

The Beauty 811

Chapter 811 Qingyang Society (Part 3)

"So you were asking about the Qingyang Society." Qin Genglong said, "The Qingyang Society is a faction within Yan City Prison, made up of prisoners. There are many factions in Yan City Prison, all formed spontaneously by the inmates, and the Qingyang Society is the largest group. Besides Qingyang Society, there's another faction that can rival it, which is Hongmen. The name Hongmen might not be unfamiliar to you; in the martial arts world, Hongmen is an old faction with a history spanning hundreds of years. Of course, the Hongmen in Yan City Prison is not the legitimate Hongmen, it hasn't been acknowledged; it's just a name the prisoners chose themselves. This is because the leader of Hongmen used to be a disciple of Hongmen, so that's where the name comes from."

"I see." Ling Chen nodded and asked, "Old Qin, what differences are there between Qingyang Society and Hongmen?"

"Not much difference. Both of these factions are made up of experts. If anyone wants to bluff their way in, they'd better give up that idea. Members of Qingyang Society and Hongmen aren't many, but each one is a true expert, just like Luo Haicheng, who fought you yesterday; he's from Qingyang Society. How was it? His strength isn't weak, right?"

"Not bad at all."

Luo Haicheng's strength indeed was not lacking. In his forties, he's already an expert on the Earthly List. However, in terms of techniques, Luo Haicheng is still a bit inferior to Ling Chen.

"Most of the Qingyang Society members are rather casual, not bound by many rules. But Hongmen is different; Hongmen has a lot of rules, all passed down from before, so Hongmen's members are people with more traditional mindsets. These two factions have not had few conflicts, often sparring with each other. The Prison Director can't be bothered to manage them. As long as no one dies, they can do what they like."

At this point, Qin Genglong paused and said, "Among the people who went on the mission with me yesterday, besides myself, the others were from Qingyang Society and Hongmen, all experts on the Dragon List. The Prison Director is afraid that these two major forces might lose experts due to fights, so he forbids any deaths being caused."

"Old Qin, besides Qingyang Society and Hongmen, is there any other notable faction in Yan City Prison?"

"There is one more, and that's Metropolis."

"Metropolis?" Ling Chen was slightly stunned. The name sounded somewhat peculiar.

Qin Genglong nodded and said, "It's called Metropolis because this faction comprises all sorts of people, including leaders of international criminal groups, top assassins, and many skilled professionals. You can almost find any talent you want in Metropolis."

"Really?" Ling Chen's eyes lit up. He didn't expect Yan City Prison to be such a hub of talent. Unfortunately, those guys are locked up because they committed serious crimes; otherwise, they could be recruited into one's own faction. With these talents' help, dealing with the God Organization in the future would be much easier.

"Old Qin, have you interacted with people from these three major factions?"

"Never dealt with them. I've always been alone, trying to avoid conflicts with others. These three factions were only mentioned by other prisoners; I've never come into contact with them."

Hearing this, Ling Chen looked around the playground and asked, "Where are the people from the three major factions?"

"There are none of them here," Qin Genglong said. "Qingyang Society, Hongmen, and Metropolis each have their own areas of activity. Didn't I tell you? As long as you help Yu Peng achieve his goals, you can make demands. Everything they have now is earned by themselves."

Just then, a person suddenly walked over from not far away. Ling Chen looked up and saw that it was Luo Haicheng, who he fought with yesterday.

Why has he come? Ling Chen was somewhat puzzled. Didn't Luo Haicheng say that he wouldn't come looking for trouble? Could it be that he saw Ling Chen was injured and came to take advantage?

While pondering, Luo Haicheng had already approached, clasped his hands, and said, "Mr. Ling, hello, once again we meet."

"Mr. Luo, what brings you to me today?"

"It's like this, our society's president would like to invite Mr. Ling over for a meeting, if Mr. Ling would grace us with your presence," Luo Haicheng said politely.

So that's what it's about. Ling Chen smiled to himself, guessing it was because he won against Luo Haicheng in the spar yesterday, which caught Qingyang Society's attention.

As long as it's not to cause trouble, it's fine.

"Such a small matter shouldn't trouble Mr. Luo to come personally; it's really unnecessary."

Luo Haicheng was delighted and asked, "So does that mean Mr. Ling agrees?"

"Of course not..."

"Mr. Ling."

Just then, before Ling Chen could finish his sentence, he heard a voice coming. Turning around, he saw two men walking over, one behind the other.

Once they reached him, they both spoke, "Mr. Ling, our Hongmen Sect Leader invites you to come over. He wants to meet you."

"Mr. Ling, I'm the Vice President of Metropolis. Our President has prepared a lavish breakfast and hopes to invite Mr. Ling and Mr. Qin to join us."

Hearing them introduce themselves, Ling Chen was slightly taken aback. Qingyang Society, Hongmen, and Metropolis — the three major forces of Yan City Prison all came to invite him, making him feel quite overwhelmed.

Faced with these three invitations, Ling Chen wasn't sure how to choose for a moment. No matter which one he picked, he'd certainly offend the other two. Thinking of this, Ling Chen felt a bit troubled; it was indeed a bothersome matter.

After thinking it over, Ling Chen nudged Qin Genglong next to him with his elbow and quietly asked, "Old Qin, what do you think I should do?"

"This..." In this situation, Qin Genglong was also at a loss and didn't know what advice to give.

Seeing that Ling Chen hadn't spoken for a long time, Luo Haicheng couldn't help but say, "Mr. Ling, our president is still waiting."

Ling Chen glanced at Luo Haicheng, then at the other two men, his expression indecisive.

"Mr. Ling," Luo Haicheng urged again.

"In that case..." Ling Chen looked at the last man who arrived and said, "Since Metropolis' President is so courteous, it would be rude not to accept."

Seeing Ling Chen agree to Metropolis, Luo Haicheng and the other man were stunned.

Especially Luo Haicheng, who couldn't have expected Ling Chen to reject him and accept Metropolis' invitation.

"Mr. Ling, I..." Luo Haicheng wanted to say something to try and persuade him, but before he could finish, Ling Chen cut him off: "Mr. Luo, I'm very sorry. Please tell the president of Qingyang Society that I'll visit them when I have time."

The main reason Ling Chen rejected Qingyang Society and Hongmen was their lack of sincerity. Look at Metropolis; not only did they send a Vice President to invite him, but they also prepared a lavish breakfast. Most importantly, they invited not just him but also Qin Genglong. This alone was enough for Ling Chen to make a decision.

Chapter 812 Genius of the Criminal Underworld (Part 1)

Of course, besides the sincerity demonstrated by the Metropolis, there was another important reason, though Ling Chen was reluctant to admit it.

Having not eaten for two days, Ling Chen was truly hungry, and even a man made of iron would not withstand the torment of hunger. So when he heard the words 'breakfast', his subconscious naturally inclined towards the people of the Metropolis.

If Luo Haicheng and the others knew Ling Chen chose the Metropolis for a breakfast, they would probably regret it to death.

Seeing Ling Chen and Qin Genglong leave with the Metropolis's Vice President, Luo Haicheng and his companion's expressions were somewhat unsightly. Once Ling Chen and his group went far away, they didn't linger either and hurried back to their territory to report to their boss.

Beside the playground's wall, there was an iron gate guarded by two burly men. After Ling Chen and the others passed through the gate, they found a spacious warehouse behind it. However, this warehouse had clearly been modified, with plywood dividing it into several rooms of various sizes. They were currently in the warehouse's gym, which was fully equipped with fitness gear.

