

The Beauty 781

Chapter 781 Meeting Liu Xiyao Again

"Fatty, didn't I ask you to send someone to check on Xiaozhu? Any progress?"

"Forget about it," Hu Fei said with a look of dejection. "I sent a few people to Beijing, but none of them even caught a glimpse of Miss Zhu. We found the Zhu Family, but they said Miss Zhu wasn't there and didn't know where she went. What else could we do but wait in Beijing?"

"If that's the case, then let it be," said Ling Chen helplessly. In fact, he was well aware deep down that Zhu Xiaozhu was definitely at home, just unwilling to meet them.

It seemed he would have to deal with this personally. Coincidentally, He Ziyun was going to Beijing for a martial arts seminar soon. He had been unsure about attending, but now he thought, why not go to Beijing to broaden his horizons and at the same time try to find Zhu Xiaozhu and see if he could clarify things with her.

"Fatty, don't forget to continue the search for Xia Mutong and Bai Huanjun. With Kai looking the way he is now, their situations might not be much different."

"You don't need to remind me, I'm keeping it in mind."

After waiting in the special care ward for a bit and seeing that Jiang Yunkai wouldn't wake up anytime soon, Ling Chen greeted Hu Fei and left.

With Hu Fei in charge of the situation regarding Xia Mutong and Bai Huanjun, Ling Chen was at ease. What worried him most now was Zhu Hong.

Since Zhu Hong had escaped, there had been no sign of him, and Ling Chen had no idea where he might have fled to. So long as Zhu Hong wasn't dealt with, Ling Chen couldn't rest easy.

After leaving the hospital, Ling Chen opened the car door, sat in the driver's seat, and prepared to drive away.

At that moment, a person suddenly appeared in the rearview mirror.

Ling Chen was slightly startled and hurriedly turned his head to look back. When he saw who it was, his guard immediately dropped.

He sighed and said with a wry smile, "If you're coming, just come; why scare me?"

"I was afraid Ji Gang might be tracking me, so I had to hide secretly in the car. Ling Chen, is everything settled with Master?"

"Don't worry, my father is with Elder Su. With Elder Su's protection, he'll be fine."

"That's good." The porridge girl handed a small, exquisite wooden box to Ling Chen and said, "Here, I'm giving this back to you."

Ling Chen didn't need to look to know what was in the wooden box.

The Nine Elements Pill!

It was a treasure that he had acquired with great difficulty. Taking the wooden box, Ling Chen opened the lid, and a faint fragrance immediately wafted out from inside.

After a glance at the Nine Elements Pill in the box, Ling Chen put the lid back on and placed it in the car's armrest compartment.

Although the Nine Elements Pill was a valuable item, only experts on the Heavenly List could use it. He had only just entered the ranks of the Earthly List and wasn't qualified to take the Nine Elements Pill, so this valuable item would have to wait.

Starting the car, Ling Chen drove onto the road and asked, "What are you planning on doing next?"

"Hide for a while and avoid Ji Gang. Ji Gang suffered a big loss this time; he won't let it go easily. You should also be careful. If Ji Gang can't find us, he might take his anger out on you."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "I know."

Ji Gang was an expert on the Heavenly List, so Ling Chen took the porridge girl's reminder seriously. Indeed, if Ji Gang came looking, he really didn't know what to do.

Forget it! He'd deal with that when the time came.

"Why don't you hide at the base for a while? The defenses there are tight, and Elder Zhou and my big brother are there too. In case something happens, it's good to have support."

"No need, I have a place to go. Besides, I still have some stuff to take care of. I'll come to East Sea City to find you after this period passes."

"Alright then, be careful out there," Ling Chen said, not insisting. He knew full well the independent nature of the porridge girl; of all the women he knew, she was the most self-reliant. Even Nanrong Wanqing seemed inferior in comparison.

Moreover, the porridge girl was used to having her way. Imposing too many restrictions would only make her unhappy.

"Hey! In a while, there's going to be a martial arts seminar in Beijing. You're an Earthly List expert; want to go check it out?"

The porridge girl gently shook her head and said, "I have no interest in such seminars, forget it. Why, do you want to go?"

"I happen to have some things to take care of in Beijing, so why not go and see."

"Let's talk about it later, then. If I get the chance, maybe I'll drop by." Having said that, the porridge girl pointed outside the car window and said, "Stop the car there."

Ling Chen parked the car at the side of the road, and just as he turned to speak, he found that the porridge girl had already disappeared without a trace.

This girl... Ling Chen chuckled wryly. She was real quick; he hadn't even noticed her leave.

Starting the car again, Ling Chen checked the time and then drove towards Wealthy Manor.

On the way, Ling Chen suddenly heard his mobile phone ringing in his pocket. He pulled out the phone, an on-off burner phone he had bought in Jinhae City. Without even looking at the caller ID, Ling Chen knew who was calling. He only used this phone to contact Old Tang, and no one else knew the number.

After answering the phone, Ling Chen asked, "Old Tang, do you need me for something?"

"Tang Yuan, I've taken care of Tang Guoxiong's matter. From now on, he'll vanish from this world, and no one will be able to find him."

Ling Chen smiled and replied, "I trust your work."

"That's all, then. I need to catch a plane soon, so I'll leave it here."

"Catching a plane? Where are you headed?"

"There's a very important matter that I need to handle..." Tang Yuan seemed to hesitate on the other end of the phone, then continued, "This matter is related to the God Organization. I'll contact you once I have an update."

"Okay, take care."

After hanging up, Ling Chen drove up to the entrance of Wealthy Manor, preparing to enter the residential area. But just then, his gaze was suddenly drawn to a person at the entrance of the community.

He stopped the car and looked at the other person through the window, wondering to himself why she had come here.

Ling Chen rolled down the electric window and called out to her, "Liu Xiyao."

Hearing Ling Chen's call, Liu Xiyao, who was standing at the entrance, looked back and hurried over.

After not seeing her for a while, Liu Xiyao was still the same, her stunning beauty and aura of nobility and elegance surrounding her like a fine lady with every graceful step she took.

As Liu Xiyao approached, Ling Chen asked, "Why are you standing here? Why not go to the Nanrong Family?"

Liu Xiyao shook her head, biting her thin lips and said, "I don't want to disturb the Nanrong Family. Do you have time? I have something I want to talk to you about."

Ling Chen looked around and pointed to a coffee shop not far away, "Let's sit over there."

The coffee shop had a serene atmosphere with soothing music floating through the hall.

Ling Chen, holding a cup of black coffee, began, "Speak, what did you need to see me for?"

Chapter 782 Traitor (1)

Liu Xiyao hesitated for a moment before she said, "Do you still remember the Liu Family I once mentioned to you?"

Liu Family... Ling Chen thought back for a moment and gently nodded his head. It was when he had first gotten to know Liu Xiyao that she had told him about the Liu Family and the grievances between her and them.

Liu Xiyao's father was a member of the Liu Family, but her mother was a woman without status. Back then, it was because Liu Xiyao's father had an affair that Liu Xiyao was born.

Unfortunately, that man from the Liu Family was too cowardly and incompetent, not only unable to provide Liu Xiyao and her mother a wealthy and peaceful life, but their existence also brought them bullying from the Liu Family. In the end, Liu Xiyao's mother suffered torture and humiliation and died tragically at the hands of the Liu Family.

Later, had Liu Xiyao not fled early on, she might have met the same fate as her mother.

After escaping from the Liu Family, Liu Xiyao wandered alone. It was during that time that she met Lin Guodong, was adopted by him, and henceforth followed Lin Guodong around. Over the years, Liu Xiyao had always been looking for opportunities to take revenge on the Liu Family, to avenge her mother.

Now, Liu Xiyao had come to him, could it be that she wanted to ask for his help in dealing with the Liu Family?

As he pondered, he heard Liu Xiyao say, "Ling Chen, I might have underestimated the Liu Family. All these years, the Liu Family has been growing, their power becoming ever stronger. I had drawn up a plan to take revenge for my mother, but before the plan could be carried out, it was discovered by the people of the Liu Family. Moreover, I don't know through what channels they found out that it was me masterminding it. In the past, with the God Organization backing me, I didn't need to worry about the Liu Family's retaliation, but now things are different, I can only rely on my own strength to confront the Liu Family. Ling Chen, my coming to you has no other purpose, I just want to ask for your help to settle this grudge and my past."

