for me, I'll immediately use Lonely Wolf's resources to help you search."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen put away his cell phone and turned his head to survey the surrounding area. Although Tang Guoxiong had someone destroy the surveillance footage at the traffic department, that was only traffic management footage. The area was filled with hotels, fast food restaurants, and coffee shops; there definitely were other surveillance cameras that could have captured the location of the Mercedes-Benz business van.

At that moment, Ling Chen began to inspect the nearby shops one by one to see which shop's surveillance might have caught the position of the Mercedes-Benz business van.

However, just then, a black Mercedes sedan slowly drove up and stopped next to Ling Chen.

The car window rolled down, and a man in his thirties, dressed in a suit, leaned out from inside the car and said, "Mr. Ling, if you want to find someone, it's best to get in the car."

Chapter 777 Tang Guoxiong's Revenge (2)

Ling Chen stared at the middle-aged man and said in a deep voice, "Was it you who stole my car?"

"Mr. Ling, since you know, why bother asking so much? If you don't want anything to happen to the person in the car, you'd better get in quickly and not waste any more time."

Hearing this, Ling Chen, without another word, quickly opened the car door and sat in the back seat.

Another middle-aged man was also in the back seat. Seeing Ling Chen get in, a sharp dagger suddenly appeared in the man's hand, pressing against Ling Chen's waist while his other hand reached out in front of Ling Chen, saying, "Mr. Ling, please cooperate and hand over your phone and any weapons."

Ling Chen tossed his phone into the man's hand and said indifferently, "I have no weapons, just this phone."

The middle-aged man searched him suspiciously until he was sure Ling Chen carried no weapons, then gestured to the driver. Understanding the cue, the driver immediately started the car and drove onto the road.

Throughout the trip, the two middle-aged men did not speak, no matter what Ling Chen said, they never responded.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen simply shut his mouth. Since he couldn't get any information, he did not want to waste his breath.

After driving for over twenty minutes, the car finally entered the underground parking garage of a mall. The parking garage was still under construction and not yet completed, with barriers blocking the entrance. Seeing the Mercedes sedan approaching, a man in a suit hurriedly moved the barriers aside. After the car passed, he quickly replaced them to prevent other vehicles from entering by mistake.

Entering the underground parking garage, Ling Chen turned to look out the car window. Soon, he saw a Mercedes-Benz business van, the very one he had driven from East Sea City.

Next to the Mercedes-Benz van, two other sedans were parked, and a few middle-aged men in suits stood nearby. Observing their formation, Ling Chen immediately focused on one of the sedans.

With Ling Chen's abundant experience, a mere glance was enough for him to deduce that those middle-aged men were protecting that sedan. So, he was certain that an important person was sitting in that sedan, perhaps his target, Tang Guoxiong.

The sedan stopped, and the middle-aged man in the back seat pushed Ling Chen's shoulder and barked, "Get out!"

Ling Chen didn't resist and obediently pushed the car door and stepped out.

As soon as his feet touched the ground, two men immediately came up outside the car, grabbing Ling Chen's shoulders to prevent him from escaping.

"Gentlemen, there's no need to use so much force. We're already here; where do you think I can escape to?" After speaking, Ling Chen raised his head and looked at the sedan not far away, and said, "Call your boss out."

As soon as these words fell, the car door of the opposite sedan was opened by a man in a suit. Immediately after, a middle-aged man in a crisp suit alighted from the back seat.

Recognizing the man, Ling Chen inwardly exclaimed, sure enough. He was right, the person who hijacked the Mercedes-Benz business van was indeed Tang Guoxiong.

Tang Guoxiong adjusted his tie and walked briskly toward Ling Chen, eying the trapped Ling Chen with a cold gaze, a hint of triumph flashing across his face.

"Ling Chen, you never expected to fall into my hands so quickly, did you? I've said before, I will never let you go."

Ling Chen said indifferently, "I admit you have powerful connections, to be released from prison in just a few months. However, you made one mistake."

"What is it?"

Ling Chen didn't directly answer Tang Guoxiong but looked at the Mercedes-Benz business van and asked, "What about the person in that car? Where is he?"

Tang Guoxiong sneered, "You mean that vegetative person? I have no interest in him; he's still lying in the van. Don't worry, after I deal with you, I'll inform the hospital to take care of him, so you can rest easy on your way."