Moreover, at one corner of the wall, there was even a simple swimming pool where a few bikini-clad, sexy beauties sat laughing and frolicking, drawing many male gazes.

Wow!

Ling Chen couldn't help but sigh in amazement. This wasn't a prison; it was obviously a place of pleasure.

"Mr. Ling, Mr. Qin, this way, please. Our Chairman is already waiting for you." Led by the Metropolis's Vice President, Ling Chen and Qin Genglong entered a rather tasteful room.

The room had excellent lighting, bright and spacious, complete with a television and other household equipment. In the middle was a leather sofa on which lay a beautifully dressed, scantily-clad woman, holding a teddy bear, puffing leisurely on a cigarette, oblivious to everything around her.

Ling Chen glanced at the woman, then shifted his gaze to a middle-aged man.

The middle-aged man sat at a dining table filled with a sumptuous breakfast, holding a cigar, his chest bare, his body corpulent, with a finger-thick gold necklace very conspicuous around his neck. Besides the necklace, each of his ten fingers wore a different shaped gold ring, presenting a typical nouveau riche appearance, irresistibly amusing.

Ling Chen stifled his laughter, scrutinizing the man's face. Once he discerned the man's features, the amusement in his eyes transformed into surprise, and he exclaimed, "It's you?"

"Ling Chen, long time no see. Did you forget about me?" The middle-aged man grinned, his gold tooth particularly noticeable.

"Forget you? That's a joke. Couldn't afford to forget you even if I forgot everyone else." Saying this, Ling Chen unabashedly sat down, inviting Qin Genglong to join him, and started munching on a piece of bread from the table.

Qin Genglong was also famished, having starved alongside Ling Chen. Spotting food, he dropped any semblance of decorum, quickly devouring an egg and sandwich, and instantly drained a steaming cup of milk.

Seeing the two devouring like ravenous wolves, the beauty lying on the sofa mocked with a laugh, "Guolun, where did you find these two starving ghosts?"

Upon hearing this, the middle-aged man's expression immediately chilled, and he casually tossed the lit cigar, cursing, "Did I ask you to speak? Damn it, these two are my brothers. Look at yourself before insulting them. Scram, as far away as possible, and don't let me see you again."

Scolded by the man, the woman's pretty face instantly whitened with fright, hurriedly rising from the sofa, fearfully saying, "Sorry... I'm sorry, I was wrong."

The middle-aged man impatiently cursed, "Didn't I tell you to get lost? Do I have to resort to violence?"

"No... please don't!" The woman dared not linger any longer, quickly fleeing from the room.

Once the woman left, the middle-aged man reignited a cigar, took two puffs, and said apologetically, "Ling Chen, don't mind her. She's clueless. I'll deal with her later."

"Forget about it!" Ling Chen swallowed a bite of bread, took a sip of freshly squeezed lemonade, and said, "I say, how did a guy like you end up here?"

"Got caught, that's all. Originally planned to pull off something big domestically and then enjoy life abroad, but the helpers I found weren't reliable, leaked the plan, and when I acted, ambushes were everywhere. Ultimately, I had no choice but to surrender to save my life. Hey! I'm quite curious, how did you end up in this sort of place?"

"Don't mention it, it's all a heartache." Saying this, Ling Chen looked at Qin Genglong and said, "Old Qin, let me introduce you. This is Tang Guolun, the most infamous figure in the crime syndicate, con artist, thief, escape artist, FBI criminal consultant... What else... I've forgotten. Generally, this guy has a lot of titles, the best among criminals."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's introduction, the rather dim-witted Qin Genglong became even more perplexed.

"Ling Chen, if he's a criminal, how did he become a criminal consultant?"

Ling Chen chuckled and said, "That merely proves his extraordinary skills."

The saying goes, in thirty-six professions, leaders emerge from each one. Every profession has its geniuses, and Tang Guolun belongs to the genius category in the crime world. Tang Guolun commits

crimes with style and principles, having boundaries—no killing, avoiding low-skill crimes, favoring challenges.

Tang Guolun, a Chinese American, began his career at eighteen, using a cheap printer and a computer to fabricate one hundred thousand dollars, successfully fooling bank staff. Since then, his criminal road escalated unchecked. His most famous act involved impersonating a U.S. Federal Bureau emissary, commandeering an FBI branch to assist him in clearing out a bank's vault. Afterward, the FBI agents even escorted him and his loot onto a plane, waving farewell.

So, it's said that there's nothing Tang Guolun wouldn't dare to do; only depends on whether he has interest to do it. As for this audacious fellow, the FBI gritted their teeth in frustration but could do nothing. A rabbit's warren is cunning, yet Tang Guolun's deceit surpasses a rabbit's, leaving no one capable of catching him. Initially, the FBI established a team specifically to capture him, but after several years, achieved no progress. Helplessly, they abandoned pursuing Tang Guolun.

However, astonishing everyone, once the FBI ceased pursuing Tang Guolun, he unexpectedly turned up solo at the FBI headquarters to surrender. Naturally, that's not the main point. The main point is that shortly after his capture, Tang Guolun not only obtained immunity in America but transformed into an FBI appointed specialist, a criminal consultant.

Chapter 813 Genius of the Criminal Underworld (Part 2)

During the year Tang Guolun served, the FBI made astonishing gains. Five of the top ten international fugitives were captured, and countless criminal organizations and terrorists were taken down. That year, the global crime rate hit a new low. Everyone knew that with Tang Guolun's support, nobody dared to cross Lord Tai Sui, as that would be a death wish.

Therefore, when Tang Guolun decided to leave the FBI, the Director personally tried to persuade him to stay, but unfortunately, Tang Guolun was resolute in his decision to leave, and no one could hold him back. In his own words, "I've grown tired of the cat-and-mouse game; there's no challenge in it, so being the mouse is more interesting."

Of course, that's not all there is to Tang Guolun's story. Once, a friend of Tang Guolun's was unfortunately caught while acting alone and was imprisoned in a high-security prison, sentenced to life.

Tang Guolun was a man of loyalty and couldn't just stand by when his friend was in trouble. So, he voluntarily turned himself in and was placed in the same prison.

It took about ten days, and Tang Guolun successfully broke out with his friend. The prison administration had no idea how they managed to escape.

That incident sparked a new interest in Tang Guolun: prison breaks. Every successful escape gave him a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. Over the years, Tang Guolun traveled to prisons worldwide, even sparking bets in the crime world on how long it would take him to escape.

Eventually, as Tang Guolun's fame grew, prison management sought him out, inviting him to stay for a while to help find flaws and loopholes in their security systems. Thus, he earned the title: Escape Expert.

Tang Guolun is now over forty, having spent more than twenty years in the world of crime. In the crime world, Tang Guolun is undoubtedly a legendary figure.

A few years ago, when Ling Chen was with the Ghost Organization, he received an assassination mission. The target was the leader of an international crime force, who had too many enemies and was afraid of retaliation, so he voluntarily went to prison, bribing the prison staff. To kill the target, one had to enter the prison.

At that time, Ling Chen faked his identity as a murderer and intentionally got caught, successfully entering the prison where the target was.

It was then that Ling Chen unexpectedly encountered Tang Guolun. As fate would have it, they were placed in the same cell. Ling Chen, knowing the identity of this renowned criminal mastermind, immediately recognized him. Though their time together wasn't long, they were both prominent figures in the crime and espionage world, naturally appreciating each other's talents. With Ling Chen's deliberate efforts, they gradually built friendship and trust.