"Right now?"

"Not at the moment," Liu Xiyao shook her head and said, "But, as far as I know, the Liu Family is already preparing to send someone to East Sea City. Although I could escape to any place in the world to avoid them, I don't want to do that. After so many years of grudges, it's time to put an end to it. Ling Chen, you promised me once that you would definitely help me."

As she spoke, Liu Xiyao lowered her head, somewhat ashamed, "I admit, I have indeed wronged you before, but that was a long time ago. Also, if it weren't for Lin Guodong's help back then, I might have already died. Regardless of what wrongs he has done, to me, he is my lifesaver. Besides, to save you, I had already betrayed him. I think, what I have done should be enough to make up for my mistakes."

Looking at Liu Xiyao's anxious expression, Ling Chen sighed lightly and said, "Yao, I indeed blamed you before, but those are all things of the past, whatever you did before, I no longer hold it against you, so you don't need to take it too seriously." He paused, then continued, "I have always kept the Liu Family matter in mind, so you can rest assured, if the Liu Family dares to target you, just let me know, I will definitely help you solve this issue."

"Really?" Hearing this, Liu Xiyao's eyebrows instantly relaxed, and she nodded with a light laugh, "Thank you!"

"You're welcome."

"I won't disturb you further, I'll contact you by phone if there is anything."

"Okay." Saying that, Ling Chen stood up, escorted Liu Xiyao to the door of the cafe, and said, "Did you come here alone? Let me drive you back."

"That's too much trouble, I..."

"It's no trouble at all, I'm not busy anyway. Let's go, my car is over there."

Having gotten into the car, Ling Chen started the vehicle and drove straight to where Liu Xiyao lived.

Liu Xiyao was still living in the same old place, that women's club Ling Chen had first visited with Su Lin. It took about half an hour on the road, and Ling Chen drove to the entrance of the women's club.

"Do you want to come upstairs for a while?" Liu Xiyao politely invited.

"No, I'll come over some other day when I'm free."

"Alright then, take care on the road." With that, Liu Xiyao waved to Ling Chen, then turned and walked towards the women's club.

Watching Liu Xiyao's retreating figure disappear through the door, Ling Chen released the brake and drove straight onto the road.

Ding!

A crisp bell rang as the elevator doors slowly opened. Right after, Liu Xiyao stepped out of the elevator and walked towards her bedroom.

Arriving at the bedroom door, Liu Xiyao pulled out a card from her purse and gently swiped it on the reader at the door. With a beep, the bedroom door immediately opened.

Pushing open the door, Liu Xiyao walked into the bedroom. However, the moment she crossed the threshold, a large hand suddenly reached out from behind the door, covering her mouth tightly and preventing her from making any sound.

This sudden change startled Liu Xiyao. After a brief moment of shock, she finally realized what was happening. She desperately waved her hands, struggling to break free from the tight grip.

But then, a deep voice came from beside her ear: "Xiyao, long time no see."

Hearing that voice, Liu Xiyao froze for a moment and immediately ceased resisting, looking in surprise towards the sofa in the bedroom. At this moment, a middle-aged man in a suit was sitting on the sofa. He appeared to be about fifty, with a refined facial expression and a slight smile that gave off a gentle aura.

However, that smile somehow made Liu Xiyao feel frightened. She knew this man all too well—the wider his smile, the angrier he was.

"Uncle Lin..." Liu Xiyao opened her mouth, barely managing to utter a few words.

"Xiyao, you still remember me," the middle-aged man said as he slowly stood up from the sofa, walked over to Liu Xiyao, and examined her beautiful face, his eyes flashing with a stern look.

"Xiyao, do you know how much pain you've caused me? I treated you like my own daughter, raised you from a young age, allowing you to enjoy a grand lifestyle. And what did you do? You betrayed me for someone irrelevant to us. Having been by my side for so many years, you should know my character well, and you should know the fate of traitors. Did you think... that I haven't come looking for you just to let you off?"

Liu Xiyao bit her thin lip and lowered her head, saying, "Uncle Lin, I'm sorry, I... I was wrong."

"If you knew you were wrong, then why didn't you come to me? And instead, you have been avoiding me everywhere. If I hadn't come looking for you today, would you have avoided me forever?"

"No, I..."

SLAP!

Before Liu Xiyao could finish speaking, Lin Guodong suddenly lifted his hand and harshly slapped Liu Xiyao's cheek. Instantly, a red handprint appeared on Liu Xiyao's left cheek.

"Knowing your mistake yet not correcting it, Xiyao, you've deeply disappointed me."

Chapter 783 Traitor (2)

Liu Xiyao clutched her cheek tightly, tears streaming down like broken strings of pearls, falling from the corners of her eyes.

"Speak up," Lin Guodong stared at Liu Xiyao's pretty face and coldly commanded, "I told you to speak; didn't you hear me?"

Liu Xiyao gently bit her lip, her gaze cast down, staring at the smooth floor, silent, not knowing what to say.

Seeing Liu Xiyao remained silent, Lin Guodong suddenly reached out, pinched the corner of Liu Xiyao's mouth, lifted her head, and coldly looked into her beautiful eyes, saying word by word, "What, nothing to say now? Hmph!"

With that said, Lin Guodong flung his hand, and Liu Xiyao's body immediately lost balance, careening forward and toppling to the floor before the sofa.

"Since you don't want to talk, then don't. You should be clear about what happens to traitors." With these words, Lin Guodong gestured with a wave of his hand, and a young man who had been standing in the corner immediately came over and asked, "Uncle Lin, any instructions?"

Lin Guodong pointed at Liu Xiyao and said coldly, "Lin Tong, this woman is yours now, you can do as you please with her."

"Yes," Lin Tong nodded, looking excitedly at Liu Xiyao, who was curled up in the corner of the sofa, a flash of lust in his eyes.

Not to mention anything else, Liu Xiyao was an exceptional beauty. Being able to have some tender moments with such a beauty was indeed a great fortune in life.

"Uncle Lin, then I won't hold back." With these words, Lin Tong charged towards Liu Xiyao, ignoring her struggle and resistance, picked her up from the floor, tossed her onto the soft sofa, and then pressed his body upon her.

"No... don't! I beg you, please don't... Uncle Lin, I really realize my mistake, let me go... let me go please..." Liu Xiyao desperately tried to push Lin Tong's body away with both hands, pleading bitterly.

But Lin Guodong remained unmoved, quietly sitting in his chair, coldly watching everything unfold.

At that moment, Lin Tong, who was on top of Liu Xiyao, suddenly stopped his motions, then shifted his body aside and reached downwards.

"What's this?" Lin Tong said as he pulled out the object that had been under Liu Xiyao.

A cell phone?

Lin Tong's eyebrows furrowed slightly. He glanced at Liu Xiyao, then pressed a button on the phone. The phone screen lit up, displaying that a call had been made, but now it was disconnected.

Looking at the call log on the phone, Lin Tong's expression changed abruptly, he coldly shouted, "You..."

Bang!

Before Lin Tong could finish speaking, a loud crash came from the entrance. Immediately afterward, the tightly shut door was violently kicked open. Lin Tong turned his head, and before he could see who it was, felt a blur of movement in front of him, someone closing in swiftly.

Lin Tong's mouth opened, but before he could speak, a surge of great force suddenly came, grabbed his shoulder, and flung him out, crashing hard against the wall.

"Who is it?"

Lin Guodong stood up sharply, staring at the newly arrived person.

"Lin Guodong, we finally meet," the person said.

Hearing this, Lin Guodong focused his gaze on the newcomer, his expression turning grave.

Ling Chen!

"So it is you," said Lin Guodong with a smirk that was not quite a smile, "You are indeed bold, daring to come here all alone." After speaking, Lin Guodong turned his gaze to Liu Xiyao and said coldly, "Do you think that with him helping you, you have nothing to fear?"