While they were talking, a middle-aged man beside Ling Chen drew a dagger from his waist. He just waited for Tang Guoxiong's order to stab Ling Chen without hesitation.

"Tang Guoxiong, as I said before, you made a mistake coming after me for revenge."

As soon as the words were out, Tang Guoxiong hadn't even reacted when they heard two cries of pain; the two men supervising Ling Chen both collapsed to the ground, and even more, Ling Chen had snatched the dagger from the other man's hand.

From beginning to end, no one in the crowd had seen Ling Chen's move clearly before his two companions were down.

Facing the stunned crowd, Ling Chen was very calm, looking playfully at Tang Guoxiong and said, "You really thought I'm so easy to bully? To actually catch me and bring me here." Saying this, Ling Chen looked around and nodded to himself, "This place is good, no one to disturb, no cameras, it's a perfect spot to settle things."

Seeing Ling Chen approaching step by step, Tang Guoxiong hurriedly retreated a few steps and coldly shouted, "Ling Chen, don't be arrogant in front of me. I know you were a member of the Ghosts, and highly skilled. Since I know your details, do you think I came unprepared? Mr. Qin, it's your turn to make a move."

Following Tang Guoxiong's gaze, they saw a person stepping down from that sedan.

To be exact, it was a young man whose features were passable, probably about the same age as Ling Chen, carrying an air of arrogance as if everyone was below him.

Ling Chen sized up the young man, who was also looking at him, but his gaze was full of disdain, not taking Ling Chen seriously at all.

When the young man approached, Ling Chen asked with a sneer, "Are you the person Tang Guoxiong hired to deal with me?"

"Indeed. Remember my name, Qin Gang. When you report to the King of Hell later, you'll know who killed you."

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but laugh. The youth was truly boastful. He didn't deny that there were many skilled masters among the young, but certainly not this young man. Besides, recognized young masters like Wang Hao had been defeated by him, who else could he fear?

"Alright, since you want to kill me, let me see what you are capable of," said Ling Chen, hooking his finger, signaling Qin Gang to make a move.

Qin Gang glanced sidelong at Ling Chen, completely ignoring Ling Chen's provocation, and coldly said, "I'll let you make the first move; otherwise, I'm afraid you won't even have the chance."

Ling Chen chuckled. He had seen arrogant people before, but never someone as arrogant as this. This guy really thought of himself as a Heavenly List expert.

In a flash of thought, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, since you insist that I make the first move, I'll comply."

With those words, Ling Chen slowly walked up to Qin Gang and held out a finger.

Chapter 778 Those Who Offend Me Shall Die

Seeing Ling Chen extend a finger, Qin Gang instantly flared up in a fury and roared angrily, "Ling, are you looking down on me, I....."

Before Qin Gang could finish speaking, Ling Chen suddenly pointed out with his finger. His fingertip hadn't even touched Qin Gang when the latter's body was already flying out, heavily striking the windshield of a sedan with a loud crash, the glass fracturing instantly.

Seeing this scene, everyone was stunned, their faces full of shock as they looked at Ling Chen.

Is this... even human? He hadn't even touched Qin Gang, yet he sent him flying. This was beyond their comprehension.

Indeed, apart from martial artists, how could ordinary people understand Inner Strength and Hua Realm?

"Inner Strength... you... you know Inner Strength..."

At this moment, Qin Gang finally recovered from his shock, looking towards Ling Chen with a face full of fear, hastily climbing up from the shattered window.

Ling Chen cracked a smile, "So you do recognize good stuff."

"You are... you're a top fighter from the Tiger List..." Qin Gang swallowed his saliva, step by step retreating backward, eyes full of fear.

Tiger List?

Ling Chen smiled and said nothing. His strength had already successfully advanced to the Earthly List; the Tiger List was long in the past for him. However, such things weren't necessary to flaunt.

"Qin Gang, remember this and grow some sense. Don't act invincible just because you've learned a bit of martial arts. There are always people beyond people, and heavens beyond heavens. It's better to keep a low profile. Alright, while I'm still in a good mood, scram."

Hearing these words, Qin Gang, like a man reprieved from death, didn't say anything more, and hurriedly ran towards the parking lot exit, no longer caring about the presence of Tang Guoxiong and the others.

Watching Qin Gang throw himself out and escape, Tang Guoxiong felt an urge to explode with anger.