After more than half a month, Ling Chen saw an opportunity and smoothly completed the mission. After assassinating the target, and with Tang Guolun's help, they escaped from the prison and went their separate ways. Surprisingly, Ling Chen hadn't heard from Tang Guolun in years, only to find out he was in Yan City Prison.

"Boss Tang, you said you were caught during an operation. Others might believe that, but knowing you, I find it impossible." Ling Chen said with a smile, "Everyone knows you're meticulous and won't easily

collaborate with others unless you trust them completely. Come on, we're old friends, can't you tell me what's really going on?"

Tang Guolun laughed heartily, "I knew I couldn't fool you. Alright, since you want to know, I'm not afraid to tell you—I was tricked!"

"Tricked?" Ling Chen asked, slightly taken aback, "What do you mean?"

"More than a year ago, Yan City Prison's Prison Director, Yu Peng, contacted me, hoping I'd help him check out Yan City Prison's security system for vulnerabilities. You know me, I relish high-level challenges. After researching Yan City Prison, I learned it was a government-contracted private secret prison, and I got interested. Our agreement was if I couldn't successfully escape within two months, it would show Yan City Prison had top-notch defenses with no flaws. At that point, Yan City Prison would release me. But after I entered the prison, I discovered that bastard Yu Peng tricked me; he didn't follow the contract terms and had people watching my every move, making escape impossible."

At this point, Tang Guolun appeared quite angry and couldn't help but curse.

"Tsk tsk!" Ling Chen shook his head, surprised by Yu Peng's despicable plot to deceive Tang Guolun into entering Yan City Prison.

Previously, when Tang Guolun signed contracts with prisons, the management wouldn't reveal his real identity to the staff, treating him like a regular prisoner. But Yu Peng monitoring constantly was clearly special treatment, making escape impossible for anyone.

"So, you've been stuck here in this godforsaken place for a year?"

"Yes. I'm nearly bored to death; luckily you came, so I have some company."

"Forget that, I'm not staying here to keep you company. Wait, if I can get out, I'll take you with me."

"Alright, I'll hold you to that. I'm pinning my hopes on you. Damn it, once I'm out, I'll make Yu Peng regret messing with me for the rest of his life."

"Tell me, Boss Tang, why did Yu Peng lure you here? Do you have some value to him?"

Tang Guolun replied irritably, "That bastard coerced and tempted me to help him plan operations—murder, theft, arrests, all sorts of dirty deeds. Damn it, if you ask me, that bastard deserves to be locked up more than anyone. Compared to him, I feel like I'm a saint."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen grew even more curious and asked, "What exactly does Yu Peng want?"

"How should I know? I'm not a worm in his belly. Anyway, that guy's definitely not a good person." Tang Guolun then changed the subject, "Did people from Qingyang Society and Hongmen invite you?"

"Yeah, if not for hearing you were treating me to breakfast, I would have already gone with Qingyang Society's people."

"Stay away from Qingyang Society and Hongmen; those guys only compete for power without any ambition or goals. They're too unmotivated." Tang Guolun expressed his strong disapproval of those two factions.

Chapter 814 Genius of the Criminal Underworld (Part 3)

"They have so many experts, and only by uniting do they have at least a fifty percent chance of overcoming the prison security. Unfortunately, they're all afraid of dying, and no one wants to stick their neck out. If I had that many experts, I would have acted long ago, rather than wait until now."

"People have their own concerns, you can't force it. Hey, Boss Tang, I heard when I came that there are quite a few talents in Metropolis."

Tang Guolun grinned, looking smug, and said, "You don't say, the moment I mention my name, people are scrambling to crowd around me, insisting on becoming my subordinates. What can I do? Sometimes, having too much fame isn't a good thing. You know, I've always preferred to keep a low profile."

"Come on!" Ling Chen pouted, unrelentingly hitting back, "Stop trying to glorify yourself, like we don't know who always has to show off online after every crime, as if you're afraid people might not know it was you who did it."

Tang Guolun can be pretty sneaky sometimes. After every big job, he leaves a message on the forum, teasing and mocking the victims. Well, each of his actions is very secretive; if he didn't do this, no one would probably know it was him. Thus, every time Tang Guolun committed a crime, he would dominate the headlines for a week. I heard that this guy has a special hobby - collecting front-page news related to himself, cutting them all out, and then pasting them on his wall to admire every day.

Only someone extremely narcissistic would do something like this.

After Ling Chen exposed his old secrets, Tang Guolun didn't mind, laughing as he said, "It's good that you know, no need to say it out loud. But honestly, I do have quite a few talents under me, and I'm thinking, when I leave, I must recruit them and form a top-notch crime syndicate, then see who can compete with me."

Ling Chen said somewhat regretfully, "Actually, I also want to recruit the talents under you into my team."

"What? Are you planning to go solo?"

"Not really, although I'm not working for the government anymore, I've gotten into even bigger trouble. Boss Tang, you should have heard of the God Organization."

Upon hearing the words 'God Organization', Tang Guolun's expression immediately changed. He quickly put away his joking demeanor and said seriously, "You're up against the God Organization? Sigh, why did you get involved with those guys? They're heartless bastards, calling them jerks is giving them too much credit."

"From how you're talking, have you had dealings with them?"

"The people from the God Organization approached me before. They said they appreciated my abilities and hoped I could work for them. As you know, I'm used to working alone and don't like being bound to someone else. Plus, I heard some things about the God Organization and had a poor impression of their deeds, so I directly refused. Who knew those guys wouldn't let it go, and when I disagreed, they tried to take me by force. Fortunately, I had some skills and escaped from them. To avoid being found, I hid in a safe house for a while and dared not show my face. After some time, when I came out, I found out that

the God Organization had captured several of my friends to find me, tortured them, and eventually killed them, even their families weren't spared."

As he spoke of this, Tang Guolun's eyes reddened slightly.

"I already had few friends, and they all died because of me. This matter has always been buried in my heart, and every time I think of it, I'm extremely distressed. Back then, I scoured the world for the God Organization, wanting to avenge my friends, but the God Organization people were too cunning, and there was very little useful intelligence. After a few years, I had no choice but to give up. Ling Chen, if you're going to war with the God Organization, I'll support you fully, as a revenge for my friends."

Tang Guolun's tone was very firm.

"Alright then, if you're willing to help, you're more than welcome. However, it's a bit early to talk about this now; let's first find a way to get out of here."

"What are you planning to do?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "I don't have a plan at the moment. Friends outside are helping to make moves; let's see if they have a way to get me out."

"If you're counting on the people outside to help you, I advise you to give up early," Tang Guolun said, "Once a person is inside Yan City Prison, no one can leave freely unless you have enormous government backing. But if you had such connections, you wouldn't have been locked up. Brother, listen to me, if you want to leave this hellhole, we need to rely on ourselves."

Ling Chen thought for a moment and asked, "What do you suggest?"

"To escape from here, we must rely on two forces. One is the Qingyang Society, and the other is Hongmen. Without their help, it will be very difficult to succeed." Pausing briefly, Tang Guolun continued, "As you can see, I'm basically a cripple now. The moment I leave this gate, I'll be monitored and won't be able to do anything. Qingyang Society and Hongmen have many experts, and only by combining everyone's strength can we break through Yan City Prison's defense and encirclement."

"No other way?"

"No. I've planned countless actions in my mind because we have few weapons at hand and can utilize very little. The security of Yan City Prison is at a high altitude, making it difficult to deal with them; this requires the help of experts. Only by uniting with the people of Qingyang Society and Hongmen will we have enough manpower to complete the operation."