"No, no, it's not that, I..."

Liu Xiyao's words were cut off as Ling Chen interjected, "Alright, stop threatening her. What kind of ability is it for a grown man to threaten a woman? If you have any tricks up your sleeve, come at me. I'll take them."

"You?" Lin Guodong said disdainfully, "You think you're worthy?"

"We'll know if I'm worthy once we try."

"Lin Tong, kill him."

As soon as Lin Guodong gave the order, Lin Tong immediately charged forward, positioning himself in front of Lin Guodong, his gaze coldly fixed on Ling Chen: "Ling, you escaped last time, I won't let you get away again."

"Save it, less talk, more action. Speak when you've got the skills." With that, Ling Chen beckoned with his fingers, his face full of provocation, "Come on, let's see your recent progress."

"Seeking death!" Lin Tong bellowed as he lightly tapped his toes, thrust his body forward with force, and struck out with a palm towards Ling Chen.

However, before Lin Tong could get close, Ling Chen, who was protecting Liu Xiyao, suddenly raised his steel fist and hurled out a fierce punch.

The powerful punch boomed in the air, exploding upon contact, and sent Lin Tong flying straight into the wall with a bang.

Puh!

Blood spurted out, turning Lin Tong's face instantly pale.

"You..." Lin Tong, with the aid of the wall, slowly stood up, his eyes incredulous as he looked at Ling Chen and said in astonishment, "Your strength..."

Ling Chen spoke indifferently, "Did you think you're the only Earthly List expert in this world?"

Hearing the term "Earthly List," Lin Guodong's brows slightly wrinkled. As a high-ranking member of the God Organization, he certainly knew what an Earthly List expert meant. The God Organization had no lack of Earthly List experts, so he was very aware of their prowess.

His visit to East Sea City this time was meant to be a quiet one; he had intended to see Liu Xiyao and settle matters with this traitor. Therefore, he only brought Lin Tong and a few subordinates, not too many experts, because in his view, dealing with a Liu Xiyao did not require many people.

Unfortunately, he hadn't expected Ling Chen to suddenly appear.

Seeing Lin Tong was no match for Ling Chen, Lin Guodong made a snap decision and commanded, "Retreat!"

As soon as he spoke, two men in suits guarding Lin Guodong reached into their pockets. Before Ling Chen could react, two 'bangs' were heard. It was unclear what the men in suits had thrown on the floor, but suddenly the spacious bedroom was engulfed in smoke, filled with a stinging smell so harsh they could hardly keep their eyes open.

"Xiyao."

Ling Chen had intended to pursue Lin Guodong, but thinking of Liu Xiyao behind him, he had no choice but to stop and turn back to her side, picking her up by the waist and quickly rushing out of the bedroom.

Once he had brought Liu Xiyao to the corridor, Ling Chen immediately headed for the staircase. Upon reaching the exterior of the women's club, the roar of an engine reached his ears. Looking up, he saw a Mercedes sedan swiftly driving towards the road, soon blending into the traffic and disappearing from sight.

Without wasting a moment, Ling Chen took out his cellphone and called Hu Fei.

"Fatty, write down this license plate number... notify everyone immediately to search for this car throughout the city."

After giving the instructions, Ling Chen took the elevator back up to the floor where Liu Xiyao lived.

Seeing Liu Xiyao leaning against the wall, Ling Chen quickly approached her, asking with concern, "Xiyao, are you alright?"

Chapter 784 Ambush and Interception

Liu Xiyao gently shook her head and said, "I'm alright. Ling Chen, what about them... Where are they?"

"They got away, but don't worry, Xiyao. As long as they're still in East Sea City, I can definitely find them." Ling Chen paused and then continued, "Xiyao, now that the God Organization has started to retaliate against you, staying here might be dangerous. How about this? I'll arrange a place for you to stay for the time being. You can move back here after the danger has passed. How does that sound?"

"But..." Liu Xiyao seemed hesitant.

"Yao, no buts. Your safety is at stake, you can't take this lightly. That's it, no more discussion. Let's go, hurry up and pack your things, I'll take you there."

While Liu Xiyao was packing her luggage, Ling Chen took the opportunity to make a few phone calls.

Lin Guodong actually appeared in East Sea City, which was a rare opportunity. If they could catch Lin Guodong, it would be much easier to deal with the God Organization in the future.

After making simple arrangements, Liu Xiyao had finished packing.

Ling Chen drove her to the research base straight away.

At the moment, the research base was undoubtedly the safest place. Not only was Zhou Qi there, but Qiu Yong and others were also present. With these experts working together, even a top expert from the Heavenly List would have difficulty causing trouble.

After settling Liu Xiyao in, Ling Chen hurried to the office. As soon as he entered, he called out, "Fatty, how's the search going, did you find them?"

Hu Fei pointed at the computer screen and said, "We've locked their location through surveillance. They're still driving on the road, and judging by their route, it seems they're trying to leave East Sea City by car."

"What about our people?"

"They're already on the move. I sent out five cars to intercept them. Oh, right, didn't you say there were experts in that car? I took the initiative and sent out all eight eccentric fighters."

Ling Chen patted Hu Fei on the shoulder and gave him a thumbs up. "Well done. If we catch Lin Guodong this time, you'll be credited for a major contribution."

As he spoke, Ling Chen looked at the display screen. In the surveillance footage, a Mercedes-Benz sedan was racing down the road at nearly 100 miles an hour, constantly overtaking other vehicles.

Ling Chen checked the map; Lin Guodong and his team, based on their current route, had about ten kilometers to go before they could reach the highway and leave East Sea City.

Ten kilometers... More than enough!

Ling Chen thought to himself that the people Hu Fei had dispatched were quick. Two of the cars were almost at the highway entrance, and the other three were heading towards Lin Guodong's location, preparing to intercept them on the road.

"Fatty, tell everyone to be careful. Lin Guodong is a high-ranking member of the God Organization, and he definitely has more than just a few people with him. It's possible that more experts are on their way there."

"Understood."

"Alright, I'll leave it to you here. I'm heading over now to help out."

With those words, Ling Chen quickly left the office. Apart from the research base, Ling Chen got into an Audi and drove straight towards the highway.

Time ticked by second by second as Ling Chen drove the Audi at an increasing speed. Under his control, the car's speed approached 120 miles an hour, racing through the traffic like a swift bolt of lightning.

"Ling Chen."

Soon, Hu Fei's voice came through the car's Bluetooth connection.

"Fatty, what's the situation there?"

"You were spot on. I just spotted three suspicious vehicles in the surveillance, heading towards Lin Guodong, probably to rendezvous with them."

"How far are our people from them?"

"Less than two kilometers."

"Notify them to intercept those three suspicious vehicles at full force; they must not be allowed to meet up with Lin Guodong."

"That Lin Guodong..."

"Don't worry about him, have someone guard the highway exits, I'll take care of intercepting Lin Guodong."

After saying that, Ling Chen stepped on the gas pedal all the way down, and the Audi sedan's front shot out instantly.

Minutes passed, and Ling Chen glanced at the GPS map on the car's display. Based on the information from Hu Fei, he was still four kilometers away from Lin Guodong's location. With his current speed, it would take less than two minutes to catch sight of the Mercedes-Benz sedan Lin Guodong was in.

Screech!

With a harsh braking sound, the Audi executed a beautiful drift, sliding past the crossroad.

Suddenly, Ling Chen's field of vision captured a Mercedes-Benz speeding rapidly.

I've finally caught up with you!

The corners of Ling Chen's mouth lifted slightly, with a hint of triumphant smile. Lin Guodong, let's see where you can run now.

At this moment, inside the Mercedes-Benz.

Lin Tong, sitting in the passenger seat, looked into the rearview mirror and said with an ashen face, "Uncle Lin, someone is catching up to us."

"Who?"

Lin Tong stuck his head out the window and took a careful look, his expression changed instantly, and he said coldly, "It's Ling Chen."

"Hmph! That kid really is like a persistent ghost, following us all the way here. How long will it take for our people to get here?"

"I don't know, I'll make a call." After speaking, Lin Tong took out his phone and dialed a number.