Useless, truly useless. He had gone through a lot of connections and spent a considerable sum to employ Qin Gang through others. When he first laid eyes on Qin Gang, he also doubted the latter's ability. After all, the man was too young; it was uncertain if he had the capability to deal with Ling Chen. Therefore, he specifically asked Qin Gang to demonstrate his skills in public.

After seeing Qin Gang effortlessly break a ten-centimeter thick stone slab with his bare hands, Tang Guoxiong finally felt at ease, convinced that he had hired a real expert. These past days, to take good care of Qin Gang, whatever requirements he had, he fulfilled them all, treating him with good liquor, good meat, and good women.

Now look what happened. That guy actually disregarded his employer's safety and ran for his life alone.

Could Ling Chen really be that formidable? Thinking of this, Tang Guoxiong's gaze towards Ling Chen carried a hint of gravity. If he had known earlier that the guy was so good at fighting, he should have hired a few more experts.

"Tang Guoxiong, come on and bring out whatever tricks you have." Ling Chen stood with his hands behind his back, looking at Tang Guoxiong and said.

"Ling Chen, don't get too complacent, I don't believe all my men together can't take you down." Having said that, Tang Guoxiong shouted at his subordinates: "What are you standing around for, hurry up and do it, kill him!"

However, the over ten suit-clad men that Tang Guoxiong had brought all stayed frozen in place, not daring to make a move. After witnessing Ling Chen's skills, who among them would have the guts to confront him—that would be seeking death.

Seeing no one made a move, Ling Chen said with a smile, "Gentlemen, I have no grudge against you, so I don't want to hurt you. How about this, leave this place before I take action. As for what happened here, pretend it never happened. Any objections?"

"Who dares to leave!" Hearing Ling Chen persuading his men to leave, Tang Guoxiong became anxious, shouting loudly, "Don't forget, you've all taken my money. Taking someone's money to do their bidding; that's your rule."

"So these are the help you've hired with money." Ling Chen laughed and said, "That makes things easier. Gentlemen, feel free to leave, keep the money, and I can assure you, he won't be able to chase you down for it in the future."

As these words came out, everyone exchanged glances, a flicker of eagerness in their eyes.

"Mr. Tang, sorry about this, but money is good, and if we are dead, no amount of money would be of any use. We're leaving first. When you return, we'll be sure to give the money back to you." One of the men said and then immediately drove away from the parking lot.

"Don't... you're not allowed to go..." Watching his hired help leave one by one, Tang Guoxiong became panicked, hurriedly chasing after them, trying to keep them from leaving.

"Tang Guoxiong, weren't you going to deal with me? Where are you going now?"

Ling Chen strode in front of Tang Guoxiong, blocking his way, watching him with a mocking smile.

"Ling... Ling Chen..."

Tang Guoxiong stepped back, swallowing his saliva nervously, and said with a forced smile, "Ling Chen, it's a misunderstanding... just a misunderstanding, I didn't mean to hurt you. I just wanted to scare you, to blow off steam. How about this, let me go, and from now on, we won't cross paths again, I won't trouble you anymore, what do you think?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "Not so good. Tang Guoxiong, I know your true colors all too well. The moment I let you go, sooner or later, you'll seek revenge. So, I prefer to be decisive and nip the threat in the bud."

Hearing this, Tang Guoxiong's face turned white. Damn it, if only I had known this guy was so tough to deal with, I would have brought a gun for protection. I thought with so many people here, taking down Ling Chen wouldn't be an issue, who knew they were all a bunch of ingrates, totally useless.

"Ling Chen, if you let me go, I'll agree to any conditions."

"Sorry, I don't accept."

With that, Ling Chen glanced at the exit of the underground parking lot. Those hired by Tang Guoxiong had already driven away. The vast parking lot was left with only him and Tang Guoxiong.

"Tang Guoxiong, remember this, reincarnate as an honest person in your next life." After speaking, without waiting for Tang Guoxiong to react, Ling Chen swung his iron fist and ruthlessly smashed it above Tang Guoxiong's ear.

Instantly, Tang Guoxiong's eyes filled with blood, and he toppled to the ground, lifeless.

Looking at Tang Guoxiong's corpse, Ling Chen huffed lightly and muttered, "Still thinking of seeking revenge against me, what do you count for?"

Returning next to the Mercedes-Benz van, Ling Chen opened the rear door, only to see Ling Kun still lying on that makeshift bed. Fortunately, Tang Guoxiong did not harm his father.