"Haven't you discussed it with the people of Qingyang Society and Hongmen?"

"Of course I have. I once arranged a meeting with their bosses, and not two days later, the defense of Yan City Prison doubled; even those responsible for watching me went from two to five. So I can be sure that Yu Peng has definitely planted an insider among us. Otherwise, why would he strengthen the guards for no reason?"

"Do you think the insider is someone from Qingyang Society or Hongmen?"

"It must be because at that time I was the only one who knew the plan, and I didn't tell anyone around me. Ever since that incident, even the people from Qingyang Society and Hongmen have become cautious. Later, I tried to arrange meetings with them twice, but they both refused. Brother, since the people from Qingyang Society and Hongmen have reached out to you, it means they highly regard your skills. You can use this opportunity to talk to them, explain our plan, and see if they are willing to help."

Ling Chen pondered for a while and nodded, "Alright, as long as there's an opportunity, I'll definitely bring it up with them."

After breakfast, Ling Chen chatted with Tang Guolun and then got up to leave.

However, as soon as he left Tang Guolun's territory, Ling Chen saw two prison guards walking towards him.

"Mr. Ling, please come with us, our Prison Director wants to see you."

Chapter 815 Safety Measures

Ling Chen looked at the two security personnel and said lightly, "Why doesn't Yu Peng come to see me himself."

"Stop wasting time." One security personnel said briskly, "Ling Chen, you'd better come with us quietly. Don't cause trouble for yourself." As he spoke, he gave a signal to his companion, who understood and immediately took something out and walked toward Ling Chen.

Beside them, Qin Genglong noticed the item in the opponent's hand and his expression turned ugly immediately. Without further ado, he stepped forward and blocked Ling Chen, saying deeply, "What are you trying to do?"

"Qin, I advise you not to meddle."

Ling Chen frowned, ready to speak. But at that moment, he suddenly felt a strong sense of danger rising from his heart. His gaze shifted, and he saw a reflection of sunlight coming from a corner of the watchtower on the playground.

Seeing that glaring light, Ling Chen's eyes narrowed immediately. As a former top agent, Ling Chen knew exactly what that sunlight meant, it was the glint from a sniper rifle's scope. At this moment, both his and Qin Genglong's foreheads were likely aimed at by a sniper rifle.

Although Qin Genglong's Cross Training skills were formidable, they couldn't withstand bullet shots. Furthermore, there's no need to clash with Yu Peng right now.

"Old Qin." Ling Chen called Qin Genglong, saying, "You go back first, I'll go over with them and take a look."

Qin Genglong said urgently, "Ling Chen, they..."

Before Qin Genglong could finish, Ling Chen waved his hand to stop him and said, "Alright, leave it like this, I won't be in any trouble."

Qin Genglong reluctantly shook his head and left on his own. After he left, one security personnel approached Ling Chen and placed an iron ring-shaped object around his neck. With a crisp 'click,' the iron ring locked instantly, and a green light in the center lit up.

Wearing that iron ring, Ling Chen felt discomfort around his neck and found it difficult to turn.

"What is this thing?" he asked.

"Safety measures." The security personnel replied succinctly and then escorted Ling Chen towards the Prison Director's office.

From the playground to the Prison Director's office, they needed to pass through ten checkpoints, each guarded by several fully armed security personnel. Besides the security, the ten explosion-proof doors were the focus. Ling Chen had previously visited Yan City Prison's facilities when escorting criminals. Beneath Yan City Prison, there was a control center, the core area of the prison.

All the explosion-proof doors and external facilities in the prison were fully controlled by the control center; no one else could open them individually. Moreover, each explosion-proof door had a surveillance camera installed at the top. Control center staff would confirm identities through the surveillance footage before opening the explosion-proof doors. Ling Chen had delved into several secret bases while dealing with the God Organization, but he had to admit, Yan City Prison's defense and security system was no less than the secret bases of the God Organization; in fact, it surpassed them in many respects.

No wonder Tang Guolun suggested that to escape Yan City Prison, one must unite the strength of the Qingyang Society and Hongmen.

Thinking this, under the escort of the two security personnel, Ling Chen passed through the layers of checkpoints and entered the Prison Director's office. Walking in, he saw Yu Peng holding a cup of tea, sitting with crossed legs in a chair by the window, gazing outside with a slightly mysterious smile on his face.

Hearing footsteps, Yu Peng turned to look at Ling Chen and smiled, "Mr. Ling, please sit!"

Ling Chen stood in place, motionless, saying, "If you have something to say, just say it. I'm in a hurry to go back and rest, I don't have time to waste here."

"Since Mr. Ling is willing to stand, I won't insist." After a pause, Yu Peng continued, "Mr. Ling, how was breakfast earlier? How did Tang Guolun treat you?"

"Not bad, at least better than you."

"Mr. Ling, I won't speak in riddles and I don't like beating around the bush, so it's better to say things directly. Tang Guolun is someone I value greatly, I don't want anything to happen to him." As he mentioned 'anything,' Yu Peng deliberately emphasized his tone.

"Tang Guolun is a criminal, and it's better for criminals to stay in prison. So, no matter what he said to you just now, I hope you won't take it to heart and live your life honestly without getting involved in things you shouldn't, unless you want trouble to find you."

Ling Chen squinted his eyes and asked expressionlessly, "Are you warning me or threatening me?"

Yu Peng laughed and said, "Don't overthink it, Mr. Ling. It's just a friendly reminder between friends. If I were you, I would definitely remember it."

"Yu Peng, I don't know what you intend to do, nor am I interested, but I must say, you shouldn't have summoned me here, nor should you meet with me under minimal security. If I wanted to, I could kill you at any time."

"Is that so?" Yu Peng laughed indifferently and said, "Then why haven't you acted yet? Is there something holding you back? Mr. Ling, to be honest, I know what you're thinking. But I must tell you, if you're counting on those people outside to save you, you'd better give up. Once in Yan City Prison, no one can leave freely. Also... do you really think I'd invite you to meet without any precautions?" With that, Yu Peng took a mini remote controller from his pocket and gently pressed it.

Immediately, the iron ring around Ling Chen's neck changed from green light to red.

"Mr. Ling, this is a product developed by Yan City Prison, specifically designed to restrain dangerous criminals like you. It contains a mini bomb inside, not much, but enough to blow off your head, so I advise you to stay calm and not seek trouble. Alright, that's enough for today, I have things to do, take him to the infirmary."

Ling Chen frowned slightly and asked, "Why are we going to the infirmary?"

"You'll know once you get there." After speaking, Yu Peng waved his hand to indicate his subordinates to take Ling Chen out of the office.

Upon arriving at the infirmary, a doctor in a white coat was already prepared, waiting for Ling Chen's arrival.

"You, lie on the bed." The doctor pointed to a bed beside him and said.

Ling Chen remained unmoved, glancing at the workbench beside the bed, where a set of surgical instruments was placed. Seeing those instruments, Ling Chen's gaze slightly sharpened. He knew a bit about medicine, and the instruments the doctor was using were meant for surgery. Damn, what exactly does that bastard Yu Peng want to do?

Seeing Ling Chen standing there without moving for a long time, the two security personnel nudged Ling Chen's shoulder, their eyes signaling him to hurry up and comply.

Chapter 816 Tracking Chip

Ling Chen had no choice; his life was in their hands, so he had to comply obediently.