After a brief conversation, Lin Tong said with an ugly expression, "Uncle Lin, our men have been intercepted; they can't make it here."

Hearing this, Mr. Lin in the backseat immediately fell into deep thought.

As the Audi was getting closer and closer to the Mercedes, Lin Tong asked urgently, "Uncle Lin, what should we do now?"

"What do you want me to say? Who should I ask?" Lin Guodong said coldly, "We've made a mistake this time; we didn't expect Ling Chen to come out of nowhere."

Lin Tong gritted his teeth and said, "It's all because of that woman Liu Xiyao. If it weren't for her, we wouldn't have so much trouble."

"Enough! It's happened, what's the use of saying so much now." Lin Guodong thought for a while and then spoke, "Get off the overpass over there, don't get on the highway. Since Ling Chen knows we are here, he will definitely have someone intercept us at the highway entrance. Drive faster for now, just to buy some time, and I'll think of a way for everything else."

Saying this, Lin Guodong pulled out his phone from his pocket and browsed through his contacts.

In a moment, Lin Guodong seemed to have thought of a plan, and the frown on his face relaxed.

A call was made, and soon a man's voice came through, "Mr. Lin, what are your orders?"

"I have a task for you, get on it right now. Remember, don't disappoint me again."

"Rest assured, Mr. Lin, I will complete the task even if it costs me my life."

After a brief conversation, Lin Guodong put down his phone and turned to Lin Tong, "Circle around this area. Since Ling Chen wants to follow, let him follow."

"Understood."

...

"Ling Chen, the people in those three cars have been stopped. What's the progress on your side?"

After hearing Hu Fei's report, Ling Chen replied, "It will be done soon." After saying that, he lightly pressed on the accelerator, and the Audi increased speed instantly, pressing closely towards the Mercedes-Benz.

Chapter 785 Car Accident

Just at this moment, the speeding Mercedes ahead suddenly slowed down. Soon, the Audi driven by Ling Chen was driving side by side with the Mercedes.

Rolling down the window, Ling Chen looked at the Mercedes to his left, his eyebrows furrowing slightly. They were actually slowing down, what were they trying to do? As he pondered, the rear window of the Mercedes suddenly opened. Immediately afterwards, Lin Guodong stuck his head out of the window and, looking at Ling Chen who was driving, said indifferently, "I advise you to hurry back to the Nanrong family. If you're any later, I'm afraid you won't be able to see them again."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's expression suddenly changed.

Nanrong family... Ling Chen cursed inwardly, this bastard was truly cunning. He clearly understood Lin Guodong's intention, the man was trying to use the safety of the Nanrong family to threaten him.

"You're despicable!"

Lin Guodong laughed and said, "Ling Chen, you think you can compete with me? You're still too naïve." After speaking, Lin Guodong patted the driver's shoulder, who understood and immediately accelerated, speeding past Ling Chen's Audi.

Watching the Mercedes getting farther and farther away, Ling Chen clenched his teeth, his face full of unwillingness.

Wait for me!

Ling Chen muttered to himself and then slammed on the brakes fiercely, turning the car around and entering a side road.

"Uncle Lin, your trick really worked." Lin Tong, sitting in the passenger seat, couldn't help but laugh as he saw the Audi disappearing in the rearview mirror.

Lin Guodong proudly said, "As long as you know his weakness, dealing with him is easy."

"Uncle Lin is really Uncle Lin, you... oh no!"

Before Lin Tong could finish his sentence, he saw a vehicle charging out from a junction, his pupils instantly constricting in panic.

Bang!

A loud crash sounded as the Mercedes was heavily hit, instantly distorting its shape. From the impact at the front, the Mercedes kept rolling on the ground and then hit a roadside stone pillar, the body of the car violently shaking again.

The car door opened, Ling Chen unbuckled his seatbelt, rubbing his somewhat dizzy head, and slowly stepped out.

Taking a deep breath and waiting until his dizziness somewhat subsided, Ling Chen quickly approached the Mercedes and pulled open the deformed door. Instantly, Lin Guodong in the back seat fell to the ground, his eyes tightly shut, already unconscious.

Lifting Lin Guodong's body, Ling Chen walked to the roadside, flagged down a taxi, and then threw Lin Guodong in.

The most important person in that car was Lin Guodong. As long as he could capture Lin Guodong, he didn't need to care about the others.

After telling the driver the destination, Ling Chen leaned back in his seat, slowly exhaling. Despite being fully prepared, the crash had still caused him significant trauma, with occasional headaches.

Presumably, it was a mild concussion from the collision.

Glancing at Lin Guodong next to him, Ling Chen's lips slightly curled up. No matter what, he had finally caught the bastard.

The taxi drove on the road, bumping a few times, causing the unconscious Lin Guodong to gradually wake up.

"Awake?"

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Lin Guodong abruptly raised his head, looking at Ling Chen next to him, his eyes immediately sharpened.

Without waiting for Lin Guodong's next move, Ling Chen grabbed his hands and used the car's rear seatbelt to tie them behind his back, rendering him immobile.

"Why, I thought you left?" Lin Guodong frowned deeply and coldly exclaimed.

"Leave? Go where!" Ling Chen chuckled lightly: "Lin Guodong, did you really think such despicable methods could work against me? Once something happens for the first time, it won't happen a second. A while ago, Wanqing was attacked and kidnapped, so I took extra precautions. I deployed people secretly at the Nanrong Family home to ensure their safety. My departure was just to mislead you, to let your guard down. You are a high-ranking member of the God Organization, a rare opportunity like this is not something I would miss. Lin Guodong, you might as well admit defeat."

"Just with you catching me?" Lin Guodong sneered: "Ling Chen, you are too naive."

Bang!

As Lin Guodong's voice fell, a loud sound came from the taxi's front windshield. Ling Chen focused and saw that the middle of the windshield had a hole, with the surrounding glass shattered as if something had hit it.

At the same time, Ling Chen noticed that the driver slumped his head, with both arms dangling powerlessly.

This is bad!

Ling Chen was startled and quickly leaned forward. Instantly, he saw a hole in the taxi driver's forehead from which blood gushed, staining his face red.

Not only that, it seemed as if the driver's head had been penetrated, the object that killed him embedded into the back of the seat.

Such powerful strength! Ling Chen inwardly marveled; whoever was behind this, having the strength to penetrate the taxi's windshield and then a person's head, was definitely not something a normal martial artist could possess.

As these thoughts passed through his mind, Ling Chen looked up towards the front window, his face immediately darkening.

There, just a few dozen meters away from the taxi, stood an elderly man. His posture was straight like a strong pine tree, standing steadfastly, lofty and proud, looking directly at the swiftly approaching taxi, without any intention to move away.

Ji Gang!

Ling Chen's pupils constricted, not having expected Ji Gang to be the one acting. The old man could not have chosen a more inconvenient time to appear.

Seeing that the taxi was about to collide with Ji Gang, without a moment to think, Ling Chen hurriedly grabbed the steering wheel, violently turning it left and steering towards a corner on the left side, avoiding Ji Gang directly.

Ling Chen knew clearly, with a formidable figure from the Heavenly List like Ji Gang around, even if he drove the car straight at him, it would be suicide.

So, all he could do was escape as far as possible.

"Ling Chen, just surrender. With Mr. Ji here, where can you even run to?"

"Shut up!"

Ling Chen shouted lightly, quickly moved the driver's corpse aside, then squeezed himself from the back seat to the driver's position. At this moment, Ji Gang had already chased from behind, closing the distance to less than ten meters.

Ling Chen clenched his teeth and slammed the accelerator down to the floor. In an instant, the taxi, which had been moving steadily, shot forward, widening the gap from Ji Gang.

Watching the increasingly distant Ji Gang in the rear-view mirror, Ling Chen didn't relax in the slightest. He knew escaping from Ji Gang wouldn't be easy.

Driving along the road for a few kilometers, as Ling Chen expected, Ji Gang suddenly emerged from a small alley beside the road, lunging directly towards the taxi.

Fortunately, Ling Chen reacted quickly enough to change the direction of the taxi, avoiding being hit by Ji Gang.