At that moment, Ling Chen sat in the driver's seat and drove the car out of the underground parking lot.

Not long after leaving the parking lot, Ling Chen bought a disposable phone from the roadside and called Tang Yuan. His own phone was destroyed and could no longer be used.

After explaining the situation to Tang Yuan, Tang Yuan replied, "I know, you don't need to worry about this. I'll arrange for someone to take care of it later."

"Then I'll be troubling you."

"What are we brothers for? You go on with your things, and we'll keep in touch when you're free."

Chapter 779 Chen Quan

Several hours later, Ling Chen finally drove to the seaside where Su He resided.

It was still the same standalone cabin. At this time, night had fallen, and clusters of waves hit the shore, bringing the continual sounds of the surf.

Looking at the dim yellow light inside the cabin, Ling Chen parked the car, then, carrying Ling Kun, walked towards the cabin. As he approached the door without having to knock, he saw Su He, showing signs of age, open the door and appear at the entrance.

Su He took a glance at the unconscious Ling Kun and asked, "Who is he?"

"Elder Su, this is my father, Ling Kun."

"Come in."

Once inside, Ling Chen gently placed Ling Kun on the bed and took the blanket from Su He to cover Ling Kun, to prevent him from catching cold.

"What happened to him?" Su He inquired.

"My father was injured by Ji Gang." Ling Chen then recounted what porridge girl had told him. After hearing the story, a look of surprise flashed across the old man's face. Before Ling Chen could finish, Su He walked over to Ling Kun, lifted his eyelids, and checked his body.

After Su He completed a full-body check of Ling Kun, the surprise on his face intensified. Noticing Su He's changing expression, Ling Chen asked, "Elder Su, what's wrong with my father?"

"Nothing." Su He shook his head, somewhat astonished, "Ling Chen, your father is quite remarkable."

"Remarkable? Elder Su, what do you mean?"

"Looking at your father's age, he's not very old, probably around his forties or fifties, but he has a high martial arts realm. It's challenging to make it to the Heavenly List at such a young age."

"Heavenly List?" Ling Chen was startled, staring incredulously at Ling Kun lying on the bed. He never imagined his father was a martial arts master on the Heavenly List. He thought to himself that having a Heavenly List master as his backer, who would dare to bully him?

However, the thought of his still-unconscious father brought on worry.

"Elder Su, how do you know my father is a master of the Heavenly List?"

"Based on the life-preserving techniques he's currently using." Su He explained, "This life-preserving method is actually called the Turtle Breath Skill, which is very similar to a type of yoga from India. In simple terms, it puts one in a peculiar state, reducing all bodily functions to a minimum. You can think of it as a type of suspended animation. In this state, the body slowly recovers automatically, though it takes quite a while. Generally, only those on the brink of death would use this method. Also, only a master of the Heavenly List could accomplish this. So, just by this alone, I can confirm your father is a master of the Heavenly List."

"Since my father is a master of the Heavenly List, how could he be so severely injured by Ji Gang?"

"The masters of the Heavenly List are also ranked. Your father is not very old, and I assume he has only recently made it onto the list, so he's no match for Ji Gang." After saying this, Su He shifted topics and asked, "Bringing your father here, do you intend for him to stay?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Elder Su, as you know, I have many enemies right now. Given my father's condition, if he stayed by my side, I wouldn't have the strength to protect him. Therefore, I hope you can help, and let my father stay here to recuperate for a while."

"Alright," Su He agreed. "Since I live here alone and have nothing much to do, he can stay. Based on my estimates, given his current state, it will probably take a few months for him to wake up. Why don't you come back and check in a couple of months?"

"Elder Su, I thank you."

Su He waved his hand, "No need to thank me. You did well at the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion this time, and you didn't embarrass me."

Hearing these words, Ling Chen, surprised, said, "Elder Su, how did you know about my performance at the Yangxin Pavilion..."

"I have my ways," Su He said indifferently. "I know of Wang Hao; he generally ranks first among the disciples at the Yangxin Pavilion, with hardly anyone being his match. That you managed to overcome him was indeed beyond my expectations. Although it was a bit of a fluke, it's still commendable that you achieved it. Kid, keep working hard, and someday you'll be the true number one among Yangxin Pavilion's disciples."