Lying on the bed, two security personnel, following the doctor's instructions, tied Ling Chen's hands and feet with leather straps, securing him firmly to the iron bed. Then, the doctor took out a syringe and thrust it into Ling Chen's arm. As the medicine from the syringe was injected into his body, Ling Chen immediately felt a wave of drowsiness overcoming him.

Before long, Ling Chen fell into a deep sleep.

It was unclear how much time had passed. When Ling Chen awoke again, he found himself lying on a bed in a cell, with Qin Genglong sitting nearby, gulping down some water.

"Old Qin." Feeling weak all over, Ling Chen climbed up from the bed, leaning against the wall, and asked feebly, "When did I get back?"

"Two hours ago, they brought you back," Qin Genglong replied. "You're finally awake; I was worried sick just now. Hey, what did they do to you?"

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen rubbed his temples, trying hard to recall what had happened earlier. However, after being injected with the anesthetic, he lost consciousness and didn't know anything, nor what the doctor had done to him.

Just then, Ling Chen suddenly felt a swelling pain in his right calf. Lifting the sheet, Ling Chen rolled up his pant leg. Instantly, he saw a two-centimeter-long cut on his calf, already sewn up with stitches.

What is this?

Ling Chen frowned, touching the wound with his hand, and then pressed it gently. To his surprise, he felt a hard object inside the wound.

Damn! Ling Chen cursed silently; what the hell did that guy do to me?

"Old Qin, do you have something sharp that I can borrow?"

Qin Genglong glanced at Ling Chen's wound and shook his head, saying, "I'd advise against it. They implanted a tracking chip in you to locate your position. If you take it out, they'll immediately find out and put another one back in, so it's not worth the effort."

A tracking chip?

Ling Chen's heart sank. With this, his whereabouts would be under Yu Peng's control.

While thinking, Qin Genglong raised his right leg onto the bed's edge, then rolled up his pant leg, pointing to an already healed scar: "It's not just you; any prisoner who enters Yan City Prison gets a tracking chip implanted. So escaping from here is almost impossible. If you dare get close to the blast doors, the prison's security staff will be alerted immediately."

"What do we do, then? Can't it be taken out?"

"It can be taken out, but it's very troublesome. As soon as there's any oversight, the prison staff will notice. There was once a prisoner in the prison who tried to remove the tracking chip, but as soon as he took it out, the security staff caught him and beat him up. I heard he was a technical criminal, and even he couldn't successfully remove the chip. It's hopeless for us." At this point, Qin Genglong couldn't help but ask, "Ling Chen, didn't you say your friend outside is helping you? How long will it take to get you out?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "I don't know."

If it were a day ago, Ling Chen might have had a lot of confidence. However, since having a conversation with Yu Peng, Ling Chen really couldn't be sure anymore. In this damned place with no contact with the outside world, if only he could reach Tang Yuan or Pang Jiulin, he could tell them his situation and have them think of a way to save him.

Sigh!

Thinking of this, Ling Chen sighed helplessly, not knowing what to do.

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Beijing.

Lonely Wolf Headquarters.

In the spacious and bright office, Pang Jiulin, Han Bing, Qiao Zhen, and He Ziyun sat on the sofa. All four of them looked a bit gloomy, not saying a word, and the brewed tea remained untouched and had already gone cold.

"This is the situation," Qiao Zhen said, with a stern face, "There's no way for the higher-ups to help us, so we can only rely on our own strength to rescue Ling Chen."

"But..." Pang Jiulin said with a bitter smile, "General, you said before that we must use legitimate means to rescue Ling Chen. Now the higher-ups won't approve, so what do we have to rescue him with?"

He Ziyun spoke up, "Didn't Tang Yuan suggest a plan before? I think it's a good idea; we can give it a try."

"That thing is already in progress, but we can't be entirely sure; we'll just have to hope for the best. Even if it succeeds, it'll take a long time. I'm worried about Ling Chen's safety in Yan City Prison for that long," Pang Jiulin said.

"Didn't you already talk to the Prison Director at Yan City Prison? With him looking after Ling Chen, there shouldn't be any issues. Besides, Ling Chen is very capable himself, so we don't need to worry about him. Let's focus our efforts elsewhere,"

Just as He Ziyun finished speaking, Tang Yuan rushed into the office in a hurry, urgently saying, "General, Commander, Colonel Pang, there's been an incident."

Han Bing scolded impatiently, "What happened to make you so flustered? You're a grown man and haven't learned any composure. Speak clearly, what happened?"

"There's been a problem in East Sea City. I just got the news that all the agents guarding Nanrong Yuan are dead. Besides Nanrong Yuan, even the little girl at the Martial Arts Academy is missing."

"What?"

Upon hearing this news, even the calm He Ziyun couldn't help but stand up, his expression changing drastically.

"Do we know who did it?"

"Not clear yet. I've already sent people to Qingyun Martial Arts Hall to see if there are any traces at the scene. General, should I go to East Sea City?"

"I'll go back with you." With that, He Ziyun started walking out of the office.

Watching He Ziyun leave, Qiao Zhen opened his mouth, initially wanting to persuade He Ziyun. But considering how much this old commander cared about the little girl, Qiao Zhen eventually chose to stay silent.

"Tang Yuan, make sure to stick with the commander and try to get the people back."

"Yes, General."

After He Ziyun and Tang Yuan left, Qiao Zhen pondered for a while, then turned to Pang Jiulin and said, "Jiulin, maybe you should make some time to visit Yan City Prison, meet with Ling Chen, and have him wait patiently there. Don't rush things; no matter what, we'll think of a way to get him out. Also, it's better to greet Yu Peng in person to avoid him not taking it seriously."

"Understood, I'll go right away."

Having received the General's instructions, Pang Jiulin didn't dare delay for a moment, immediately arranging for a vehicle and heading straight to Yan City Prison.

Chapter 817 Times Have Changed

"What is this place?"

In the pitch-black room, a middle-aged man got up from the floor, looked at his surroundings, and murmured to himself.

"You're finally awake."

At this moment, a child's voice came from the corner. The middle-aged man quickly turned his gaze towards the corner, and in the darkness, he faintly saw a small silhouette.

"You are... you are Little Hua?" Thinking for a moment, the middle-aged man immediately recognized the other person's identity through the voice. He had been recovering at the Qingyun Martial Arts Hall for quite some time and had seen Little Hua often, so they weren't strangers.

"Little Hua, how are you, are you alright?" Nanrong Yuan asked with concern. To him, Little Hua was just a child, and it was only right to show some concern.

"I'm alright for now, but I can't say the same for later. Hey! Do you know who brought us here?"

"I was asleep at the time, so I don't know what happened outside, but..." Nanrong Yuan wanted to continue, but he suddenly realized that Little Hua was just a child, so why was he saying this to her.

Just as Nanrong Yuan was speculating who the culprit might be, the door of the room was opened from the outside, and a beam of light immediately illuminated the room. Upon seeing the surroundings, Nanrong Yuan's expression changed slightly, realizing he was being held inside a container, which explained the complete darkness.

Recovering from his daze, Nanrong Yuan looked at the man walking in from outside and frowned, "Who are you, and why did you capture us?"

The newcomer scrutinized Nanrong Yuan, suddenly grinned, and said with a cold smile, "Mr. Yun, it hasn't been long, and you've already forgotten me?"

Upon hearing the voice, Nanrong Yuan was taken aback, and incredulously said, "You... you're Zhu Hong!"

"Yes, it's me." Zhu Hong smiled and walked right up to Nanrong Yuan, saying, "Surprised, aren't you? I'm still alive. Unfortunately, while I'm alive, this body is ruined, all thanks to you."