Chapter 786 Chasing Lin Guodong

No good, I need to find a straight road.

Ling Chen thought to himself. They were currently located on the outer ring of East Sea City, where the roads were twisty and numerous. Although he was driving, being on a winding road was too time-consuming. In contrast, Ji Gang was sprinting straight, making it easy for him to catch up.

After driving a few more kilometers, Ling Chen checked the road ahead and frowned. There was a traffic jam!

He had to get through the intersection ahead to enter the highway. Once on the straight road, even with Ji Gang's impressive skills, he wouldn't be able to catch up. But the highway entrance was blocked, and it looked like it might take over ten minutes to clear. Staying put meant Ji Gang would catch up eventually.

With that thought, Ling Chen swiftly backed the taxi out to avoid getting trapped by the cars behind.

As soon as the taxi squeezed out of the congested traffic, Ling Chen saw Ji Gang's figure appearing not far away.

Ling Chen shifted gears and stepped on the accelerator; the taxi shot forward, leaving Ji Gang far behind. But after driving not much further, another bend appeared.

Damn!

Ling Chen cursed silently. This wouldn't work; he had to figure out a way to shake off Ji Gang.

Just then, his cell phone rang. It was Hu Fei calling, probably to ask about the progress on Ling Chen's end.

As soon as the call connected, Hu Fei's voice came through: "Hey! Ling Chen, have you caught Lin Guodong?"

"We caught him, but that old bastard Ji Gang showed up."

"What?" Hu Fei asked in surprise. "What are you going to do?"

"How would I know what to do? Stop asking so many questions, I'll figure out how to shake off Ji Gang." Hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked back at the road ahead searching for routes.

However, just at that moment, someone suddenly jumped down from a bridge overhead—it was Ji Gang.

At this moment, Ji Gang landed just five meters away from the taxi, and Ling Chen hardly had time to react. Before the taxi could stop, Ji Gang leapt forward directly onto the taxi's roof.

Seeing this, Ling Chen remarked inwardly that this was bad news, and immediately drove the taxi at full speed. Then, turning at the intersection ahead, Ling Chen stepped on the accelerator, using his heel on the brake to make the taxi drift perfectly around the corner.

With the inertia from the body drift, Ling Chen tried to shake Ji Gang off the roof.

But his plan was too naive. A master of the Heavenly List wasn't so easy to deal with.

No matter how Ling Chen tried to control the swaying of the car, Ji Gang remained untroubled atop, clinging to the roof as if glued there.

Bang!

Suddenly, a loud noise reached Ling Chen's ears. He looked up only to see a fist punching through the roof, heading straight for his head.

In that split second, Ling Chen quickly tilted his head to the side, narrowly avoiding Ji Gang's fist.

With the punch missing, Ji Gang stretched out both hands and forcibly pried open the taxi's metal roof. Seeing Ji Gang's grim old face appearing through the crack overhead, Ling Chen became frantic.

If he let Ji Gang get inside from the top, he was done for.

"Ling Chen, I advise you to stop the car and quit your futile resistance."

Hearing Lin Guodong's voice coming from the back seat, Ling Chen furrowed his brows, rapidly contemplating his next move.

At this moment, the taxi reached a downhill section of the road, where there were few vehicles ahead and the road was very spacious.

Ling Chen glanced twice and immediately had an idea. He put the car in neutral and let the taxi coast down the slope. Then, he unbuckled his seatbelt, crawled from the driver's seat to the back seat, and flung the rear door open.

Seeing Ling Chen's actions, Lin Guodong had an ominous premonition and urgently shouted, "Ling Chen, what are you doing?"

Ling Chen didn't say a word and couldn't be bothered with Lin Guodong, he simply pushed his upper body out of the car door.

"Lin, consider yourself lucky this time, I won't let you off next time." After saying that, Ling Chen kicked Lin Guodong off the speeding taxi.

Propelled by inertia, Lin Guodong who was kicked off the car rolled continuously on the ground, tumbling over ten meters before coming to a stop, quietly lying there with scratches all over his body and face, bloodied.

"Old Man Ji, I've returned your man to you, hurry up and get lost!" Ling Chen shouted towards the roof of the car.

Ji Gang huffed coldly, showing no intention of leaving, continuing to pry the car's roof metal.

"Old Man Ji, if you don't leave now, Lin is going to die."

"I can kill you just as well."

Bang! Bang!

Just as Ji Gang finished speaking, a series of collision noises came from behind the taxi.

Turning their heads, they saw several sedans and vans had rear-ended each other, causing a chain of collisions. Vehicles behind couldn't avoid in time and crashed into each other.

Probably because the vehicles ahead swerved to avoid Lin Guodong lying on the ground, changing lanes, while the vehicles behind had their view blocked, so they didn't see Lin Guodong in time. By the time they reacted, it was too late; they had to slam on their emergency brakes, leading to the pile-up.

As more and more vehicles crashed together, the stopped vehicles in front were slowly pushed forward by the impact from behind, their tires about to roll over Lin Guodong's head.

Seeing this, Ji Gang didn't dare delay any longer, he quickly jumped down from the roof, rushed to where Lin Guodong was, and rescued him from under the tires.

Seizing this opportunity, Ling Chen had already fled far away driving the taxi.

Since a driver had died, Ling Chen worried that getting investigated would be too troublesome, so he parked the taxi outside a nearby police station and quietly slipped away.

Before leaving, he noted down the taxi driver's identity information, planning to have Hu Fei give some compensation to the driver's family later. After all, the driver had died because of him, and it was only right and reasonable for him to take responsibility.

Back at the research base.

Hearing that Ling Chen had returned, Hu Fei and Qiu Yong and others hurried over, wanting to witness Lin Guodong's true face.

Seeing Ling Chen enter alone, empty-handed, Hu Fei couldn't help asking, "Where's that bastard Lin, didn't you capture him?"

Ling Chen shook his head, his face showing helplessness as he said, "Don't mention it, that old scoundrel Ji Gang rescued him."

"It's okay." Qiu Yong patted Ling Chen on the shoulder, comforting him, "It's great that you managed to escape safely from Ji Gang's hands."

"Ah, it's a pity, missing this opportunity, I don't know when we'll encounter him again." Hu Fei sighed.

"Fatty, don't worry, there will be plenty of opportunities in the future." Saying this, Ling Chen took out a cell phone from his pocket and tossed it to Hu Fei.

Chapter 787 Threats and Cooperation

Hu Fei scrutinized the cellphone in his hand and asked, "Whose phone is this?"

Ling Chen grinned, "I confiscated it from Lin Guodong. Though we didn't capture him, we did gain something. Lin Guodong is a high-ranking member of the God Organization; there's surely a lot of information on his phone. Hurry and transfer all the data from the phone to see if there are any important intelligence."

"Alright, I'll handle it now." Saying this, Hu Fei took the phone and excitedly darted into his office.

"Ling Cheng, there's one more thing," Qiu Yong said. "We just received news from the Nanrong family. Do you know whom Lin Guodong sent over?"

"Who?"

"Yi Shuiyan."

"Is it him?" Ling Chen was somewhat surprised. Yi Shuiyan hadn't appeared for a while, and his several attempts to confront him had all failed, suggesting that his situation within the God Organization was less than favorable.

"Big brother, Wanqing and the others are alright, aren't they?"

"Don't worry, they're all fine. Yi Shuiyan only brought one or two people with him. Although he is skilled, you've stationed many people near the Nanrong family, all equipped with exoskeleton armor. Even if Yi Shuiyan is formidable, it's hard for one to fight against many. Unfortunately, we couldn't capture him."

"Let it be!" Ling Chen dismissively said, "He got away, but there will be other opportunities."

For Ling Chen, Yi Shuiyan was no longer a concern. In his view, the current Yi Shuiyan was just a minor annoyance without any threat. Even if Yi Shuiyan had become the new Sect Leader of the Dangyang Sect, it wouldn't make a difference. If Yi Shuiyan continued to involve himself with the God Organization, he would eventually lead the Dangyang Sect to ruin.