Thinking of the Yangxin Pavilion, Ling Chen immediately remembered the relationship between Liang Tian and Zhu Hong.

"Elder Su, there is something..." Ling Chen then spoke of the events that had occurred a few days ago. He wouldn't have mentioned it to anyone else, but he had heard from Su Mei that, when Su He was still the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, Liang Tian was one of his subordinates, brought up by Su He himself. To some extent, Liang Tian could be considered Su He's confidant. Therefore, with Liang Tian having reached this point, it was a matter Ling Chen felt he had to discuss with Su He.

As expected, upon hearing what Ling Chen had to say, even the usually composed Su He couldn't help but frown.

"To think such a thing happened." Su He said solemnly, "Even though he was trained by me, if he has done wrong, then he must pay the price." After pausing, Su He changed the subject and spoke, "Regarding Song Mingzhe you mentioned, I do know a thing or two. Your elder brother is correct. Before the 'Eight Eccentrics' became famous, there was indeed another group, and Song Mingzhe was one of them. Besides Song Mingzhe, there were four others, making up a total of five people, and Song Mingzhe ranked third in their group."

"Elder Su, then you should know who Song Mingzhe's elder brother is."

"Not only do I know," Su He said with a smile, his smile carrying a deeper meaning, "Song Mingzhe's elder brother is named Chen Quan, a formidable man who became a master of the Earthly List in his thirties. Furthermore, among the masters of the Earthly List, he ranked within the top three. At that time, his status was quite impressive. Back then, Chen Quan and his four companions roamed the Martial Arts world, each with their unique talents. Below the Heavenly List, they were nearly unbeatable. Had they continued, their fame may have surpassed that of the 'Eight Eccentrics'. Unfortunately, before their reputation spread, a significant incident occurred."

"At that time, Chen Quan and his group had a conflict with a master of the Heavenly List, resulting in them being humiliated. Chen Quan was a man of strong self-esteem, and after being humiliated by a master of the Heavenly List, he was determined to seek revenge. However, defeating a master of the Heavenly List is not an easy task. Years passed, and although Chen Quan's strength improved, he was still far from reaching the level of the Heavenly List. Consequently, Chen Quan resorted to deviant means and forcefully elevated his abilities."

"It must be said that Chen Quan did indeed succeed. In just a few short years, he graduated to a master of the Heavenly List. Upon becoming one, Chen Quan immediately sought out that particular master of the Heavenly List for revenge. After much hardship, Chen Quan finally managed to kill that master of the Heavenly List and avenged himself."

Chapter 780 Past Events of Su He

"However, although Chen Quan successfully avenged himself, the crooked path he took was ultimately not the right way. Not long after his revenge, he unfortunately went mad during his martial arts practice, losing his sanity. Despite his madness, Chen Quan's strength was undeniable, and there were few who could stand against him. After losing his reason, he went on a killing spree, and many innocent people perished at his hands. Song Mingzhe and the others could not stop Chen Quan, and to avoid being harmed by him, they had no choice but to flee."

"At that time, I was still in Yangxin Pavilion. After learning about this, I immediately went to find Chen Quan and brought him to Yangxin Pavilion, where I imprisoned him."

Imprisoned?

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen seemed to recall something, and a chill ran through his heart. During his time in Yangxin Pavilion, he had seen a man whose hands and feet were bound by chains, restricting his freedom. Moreover, the man's demeanor seemed to have lost all sanity.

Could it be... that the person Elder Su mentioned was Chen Quan?

Seeing Ling Chen's dazed expression, Elder Su asked, "What are you thinking about?"

"Elder Su, has Chen Quan been kept in Yangxin Pavilion all this time?"

"Indeed. Why, have you seen him?"

Ling Chen nodded and recounted the events of his last visit. After listening, Elder Su nodded and said, "That person is Chen Quan. However, there are not many in Yangxin Pavilion who know of his identity, only that he was captured by me, committed heinous crimes, and was sentenced to life imprisonment."

"Elder Su..." Ling Chen frowned and said, "From what you said, did Song Mingzhe and the others come out of hiding because of Chen Quan?"

"Of course, it's related. If there is anyone in this world who could persuade Song Mingzhe and the others to act, it would only be Chen Quan. I suspect that this Zhu Hong you mentioned might have formed a connection with Chen Quan, otherwise, he wouldn't have been able to obtain the aid of Song Mingzhe and the others."