"What does this have to do with me? You were severely injured in the explosion, burnt beyond recognition, with 90% of your body covered in burns. If I hadn't done my best to save you, you would've been already dead."

"Yes, you're right, you saved my life. But you overdosed my body with strengthening drugs, leaving it completely ruined. Even if I wanted plastic surgery, it's impossible now. From now on, I can only live behind this mask — isn't that your fault?"

Nanrong Yuan defended, "If it weren't for the strengthening drug, you wouldn't have lasted. Zhu Hong, I've always treated you as family, and it pains me to see you like this. But what's done is done, and I'm powerless."

At this point, Nanrong Yuan looked at the silver mask on Zhu Hong's face and asked, "Did you bring me here just for revenge?"

"No! What you just said is right, what's done is done, and killing you won't change anything. I've brought you here for collaboration."

"Collaboration? What collaboration? I have nothing left; how can I help you?"

Zhu Hong laughed sinisterly, "You still have one valuable thing that can help me — your life. I've reached an agreement with the God Organization that if I bring them a traitor like you, they'll give me a chance to cooperate with them. I helped you back then, working tirelessly for you, and now it's your turn to repay me."

"You want to collaborate with the God Organization?" Nanrong Yuan's expression changed slightly, shaking his head, "No, absolutely not! Zhu Hong, don't cooperate with the God Organization, it'll ruin you. Trust me, there's no benefit in working with them."

"Hmph! And weren't you the same back then, choosing to cooperate with them? What right do you have to preach to me now?"

"Back then, I was seeking revenge and had no choice but to join forces with the God Organization. If there had been another path, I wouldn't have taken this road. Zhu Hong, I've always seen you as family and wouldn't lie to you. Please listen to me, don't get involved with the God Organization."

"Don't you think it's too late to say that? And besides, if you could cooperate with the God Organization for revenge, why can't I? I'll tell you this – times have changed, and I now have the means to collaborate with the God Organization. Even Lin Guodong has to be polite when speaking to me."

Hearing this, Nanrong Yuan sighed, knowing Zhu Hong wouldn't listen, and decided not to persuade him further.

"Alright, since you won't listen, there's nothing I can do. For the sake of our past relationship, I hope you can do me a favor."

"Speak."

"I'll do whatever you ask, even if you want my life. I only ask you to let the little girl go; she's innocent."

Zhu Hong squinted, glanced at Little Hua curled up in the corner, and said mockingly, "I didn't expect you to be so kind-hearted, willing to trade your life for someone else's safety. Unfortunately, I can satisfy any request except this one. The little girl is someone Lin Guodong specifically named; I must deliver her to him." Pausing, Zhu Hong said meaningfully, "You were once a high-ranking member of the God Organization – you should know the use of this little girl."

"Zhu Hong, you..."

"Enough!" Zhu Hong interrupted Nanrong Yuan impatiently, waving his hand, "No need to say more; I'm not interested in wasting words with you. Someone, take them away."

As soon as he finished speaking, Chu Huaiyang immediately approached with two subordinates.

"Take these two to Lin Guodong; remember, don't mess this up," Zhu Hong instructed.

"I understand." Chu Huaiyang nodded, then gestured for the two subordinates to take Nanrong Yuan and Little Hua away.

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Yan City Prison.

Under the guidance of a security officer, Ling Chen was brought into a private visiting room.

As soon as he entered, Pang Jiulin, wearing a suit, approached, grasping Ling Chen's shoulders with both hands and laughing, "I finally get to see you."

"Instructor Pang." Ling Chen smiled slightly and asked, "What brings you to the prison?"

"The old General is concerned about you, so he sent me to check on you. How are you holding up, not too tough?"

"Colonel Pang, what are you saying, as if I'd dare treat Mr. Ling poorly? Rest assured, he eats well and lives well here, and when you see him next time, I'll have him plump and well-fed."

Ling Chen's gaze shifted as he looked at Yu Peng sitting in the visiting room, frowning slightly, a sharp, cold glint flashing in his eyes.

Chapter 818 Delivering a Message

Pang Jiulin said with a smile, "Ling Chen, you should be familiar with the Prison Director of Yan City Prison. Don't worry, I've already spoken to him. During this time, he will treat you well and won't let you suffer. You can rest assured and stay here until I and the old General handle things properly and then surely bring you out of here."

Ling Chen nodded and turned to Yu Peng, "Can I have a word with Instructor Pang alone?"

"This..." Yu Peng glanced around, looking somewhat embarrassed as he said, "That's a bit against the rules, isn't it?"

"Yu Peng, we're not strangers here. Can't you just make an exception?"

Seeing that Pang Jiulin had spoken, Yu Peng smiled slightly, stood up, and said, "Don't mention it. Since Mr. Pang has already spoken, how dare I not listen? Alright, I'll give you ten minutes. I'll come back later." Having said that, Yu Peng strode out. As he passed by Ling Chen, he paused for a moment and glanced at Ling Chen with an intriguing smile, saying, "Mr. Ling, don't rush, speak slowly."

Watching Yu Peng disappear at the door, Ling Chen and Pang Jiulin went over to the sofa and sat down. Ling Chen asked, "Instructor Pang, how confident are you about my situation?"

"It's hard to say for now. Just rest assured, we'll find a way to get you out no matter what."

Ling Chen's heart sank hearing this. He could easily discern the underlying meaning of Pang Jiulin's words, that they were not completely confident in getting him out, thus using such words to placate him.

"Instructor Pang, we're not outsiders here. Let's be frank, how confident are you in rescuing me?"

"This..." Pang Jiulin hesitated for a moment and said, "Ling Chen, don't worry about this matter. Listen to me, stay here calmly and don't overthink it. Besides, your current identity is different; you kidnapped Yang He and are now a prisoner. Unless this identity is cleared, even if we manage to help you escape prison, you'll become a wanted criminal by the government. So, we need to find a legal way to rescue you."

"Legal?" Ling Chen gave a bitter smile and shook his head, "Unless you can prove Yang He has connections with the God Organization to clear my name. But, you've been quiet for so long, indicating this path isn't feasible. Moreover, the old General and Mr. He must have used their connections, yet no reaction from above, shows their influence is also ineffectual."

"You have quite a clear view." Pang Jiulin said somewhat helplessly. Initially wanting to keep it hidden, he didn't expect Ling Chen had already figured everything out.

"Although this situation is quite troublesome, don't give up easily. There's always hope. Moreover, there's one more thing..." Pang Jiulin opened his mouth, his eyes briefly showing hesitation. After a moment of pause, he waved his hand and said, "Never mind, it's nothing significant, a small matter, you don't need to know."

Originally planning to tell Ling Chen about Nanrong Yuan's matter, he reconsidered and thought it unnecessary. Ling Chen is currently in prison, with his own problems unsolved, knowing more wouldn't help and would only increase worry.

"By the way! Your big brother and others have arrived in Beijing a while ago. They intended to rescue you, but the old commander advised against it, thinking it wouldn't help. The situation is already complicated; their involvement would only make things messier."

"Big brother and the others came too?"

Ling Chen felt a wave of emotion upon hearing this. The Eight Strange People always share blessings and difficulties, standing united. The fact that Qiu Yong and others arrived in Beijing promptly showed how they valued this brotherhood.

After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen spoke, "Instructor Pang, since my big brother is in Beijing, could you convey a message to them for me?"

"No problem. What would you like me to convey?"

"Tell my big brother that I'm doing well and not to worry. Also, I miss third brother and plan to become a playboy like him."