"Big brother, we've been battling the God Organization for so long, and this time we finally got the upper hand. Lin Guodong is a significant figure within the God Organization, second only to that mysterious leader. Now that he has revealed himself, we should take this opportunity to strike while the iron is hot and wipe out the high ranks of the God Organization, leaving their mysterious leader isolated."

Qiu Yong nodded and replied, "You can do as you see fit. Big brother and the others will support you unconditionally. It's better to deal with a menace like the God Organization sooner rather than later."

...

At this moment, in a dirty alleyway in East Sea City, there stood a dilapidated, rusty gate.

From behind the tightly shut gate, roars of anger could be intermittently heard.

Inside that damp and dark room, Lin Guodong lay on a bed, his body wrapped with bandages all over.

Beside him, Lin Tong stood with his head lowered, silently by the bedside, hardly daring to breathe. He knew that Lin Guodong was currently furious, and it was better to speak less to avoid trouble.

"Ling Chen." Lin Guodong clenched the bedsheets and coldly said, "Remember this, I won't rest until I kill you." After a pause, he turned to Lin Tong and asked, "How many of our people are still available?"

"Uncle Lin, apart from the two of us, the other members were captured by the eight odd characters."

"Hmph! A bunch of useless trash. What about Elder Ji? Where is he?"

"I don't know." Lin Tong shook his head, saying, "After Elder Ji brought you here, he mentioned he had matters to attend to and left first. Elder Ji told me to convey a message, advising you to rest well here and that he would take us away from East Sea City in a couple of days."

"Two days... I can't wait that long. Never mind, I'll call Lin Jiawei to arrange for people to come over quickly. We were just unlucky this time; we intended to eliminate a traitor, but Ling Chen unexpectedly showed up."

Each time Lin Guodong mentioned Ling Chen, he gritted his teeth with hatred.

"Where's my phone?" Lin Guodong searched all his pockets but couldn't find his phone.

Seeing Lin Guodong's gaze turn towards him, Lin Tong quickly said, "Uncle Lin, I didn't touch your phone."

"How strange, I clearly placed my phone in—" Before Lin Guodong could finish, he suddenly heard a 'bang' at the door, as if something had hit it.

"Lin Tong, go and check."

"Yes." Lin Tong responded and hurried towards the door.

However, no sooner had Lin Tong been out of Lin Guodong's sight for three seconds, Lin Tong's body flew from the direction of the door and violently crashed into the wall, blood pouring from his mouth.

Seeing this scene, Lin Guodong's eyebrows furrowed, and he coolly looked towards the door.

"Who's there?"

"Mr. Lin, don't be nervous, I'm not here to cause trouble." As the voice sounded, a young man wearing a silver mask and a neatly pressed suit walked in from outside.

Lin Guodong scrutinized the man and asked in a grave tone, "Who are you?"

"Let me introduce myself first. My name's Zhu Hong."

"Zhu Hong? I don't know you."

Zhu Hong smiled slightly, unconcerned, and said, "Mr. Lin is a big shot in the God Organization, how could you possibly know a small fry like me. Actually, I used to be a member of the God Organization, working under Mr. Yun."

"Mr. Yun?" Lin Guodong sneered, "You mean that traitor? Alright, stop beating around the bush and speak plainly."

"Fine, I like Mr. Lin's straightforwardness." Saying this, Zhu Hong casually fetched a chair and placed it beside the bed. After sitting down, he slowly started, "Mr. Lin, as I said, I used to be a member of the God Organization, so I have a special fondness for it. Unfortunately, I followed the wrong person because of Mr. Yun, and that made me an enemy of the God Organization. I'm here today just to clear up a misunderstanding."

Hearing this, Lin Guodong, with a half-smiling expression, said, "You mean... you still want to work for the God Organization? If that's the case, I can authorize you to stay within the God Organization."

"No, no, no." Zhu Hong laughed and waved his hand, "Mr. Lin, times have changed. Besides, you cannot offer what I desire. After experiencing so much, I've deeply realized one thing—everything must be fought for by oneself, not to be expected from others."

"What do you want then?"

"Simple. Cooperation!"

"Cooperation?"

"Exactly." Zhu Hong nodded, "Mr. Lin, Ling Chen is my enemy, and he's also a major threat to the God Organization. Aside from this, I believe there are many areas where we could collaborate."

Lin Guodong responded coolly, "Do you think you're qualified to collaborate with me?"

Zhu Hong smiled faintly, "Mr. Lin, you're right, I might not be qualified, but I have enough bargaining chips."

"What bargaining chips?"

Hearing this, Zhu Hong didn't reply but just quietly looked at Lin Guodong, smiling silently.

Feeling the profound meaning in Zhu Hong's gaze, Lin Guodong immediately understood his implication and said in a heavy tone, "Are you threatening me?"

"Mr. Lin, I didn't say that."

Chapter 788 Breaking the Cellphone Password

Lin Guodong looked at Zhu Hong's sinister smile and his face involuntarily cooled down.

"Mr. Lin, have you thought it through?" Zhu Hong asked with a smile, "Do you choose to cooperate with me, or..." He deliberately paused here. He was well aware that there was no need to say some things out loud; the other party could understand what he meant.

"Zhu Hong, you sure have some nerve," Lin Guodong said solemnly, "I have lived for so many years, and there have been few people who dare to threaten me. Alright, Zhu Hong, since you're so bold, then I'll give you a chance. Three days—I'll give you three days. If you can bring me Ling Chen's head, I will cooperate with you. How about it?"

"Three days?" Zhu Hong shook his head and said, "Mr. Lin, I'm not trying to bolster someone else's courage while diminishing my own prestige, but to speak the truth, not to mention three days, even if you gave me ten days, I might not be able to kill Ling Chen. Mr. Lin, you're a wise man as well, and you should know that Ling Chen is not easy to deal with now. With so many helpers around him, unless a Heavenly List expert takes action, we simply can't touch him."

"Mr. Lin, you're not unaware of Ling Chen's capabilities. If he was so easy to deal with, how would you have ended up in such a plight?"

Hearing the mockery in Zhu Hong's words, Lin Guodong's expression turned even uglier.

Without waiting for Lin Guodong to say anything, Zhu Hong continued: "Mr. Lin, how about this, I'll find another way to prove my sincerity in wanting to cooperate."

"What way?"

"The God Organization has never tolerated traitors. I'll help you deal with a traitor; how about that?"

"Who are you talking about? Liu Xiyao? There's no need for you to take action against that woman; I will take care of her myself."

"No, I'm not talking about her, but someone else," Zhu Hong said with a smile, "Nanrong Yuan, also known as Mr. Yun. Mr. Lin, you must be familiar with him."

Lin Guodong frowned and said, "Isn't he dead?"

"He's not dead. Not only is he not dead, but he is also currently in East Sea City, recuperating in the Qingyun Martial Arts Hall, protected by the old man He Ziyun."

He's actually not dead... Lin Guodong pondered for a moment, then nodded and said, "Fine, since you say so, I'll give you a chance. Kill Nanrong Yuan and, besides that, bring me the little girl from Qingyun Martial Arts Hall. Remember, I want that little girl to appear before me unharmed. If you can't do it, then our cooperative talks are off."

"No problem," Zhu Hong responded with a smile, "Mr. Lin, rest assured, I will definitely not disappoint you." After speaking, Zhu Hong stood up from the chair and said, "Mr. Lin, then I won't disturb your rest, give me a few days. After I handle things, I'll find you."

"I won't stay here for too long; will you be able to find me then?"

Zhu Hong confidently smiled and said, "Mr. Lin, you don't need to worry about that. Don't forget how I managed to find you now." With that said, Zhu Hong gave Chu Huaiyang a wink and then walked out.

...

Research base.

At this moment, Ling Chen was in the bedroom, accompanying Liu Xiyao who had just moved in. Having just been through that ordeal, Liu Xiyao's mood had certainly not completely recovered. Having someone to talk to and offer some guidance could lift her spirits quite a bit.

"Sister Xiyao, don't think too much. Just stay here peacefully, and when it's safe, I'll send you back."

Liu Xiyao nodded gently and said with gratitude, "Thank you!"