Ling Chen narrowed his eyes, a cold glint flashing through his Mo Che-like pupils. Zhu Hong had stayed in Yangxin Pavilion for a long time, and since Chen Quan was also imprisoned there, it's very likely they had encountered each other. Humph! Zhu Hong was indeed lucky to have gained the aid of Chen Quan.

However, Chen Quan's willingness to help Zhu Hong must not have been without conditions. These two cunning individuals must have reached some sort of agreement.

No!

This matter had to be reported to Su Mei as quickly as possible, to find a way to stop Chen Quan from escaping, and especially to prevent him from becoming a backbone for Zhu Hong.

As he was reflecting, Elder Su suddenly said, "It's getting very late today, you might as well stay here for the night and head back tomorrow."

"Alright."

...

The night was dense, the moonlight like water, casting upon the undulating waves and transforming into speckles of silver light, which reflected in Ling Chen's dark eyes.

Outside by the fireside, Ling Chen held a long stick, roasting the fresh fish Elder Su had caught from the sea, and asked, "Elder Su, why did you suddenly leave Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and come here to live in seclusion?"

Sitting beside him, Elder Su answered without even looking up, "Did Su Mei tell you?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Elder Su, Miss Su is very worried about you, she hopes to see you."

Elder Su sighed lightly, "What's there to see? I've grown accustomed to freedom alone. If I really had to go back to Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I'd probably find it unbearable."

"Elder Su, why did you leave Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in the first place? I've heard quite a few rumors..."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Elder Su chuckled and continued, "Is there a rumor saying I left because my end was near, so I found a secluded place to avoid affecting the management of Heavenly

Mechanism Pavilion?" Laughing louder, Elder Su nodded and said, "Actually, the rumors weren't wrong; at that time, I indeed believed my end was near. Having resigned from the position of Pavilion Master, I stayed in Yangxin Pavilion. Because of my presence, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion remained stable. I knew that if I were gone, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion would definitely face problems. Given its size and the many people involved, it was inevitable that some would harbor ill intentions. To prevent such an incident, I chose to leave Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. That way, no one would know if I was dead or alive, and they would always be wary."

"And what happened later?" Ling Chen asked with interest.

"Later... as you can see, I'm still alive," said Elder Su. "Originally, I thought my time was nearly up, so I moved to this quiet place, hoping to pass away peacefully. What I didn't expect was that living amidst nature unexpectedly allowed me to comprehend a higher realm. With the improvement of my realm, my health gradually recovered, becoming better and better until now. Since then, I've simply settled down here. Moreover, the disputes within Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion are too many, and I don't want to get involved anymore. Ling Chen, you don't need to worry about me; if it's really time for me to appear, I will naturally show up."

"Ling Chen, you still have a long road ahead; think more for yourself." Saying this, Elder Su stood up and said, "It's getting late, get some rest early."

...

The next day.

Ling Chen bid farewell to Elder Su and drove directly to the airport in Jinhai City, returning to East Sea City.

Back in East Sea City, Ling Chen went to see Nanrong Wanqing. After a few days of rest, Nanrong Wanqing's health had improved significantly.

"By the way! Lin just called me, she will be back in a few days, and you can help me pick her up at the airport then."

"Alright, no problem."

Ling Chen readily agreed. After being away for so long, the young lady was finally coming back.

After visiting Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen went straight to the hospital's special care ward. He had instructed that the area around the special care ward be heavily guarded, and anyone approaching had to go through multiple checks. For Jiang Yunkai's safety, Ling Chen had gone to great lengths.

Entering the special care ward, Ling Chen saw Jiang Yunkai, who had already fallen asleep on the bed. At the bedside, Hu Fei sat in a chair, his head propped on his hands, snoring gradually starting and drool leaking out.

Ling Chen approached and pushed Hu Fei's shoulder, calling out, "Fatty, wake up."

Rubbing his sleepy eyes and yawning, Hu Fei asked, "What time is it?"

"It's almost time for lunch. Tired, are you?"

"Of course I'm tired," Hu Fei complained grumpily. "Last night, Kai went crazy. The doctors and I struggled to subdue him until this morning before I finally got a chance to rest."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked worriedly, "He didn't hurt anyone, did he?"

Hu Fei shook his head and said, "No, he didn't. Hey! Do you think the experiment is working? If it were before, he probably would have killed us by now."

"I'm not a doctor, how would I know that."