"Just those words, nothing else?"

"That's all. Instructor Pang, make sure to deliver my words to them accurately."

"Rest assured, I won't forget." Pang Jiulin got up and said, "It's late, I should go back. There's plenty for me to handle over at Lonely Wolf. Ling Chen, if you have any issues, you can tell Yu Peng to pass them on. I've spoken to him; he'll help you convey them."

"I know. Instructor Pang, if you have business to attend, go ahead."

"Alright." Pang Jiulin patted Ling Chen's shoulder, looking at him with an encouraging gaze, "Where there's a will, there's a way. Don't worry, there'll always be a solution."

As Pang Jiulin left, Yu Peng reentered, smilingly saying, "Mr. Ling, well done. You haven't disappointed me, you're indeed a man of loyalty and righteousness."

Ling Chen said coolly, "May I return now?"

"Of course, no problem." Saying so, Yu Peng smiled, making a gesture of 'please'.

Returning to his cell, Ling Chen didn't wait long before seeing Qin Genglong brought back by two security personnel.

"Old Qin, how are you, alright?" Ling Chen asked with concern.

Earlier, upon knowing Pang Jiulin wanted to see him, Ling Chen was quite excited. However, Yu Peng suddenly had Qin Genglong seized, threatening him not to disclose Ling Chen's experiences in Yan City Prison to Pang Jiulin. Otherwise, Qin Genglong would surely die. To save Qin Genglong's life, Ling Chen had no choice but to hide the truth.

"I'm fine." Qin Genglong looked at Ling Chen with gratitude, saying sincerely, "Thank you!" He understood that Ling Chen didn't have to endure such grievance for his sake.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "No need to be polite. We're now brothers in hardship, helping each other is what we should do." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen changed the topic, "Old Qin, do you know the president of Qingyang Society and the Sect Leader of Hongmen? I want to meet them."

"What? Are you considering Tang Guolun's suggestion to conspire with them to escape?"

Ling Chen shook his head and said, "It's too early to talk about that. Yu Peng warned me to be honest and not to stir trouble. If I'm too conspicuous, he'll become suspicious. Old Qin, the best approach now is to find someone convenient to relay messages. If I personally meet with Qingyang Society and Hongmen's people, Yu Peng will surely notice."

"That might be somewhat difficult." Qin Genglong thought for a while and said, "Tang Guolun might have a way. How about I go ask him for you?"

"That's fine, such matters are inconvenient for me to handle myself, so I'll trouble you."

"No problem."

Chapter 819 The Death of Nanrong Yuan (Part 1)

East Sea City.

Qingyun Martial Arts Hall.

When He Ziyun and Tang Yuan arrived, they saw several bodies covered with white cloths in the spacious courtyard, and several Lonely Wolf agents were investigating the scene, collecting evidence and traces.

"Major Tang."

Seeing Tang Yuan approaching, an agent quickly came up to him and saluted.

Tang Yuan nodded toward him, asking, "What's the situation? Tell us about it."

"Seven people are dead, all killed with a single blow. Based on preliminary assessment, the assailant is highly skilled, killing them before the guards could react. Moreover, we checked the scene and found no useful clues, and even the surveillance cameras inside the room were previously destroyed."

While speaking, He Ziyun, expressionless, walked to the bodies and uncovered the white cloths. Observing the wounds on the bodies, He Ziyun's pupils slightly narrowed, a sharp gleam flashing through his eyes.

"Tang Yuan."

Hearing the old superior's call, Tang Yuan quickly approached He Ziyun, asking, "Old Superior, do you have any instructions?"

"Tell your men to withdraw, no need to gather evidence."

"Why?"

"The killer is a master, and dealing with such a master is beyond your Lonely Wolf. Enough, don't ask more, I will handle this myself, you don't need to worry."

The old superior had spoken, so how could Tang Yuan not obey? He immediately withdrew all personnel, also arranging for the bodies to be moved away.

"Old Superior, do you think the murderer was targeting Nanrong Yuan or you?"

He Ziyun shook his head and said, "It's still unclear for now. However, if they were targeting me, they would definitely contact me and use hostages to threaten me." With that, He Ziyun pondered for a moment and then said, "You go to Ling Chen's research base and ask Hu Fei if he has any clues. Hu Fei's intelligence system covers the entire East Sea City, maybe he can help find something valuable."

"Okay, I'll head over immediately."

Upon arriving at the research base, Hu Fei, who received prior notice, was already waiting outside. This was also Tang Yuan's first visit to Ling Chen's research base. Led by Hu Fei, Tang Yuan entered the base with curiosity.

Looking at the advanced equipment and personnel inside the research base, Tang Yuan kept exclaiming, "Wow! I really didn't expect, in just a few months, that kid Tang Yuan managed to build such an empire."

"It's all thanks to his old... cough! Thanks to the Secret Society's support."

The fact that Ling Chen's father was the leader of the Secret Society was known to Hu Fei and others. Moreover, Ling Chen specifically instructed them not to mention this to outsiders to avoid unnecessary trouble. After all, the Secret Society, after operating for many years, also had quite a few enemies. If people knew about the connection between Ling Chen and Ling Kun, it might bring trouble to Ling Chen.

Although Ling Chen wasn't afraid, it was best to avoid unnecessary issues. So, Hu Fei quickly changed his words, not revealing the relationship between Ling Chen and Ling Kun. Actually, Hu Fei knew that Ling Chen and Tang Yuan had a special relationship, but it's best for Ling Chen to say such things himself.

"Fatty Hu, do you know about the incident at Qingyun Martial Arts Hall?"

"I've already received the news," Hu Fei nodded and said, "I heard the martial arts hall was attacked, and both Nanrong Yuan and Little Hua were kidnapped. Many people died." After saying that, Hu Fei looked at Tang Yuan and said, "Those who died were your people, right?"

"Yes! They were agents responsible for guarding Nanrong Yuan, seven in total, all killed with no survivors left. The old superior told me that your intelligence system in East Sea City is quite comprehensive, so he sent me to ask if you have discovered anything."

"If you're looking for clues from me, I have none; the matter at the martial arts hall only came to my attention after it happened. However, I have instructed my people to retrieve the surrounding surveillance footage and the dashcam recordings of passing taxis to see if anything comes up."

As they spoke, the two had arrived at the base's control center. Seeing the room filled with over a dozen screens, with more than ten staff members typing away at computers, searching for valuable clues.

Hu Fei walked up behind one of the staff and asked, "What's the progress?"

"Just got to ten percent."

"It's been hours, and only ten percent?" Hu Fei said discontentedly, "Your efficiency is way too low." Finishing, Hu Fei shook his head helplessly and looked at Tang Yuan beside him, saying, "Can't help it, they're all amateurs; finding professional talent these days is really tough."

With that, Hu Fei urged, "Hurry up, stop slacking off, whoever finds a clue first will be handsomely rewarded."

Upon hearing this, the staff present had no reaction at all. Everyone knew how stingy their technical supervisor was, with typical rewards only a few hundred bucks, which hardly motivated anyone.

At this point, the phone in the control center rang. After picking up, a staff member immediately ran to Hu Fei, whispering a few words into his ear.

Whatever was said, Hu Fei's face instantly turned grim.

Noticing the change in Hu Fei's expression, Tang Yuan asked, "Fatty, what's wrong?"

"They found Nanrong Yuan," Hu Fei said solemnly.

"Really?" Tang Yuan was overjoyed, ready to celebrate but then saw Hu Fei's grave expression, realizing things might not be simple.