"Don't mention it." Ling Chen smiled slightly and handed a cup of hot tea that had already been poured to Liu Xiyao.

Just then, a 'knock knock knock' came from the door. Followed by Wei Jiahao's voice coming from outside, "Ling Cheng, are you there?"

"Coming!" Ling Chen stood up and said to Liu Xiyao, "You rest first, I'll come to see you later."

Leaving the bedroom, Ling Chen asked, "What's up, brother eight? You looking for me?"

"Big Brother Hu wants you to hurry over; it looks like there's some big discovery, and the others have already gone," Wei Jiahao said.

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and without asking further, he quickly followed Wei Jiahao to Hu Fei's office.

Pushing the door open, Hu Fei, excitedly sitting in front of the computer, waved and said, "Ling Chen, come over here."

"What's up? Any findings?" Ling Chen leaned over to the computer screen and asked.

"I've just copied all the data from the cell phone. It was password protected, but it wasn't hard to crack," Hu Fei said as his ten fingers kept tapping the keyboard. Soon, a folder with many documents appeared on the computer screen, with each document recorded by a number and no text noted.

"Lin Guodong's cell phone stored quite a bit of data, all specially encrypted, so what you see is either numbers or gibberish. But as long as the encryption is cracked, all the documents will be displayed," Hu Fei said, hitting a few keys on his shoulder.

Instantly, the document numbers changed all at once to text.

Ling Chen skimmed through them, expressing surprise, "Why are these all names?"

Hu Fei nodded and said, "Exactly, these are the contacts in the address book, including names and even numbers. If someone can be Lin Guodong's contact, they mustn't be ordinary people. We can use these phone numbers to pinpoint their locations and then capture them all."

With that, Hu Fei grinned, squinting his eyes, "As long as we capture these people, disbanding the God Organization is only a matter of time. Ling Chen, what do you think?"

"Well done." Ling Chen did not skimp on his praise.

After thinking, Ling Chen continued to say, "Fatty, find the locations of all these people, including each person's information. Remember, we need to hurry, because if Lin Guodong finds out his phone is missing, he will definitely take measures. It's rare to have such a good opportunity; we can't miss it. Success depends on you, Fatty. Don't let us down."

"Understood, I'm on it right away," Hu Fei said, and immediately busied himself in front of the computer.

"Ling Cheng, leave the things here to us. You go and contact Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion to sort things out," Qiu Yong said.

"That's fine."

Ling Chen knew what Qiu Yong was referring to. During his time in Jinhai City, Ling Chen learned from Su He about Chen Quan's existence. Now, with Zhu Hong's appearance, there was a significant relation with Chen Quan. Therefore, to deal with Zhu Hong, Ling Chen had to first handle the backing behind him. Without the help of people like Song Mingzhe and Chu Huaiyang, what pride could Zhu Hong have?

Leaving the office, Ling Chen took out his cell phone from his pocket and directly dialed Su Mei's number.

Chapter 789 Enduring in Silence

Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

After hanging up the phone with Ling Chen, Su Mei left her room and, accompanied by several confidants, promptly made her way to Yangxin Pavilion.

When Su Mei arrived, Du Kang, having received the notification, was already there.

"Pavilion Master," greeted Du Kang, "What is the matter that you needed to see me for?"

"Elder Du, back in the day, my grandfather captured someone and locked him up in Yangxin Pavilion for many years now, which is common knowledge. However, apart from my grandfather, it seems no one knows the true identity of this person."

Du Kang nodded, "That's correct. I once asked your grandfather about it. He only mentioned that the person had committed heinous crimes, practiced deviant martial arts, and harmed many innocents. Out of compassion, instead of executing the Assassin, your grandfather chose to imprison him in Yangxin Pavilion with the hope that he would end his remaining years here."

"Not too long ago, Ling Chen called me, revealing the identity of that person. He is Chen Quan, the elder brother of Song Mingzhe, and thus, Zhu Hong's current backer. Zhu Hong's support from Song Mingzhe and others is all because of him. Elder Du, you may recall when we confronted Liang Tian, he feigned ignorance. Moreover, he told us that after he took Zhu Hong as a disciple, Zhu Hong disappeared and his whereabouts were unknown. Now it seems likely that Zhu Hong encountered Chen Quan here in Yangxin Pavilion, which is how he got his help."

"This is news to me," Du Kang said with some surprise. "As far as I know, when your grandfather first captured that man, he had lost his senses due to demonic cultivation backfiring; he didn't even know who he was. Over the years, I've occasionally checked on him. He had completely lost his reason. Not to mention carrying a normal conversation, he couldn't even speak clearly."

"Chen Quan might have just been pretending in order to deceive us, to avoid raising any suspicion. Elder Du, all this is speculation. In my opinion, let's go and see for ourselves. Once we see the person, all will be clear."

"Alright, let's go."

Led by Du Kang, the group went straight to the place where Chen Quan was imprisoned.

Before long, they arrived at a peak located in the middle of the forest. The peak was not tall, being only about twenty meters from the base to the summit; calling it a peak seemed somewhat exaggerated. Below the peak, four chains thick as arms were embedded into the mountain, with the other ends tied to a strange man.

This man was dressed in rags, with disheveled hair, and his body and face were filthy. It was impossible to see his features or discern his age.

As the group approached, the strange man instantly went mad like a crazed dog that had lost its Control, mouth agape and emitting a terrifying, strident sound from his throat.

Du Kang and Su Mei observed him from a distance, maintaining about five or six meters between them and not getting too close.

"Pavilion Master, step back a bit. You guys, ensure the Pavilion Master's safety." After instructing, Du Kang then stepped in front of the strange man. This action immediately provoked a fierce roar from the man. If not for the chains restraining him, he would have pounced on Du Kang.

"Chen Quan, stop the act." Du Kang spoke indifferently. "I know your identity, as well as the tricks you've been playing with Zhu Hong, so it's better for us to speak frankly." After a pause, he continued,

"To be honest, I am quite impressed with you. You've restored your sanity many years ago, yet you've been feigning madness and stupidity before us all this time; it can't have been easy."

Upon hearing these words, Chen Quan clamped his once wide-open mouth shut, his murky eyes flashing a sharp coldness; they were not the eyes of someone who had lost his clarity of mind.

"You've all found out?" Chen Quan lifted the corners of his mouth, perhaps due to years of silence, his voice sounded somewhat raspy.

Seeing that Chen Quan could converse normally, Du Kang shifted slightly, extending his right hand forward, ready to strike at any moment. Should Chen Quan make any unruly movement, Du Kang would show no mercy.

After all, Chen Quan's limbs were bound in chains, and with Du Kang's Heavenly List strength, it shouldn't be difficult to deal with Chen Quan.

Noticing Du Kang's actions, Chen Quan's eyes narrowed slightly, and a peculiar smile seemed to form on his face. However, his visage was so filthy that his skin tone was obscured, making the smile hard to detect.

"Chen Quan, what exactly is the deal you made with Zhu Hong? Why are you helping him?" Du Kang asked.

"Zhu Hong?" Chen Quan chuckled coldly. "Are you referring to my Registered Disciple? He is going to be my disciple, so naturally, I must help him. Don't think too little of him; indeed, he has proven to be somewhat useful. Without his assistance, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to escape from here."

"Escape?" Du Kang looked around, shaking the wine gourd in his hand as he spoke, "Aren't you still trapped here?"

Chen Quan laughed heartily. "I was planning to stay a bit longer since there aren't many places left suitable for martial arts practice that are as tranquil as this. But since you've discovered me, there's no further reason for me to remain."

As soon as his words ended, Chen Quan violently raised his arms, and his whole body shook. In an instant, 'clang clang' resounded as the chains binding his limbs abruptly snapped.

Seeing this, Du Kang's face turned pale with shock.

Such formidable martial arts!

Du Kang was inwardly astounded. Those chains were as thick as an arm, yet Chen Quan had easily broken free from them, which was not something an average expert could achieve.

Yes!

Du Kang suddenly remembered something. Though Su He did not reveal Chen Quan's identity back then, he did mention the deeds Chen Quan committed. According to Su He, Chen Quan delved into deviant martial arts in order to seek revenge on a Heavenly List expert. Therefore, one must not regard Chen Quan as an ordinary expert; he must be treated as a Heavenly List master.

Moreover, Chen Quan had been locked up here for many years, and since regaining his sanity, he likely had been secretly practicing martial arts. It was evident that his skills were now stronger than before.

With this in mind, Du Kang turned and called out, "Quickly take the Pavilion Master away from here."

After speaking, Du Kang lightly tapped his toes on the ground, leaning forward, rushing toward Chen Quan.

Before reaching his target, a formidable aura burst forth from Du Kang's body, pressing down on Chen Quan like a towering mountain.

Feeling the pressure from Du Kang, Chen Quan sneered, grabbing a chain from the ground and flinging it with a strong arm swing.

Suddenly, the other end of the chain was violently yanked out of the mountain, hurtling towards Du Kang, who was charging forward.

Seeing this, Du Kang stopped his advance, spinning on his toes and swiftly moving aside, narrowly avoiding the chain's assault.

Without giving Du Kang another chance to react, Chen Quan swiftly retreated and ran straight towards the forest outside.

Chapter 790 Heavenly Mechanism Order

"Halt!" Du Kang bellowed, swiftly following behind Chen Quan, in hot pursuit to prevent the latter from escaping.

Seeing Du Kang and Chen Quan's figures growing distant, Su Mei urgently said, "Notify everyone immediately, Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion must be on full alert, we absolutely cannot allow that person to escape."

"Yes, Pavilion Master." Her subordinate responded and then hurriedly ran out.

At this moment, inside the Yangxin Pavilion, Chen Quan was taking big strides, frantically dashing about. Ever since he was imprisoned in Yangxin Pavilion by Su He, he had been confined under that mountain peak, never having walked inside Yangxin Pavilion, let alone being familiar with its layout. Therefore, although he had now freed himself from the shackles of his chains, he didn't know where to exit and could only blindly crash around in search of an escape.

"Chen Quan, you..." Du Kang's mouth was agape, about to rebuke, when he suddenly saw Chen Quan, who was sprinting ahead, whirl around and deliver a pair of fleshy palms with lightning speed directly towards Du Kang's face.

Without time to think, Du Kang raised his palms to meet the attack.

When the four palms met, a burst of tremendous power instantly erupted. Hit by the two surges of force, Du Kang trembled and his footsteps involuntarily retreated two paces. Looking at Chen Quan, after delivering his blow, he didn't pause for a moment and continued to turn and dash forward, his speed incredibly fast, opening a distance of over ten meters in the blink of an eye.

Du Kang frowned slightly, pressing forward with each step, not daring to be careless. He had seen Chen Quan's strength; the man's martial skills were likely not inferior to his own. If it truly came to a fight, the outcome would be difficult to predict. No! Du Kang thought to himself, I must find a way to keep Chen Quan within Yangxin Pavilion and prevent his escape.

Just then, two figures suddenly appeared in front of Chen Quan. One was Huang Zheng, and the other was also an elder from Yangxin Pavilion.

"Stop him!"

Seeing Huang Zheng and the other approaching, Du Kang immediately pointed at the fleeing Chen Quan, shouting loudly. However, just as the words left his mouth, Du Kang suddenly thought of something and quickly amended, "Move aside, everyone move!"

Unfortunately, Du Kang's words were still a step too late. Huang Zheng and the other elder had already rushed forward, preparing to jointly stop Chen Quan.

Seeing Huang Zheng and the others closing in, Chen Quan let out a cold laugh, a cruel coldness flashing in his eyes.

"Die!"

With a cold shout, the sprinting Chen Quan suddenly exerted force, slipping through like a swift gust of wind, instantly closing in on Huang Zheng and the other elder. Before they could react, Chen Quan's fleshy palm had already made contact with the elder's chest.

Puh!

In an instant, a spurt of fresh blood sprayed out, and the elder's body flew backward, crashing heavily to the ground. Although clothed, one could still discern that his chest had caved in, and his breathing became increasingly difficult and rapid, his face showing a pallor of pain and suffering.

Seeing this scene, Huang Zheng, who was about to intercept, was shocked into stillness, his actions slowing as he lost his focus.

"Be careful!"

At that moment, Du Kang, who was chasing from behind, quickly arrived at the scene. Seeing Du Kang reach out to help, Chen Quan without a word abandoned Huang Zheng and made his swift departure.

"Mr. Luo." After a brief moment of stupor, Huang Zheng finally snapped out of his shock and hurried over to the injured elder, examining his wounds. However, the elder's condition made Huang Zheng's expression extremely grim.

"How is he?" Du Kang asked in a solemn voice.

Huang Zheng shook his head and sighed, "His injuries are too severe, there's no saving him."

Hearing this, Du Kang's eyes suddenly narrowed, radiating a cold light with a hint of resentment.

It's all my fault!

Du Kang silently blamed himself, knowing full well Chen Quan's strength and yet still allowing Huang Zheng and the others to intervene.

"Huang Zheng, don't worry about him for now, notify everyone immediately to evacuate. Also, have Elder Qin come over to help right away," Du Kang instructed. Elder Qin was another high-ranked expert on the Heavenly List in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, specifically responsible for ensuring Su Mei's safety when she was away from the Pavilion. On regular days within the Pavilion, he was in seclusion at his residence.

"I understand."

After Huang Zheng left, Du Kang did not linger and continued to pursue in the direction where Chen Quan had fled.

Along the way, Du Kang saw several bodies, all killed by Chen Quan with a single deadly strike, showing no mercy. Moreover, Chen Quan seemed to have found the direction of the exit of Yangxin Pavilion, as inferred from the bodies along the way; he was about to escape from Yangxin Pavilion soon.

Emerging from the Yangxin Pavilion, Du Kang looked around and heard screams coming from not far away.

Damn it!

Du Kang's face sank immediately, and he chased toward the direction of the sounds. When he arrived, he saw more than a dozen Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples slaughtered on the ground, their blood flowing from all orifices.

Such ruthless methods... Seeing this scene, Du Kang's aging face grew even darker.

"Elder Du, Elder Du..." At this time, a few Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples ran towards him in a sorry state, loudly calling Du Kang's name.

"What happened?"

"Eld... Elder Du, that man... that man has killed many of our brothers and has already pushed to the exit, no one can stop him, please think of something quickly."

Hearing this, a sense of powerlessness surged up in Du Kang's heart. If he couldn't stop Chen Quan in the Yangxin Pavilion, it would be even less possible now.

Forget it... Du Kang sighed inwardly, it seems impossible to stop him.

"Go, have everyone retreat, stop blocking him, let him go," Du Kang said helplessly. By this stage, even if support from the Yangxin Pavilion arrived, it would be too late.

Ten minutes later.

In the deliberation hall of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, everyone gathered together, all with their heads down, faces grim, silent.

After a while, Su Mei, seated in the main place, finally spoke: "Elder Du, how many people did we lose this time, have the numbers been tallied up?"

"Twenty-one dead, not a single one injured."

Hearing this, other people in the room gasped in shock.

Such ruthless methods!

"Pavilion Master." Du Kang stood up, taking the initiative to admit his fault: "I underestimated Chen Quan this time, leading to such heavy losses for the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, I ask the Pavilion Master to penalize me."

"Elder Du, please don't talk like that, you are not to blame for this matter. If anyone is to blame, it's Chen Quan for being too cunning." After a pause, Su Mei shifted her tone: "Since it has already happened, let's not focus on whose responsibility it is, but rather think about how to compensate."

Huang Zheng said coldly, "This man surnamed Chen dares to kill our Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Disciples, we absolutely cannot let him off easily. Pavilion Master, in my opinion, it's time to use the Heavenly Mechanism Order."

The Heavenly Mechanism Order?

Upon hearing these three words, shock spread across the faces of everyone present.

Everyone was a veteran of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and knew well what the Heavenly Mechanism Order implied. In the hundreds of years since the founding of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, the Heavenly Mechanism Order had only been used three times.

"Pavilion Master, please consider carefully, the Heavenly Mechanism Order is no trifling matter."