"Fatty, Nanrong Yuan, he..."

"He's dead!" Hu Fei replied, "What they found was his corpse."

"What? Dead?" Tang Yuan was taken aback, never expecting such an outcome.

"Then... what about Little Hua?" Tang Yuan remembered the little girl taken with Nanrong Yuan and couldn't help worrying.

"No sign of Little Hua's body at the moment; presumably, they only killed Nanrong Yuan. Come on, let's go over and take a look together."

"Okay."

Leaving the research base, Hu Fei and Tang Yuan drove to where Nanrong Yuan's body was found.

It was at a harbor in East Sea City, and upon arrival, Hu Fei immediately recognized it as territory under the jurisdiction of the Hongyu Group. Both were aware of the relationship between Nanrong Yuan and Nanrong Wanqing; does his death here carry a deeper meaning?

Entering the harbor, Tang Yuan and Hu Fei quickly moved to the crowded area at the front. As they arrived, they looked up and saw a hoisting crane used for transporting goods, with a rope hanging down, tied to Nanrong Yuan's neck.

Seeing the lifeless, scarred body of Nanrong Yuan, Tang Yuan immediately furrowed his brow. Judging by the state of the body, Nanrong Yuan likely endured inhuman torture before his death.

Chapter 820 The Death of Nanrong Yuan (Part 2)

In less than half an hour, the reinforcements called by Tang Yuan arrived at the scene, sealing off the entire dock and then lowering Nanrong Yuan from the rope.

Looking at Nanrong Yuan's corpse lying on the ground, Hu Fei said with a grim expression, "Those bastards are really ruthless."

Tang Yuan squatted down and examined Nanrong Yuan's body, saying in a deep voice, "The wounds on his body are all new, and he has also been soaked in saltwater. However, that's not the main cause of his death." As he spoke, Tang Yuan turned Nanrong Yuan's body over, revealing his back covered with scars, each wound deep enough to expose bone.

"What caused this?"

"I'm not sure. Whatever it was, Nanrong Yuan must have suffered brutal torture before his death. Only someone with deep hatred toward him could do something so inhumane."

"Nanrong Yuan used to work for the God Organization, he probably has many enemies."

"No!" Tang Yuan shook his head and said, "In the eyes of outsiders, Nanrong Yuan is already dead. It's impossible for anyone to know he's alive."

"Could it be the God Organization?" Hu Fei voiced his suspicion, explaining, "Nanrong Yuan was a traitor to the God Organization, and they never show mercy to traitors. Besides, the God Organization once sent people to kidnap that little girl from Qingyun Martial Arts Hall. Now, with Little Hua also missing, it's enough to show who's behind this."

"Possibly." Saying this, Tang Yuan stood up and glanced at several dock workers not far away, saying, "Let's go ask them. They work at the dock, maybe someone saw something."

However, after questioning a few people, none of them knew anything. According to the dock workers' descriptions, they were working when suddenly, in the blink of an eye, they found Nanrong Yuan's corpse hanging from the crane's boom, the whole process taking at most ten seconds. At the time of Nanrong Yuan's appearance, no one saw any outsiders enter the dock.

"That's strange." Tang Yuan frowned, puzzled.

"No need to think, it must be done by experts." Hu Fei said. He had been following Ling Chen for a long time and was well acquainted with martial arts experts; there were several Earthly List masters at their base.

"Brother Hu! Brother Tang!"

In the middle of the conversation, a voice came from not far away. Hu Fei and Tang Yuan turned to see Nanrong Hao in the company of a field staff member, walking quickly towards them.

"Haozi?" Hu Fei was taken aback, asking, "Why are you here?" As soon as he spoke, Hu Fei realized he asked too much. This dock was the asset of Hongyu Group, and with a corpse discovered here, the people from Hongyu Group were bound to come and figure things out.

"Mr. Nanrong." Tang Yuan took a step forward, blocking Nanrong Hao's view with his body to prevent him from seeing Nanrong Yuan's corpse. At the same time, Tang Yuan gave Hu Fei a knowing glance, which he immediately understood, quickly coming to the corpse to cover it with a white cloth.

Nanrong Yuan was Nanrong Hao's biological father. With his father dead, letting Nanrong Hao know would be a shock. Though Nanrong Yuan left when Nanrong Hao was very young, and he had never met his father, Nanrong Hao definitely saw photos of Nanrong Yuan and knew what he looked like. If he saw the corpse, he would recognize Nanrong Yuan's identity at once.

At the moment, it's best not to let Nanrong Hao know.

"Brother Tang, I heard someone died here. I happened to be on my way to the company, so I came to have a look. Have you figured out who the deceased is?"

"Don't worry, it's not a dock worker, probably someone who couldn't think straight and committed suicide here. Mr. Nanrong, we will handle it properly, it won't affect Hongyu Group, rest assured."

Upon hearing this, Nanrong Hao nodded and said, "Alright. In that case, I won't disturb your work. I have some matters at the company; I'll excuse myself." After saying this, Nanrong Hao looked at Hu Fei and waved his hand, saying, "Brother Hu, I'm leaving. You... eh! By the way, Brother Hu, why aren't you staying at the base but running over here?"

"I..." Hu Fei opened his mouth but couldn't find an excuse to evade.

Nanrong Hao looked at Hu Fei with curiosity. He was in the same group as Hu Fei and knew him well. If it weren't for something important, Hu Fei wouldn't easily make a move.

Thinking of this, Nanrong Hao couldn't help but cast his gaze at the corpse covered by the white cloth. Then, he looked at the crane's boom and said, "Brother Tang, the crane's boom is over twenty meters

high. Who would randomly go up there to commit suicide? That doesn't seem right; are you just brushing me off?"

After speaking, Nanrong Hao pointed at the corpse under the white cloth and asked, "Who is the deceased? Has their identity been identified?"

Seeing Nanrong Hao seeing through his words, Tang Yuan had no choice but to say, "Mr. Nanrong, my apologies, the deceased's identity is quite secretive. They are a witness we are protecting and cannot be disclosed to the public for now."

"Then why can Brother Hu know, but I can't? Aren't I on the same side as Brother Hu?" Nanrong Hao felt something was off. He was quite a figure at the base and was usually not kept in the dark about anything. On the contrary, Hu Fei sometimes consulted him on important matters.

Now, Hu Fei knew something was being kept from him, which made Nanrong Hao not only curious but also puzzled.

"Mr. Nanrong..."

Tang Yuan was about to speak, but before he could finish, Nanrong Hao was already walking towards the corpse.

"Haozi, don't!"

Hu Fei, fearing Nanrong Hao discovered the deceased's identity, quickly used his body to block him, saying, "This person has nothing to do with you, nothing to see. Come on, don't waste your time here, go ahead and do your work."

"Brother Hu, it's just a dead person, what's wrong with taking a look?" Nanrong Hao said unhappily, "If Ling Chen were here, he definitely wouldn't hide it from me."

Helplessly, Hu Fei said, "Don't bring Ling Chen to pressure me. Didn't Elder Tang just say that this person's identity is confidential and can't be revealed to too many people? Anyway, this matter doesn't concern you, so don't get involved."

"I..."

BANG!

Just as Nanrong Hao spoke, a sudden gunshot rang in everyone's ears.

Upon hearing the gunshot, Tang Yuan's face changed immediately, he quickly shouted, "Take cover!"

Hu Fei didn't think twice and immediately pulled Nanrong Hao down to the ground.

"You guys, guard the scene well; the rest follow me." Tang Yuan rapidly issued orders.