

The Beauty 831

Chapter 831 - 836: Prison Break (Part 4)

The crowd focused their gaze and immediately took a start. Although Ling Chen's arrow didn't hit Liu Kui, one of Liu Kui's men behind him fell victim.

That person happened to be standing right behind Liu Kui, and when Liu Kui dodged aside, the arrow went straight into the person's forehead, killing him on the spot.

This sudden incident caught everyone off guard; they never imagined that guy would just die so absurdly.

After a brief pause, Wu Zhaofeng's old face broke into a wide grin, and he began to laugh heartily.

"How unexpected, really unexpected, Liu Kui! I mentioned earlier, those who commit many misdeeds will eventually face retribution. It's not that it won't come; it's just a matter of time. Your subordinate did so many evil deeds, and finally met his fate. Just watch, your retribution won't be far behind."

"Shut your mouth!" Liu Kui roared through clenched teeth, his face a livid shade.

This hasn't even started, and already a master from the Earthly List on his side is dead, and in such a humiliating way, how could he not be angry.

"Fine, very well! You've got guts to kill my man; today, you will die beyond a doubt."

Ling Chen's lips curled slightly as he looked at the furious Liu Kui, unable to suppress laughter. That arrow was originally meant for Liu Kui, but unexpectedly killed the Earthly List master behind him instead, a truly fortunate accident. Now, from a disadvantageous position, they had suddenly turned the tables.

"Mr. Wu, leave Liu Kui to me. You take care of the others, no problem, right?"

"Don't worry, I won't let you down," Wu Zhaofeng assured, patting his chest. Earlier, he really wasn't confident because it was a case of the few against the many. But now it was different; with one Earthly List master dead on Liu Kui's side, plus Liu Kui only having three Earthly List masters, while they had four, the advantage was clear.

More importantly, Ling Chen was employing the strategy of the Tian Ji horse race. By confronting Liu Kui himself, Wu Zhaofeng was free to act. Wu Zhaofeng's strength was second only to Liu Kui, so having him engage the other two Earthly List masters was more than sufficient.

As Ling Chen stepped closer, Liu Kui waved to the group behind him and commanded coldly, "Kill them all, leave no one behind."

"Liu Kui, maybe you should take care of yourself first." As the words fell, Ling Chen drew his bow instantly and fired an arrow straight at Liu Kui.

However, Liu Kui was already prepared; the moment Ling Chen raised his hand to shoot, Liu Kui made a quick move to dodge, shifting slightly aside so the arrow whisked past him closely. This time, everyone learned their lesson and moved out from behind Liu Kui to avoid being accidentally struck again.

"You're courting death!" Without waiting for Ling Chen to draw his bow again, Liu Kui shouted and charged towards Ling Chen with a fist like a casserole pot, aiming straight for Ling Chen's head.

Seeing Liu Kui's fist approaching, Ling Chen's lips slightly curved with a hint of a faint smile, showing no fear, as if Liu Kui's attack was nothing to him. Just as the fist was about to come down, Liu Kui suddenly saw a blur, and Ling Chen, who had been standing still, vanished from his view.

Where did he go?

Liu Kui was startled and quickly turned his gaze around, searching for Ling Chen's whereabouts.

"Looking for me? I'm right here."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's voice from beside him, Liu Kui immediately turned his head to his left. Indeed, Ling Chen had somehow moved to his side.

Facing Liu Kui's astonished gaze, Ling Chen smiled warmly at him. Liu Kui's strength was formidable, but opponents like Liu Kui, with a large build, naturally moved slower compared to slimmer adversaries. Moreover, Ling Chen was adept at the Nine Yang Qiankun Step. With this remarkable movement technique, Ling Chen could easily evade Liu Kui's attacks.

If he had no confidence at all, Ling Chen wouldn't dare engage.

Compared to Ling Chen, the battle over at Wu Zhaofeng and Qin Genglong's side was even more relaxed. Losing an Earthly List master, Wu Zhaofeng and the others felt no pressure at all; the situation was almost one-sided with Liu Kui's subordinates utterly unable to retaliate.

However, just at this moment, dozens of security personnel dressed in suits suddenly burst through the front and rear pathways of the prison, surrounding everyone in the center. Leading them was Yu Peng.

"Ling Chen, you can't escape, surrender now and stop wasting your resistance."

Ling Chen glanced at the security personnel armed with riot shields and stun batons and said calmly, "Yu Peng, even your strongest men couldn't stop me; do you think these people can?"

Yu Peng raised his head, smugly stating, "Ling Chen, I have already reported this matter to the government; reinforcements are on the way and will arrive soon. Once the larger force gets here, let's see how you plan to escape."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression slightly changed; this was not good news. If the government reinforcements truly arrived, it would be trouble for them.

"No, we must escape quickly."

With this thought, Ling Chen suddenly shouted, holding the longbow horizontally in his hand, aiming directly at Liu Kui opposite him. Having witnessed the power of the arrows before, Liu Kui was not

careless; he quickly moved towards the security personnel beside him, lifting a riot shield in his hand to protect his vital parts.

Clang!

Accompanied by a crisp sound, the arrowhead fiercely hit the riot shield, then bounced off and fell to the ground.

This strike missed, and Ling Chen immediately reached for the quiver on his back, wanting to use the arrows to pressure the opponent, buying time for his companions. However, as Ling Chen touched the quiver, he found it empty—he had used up all his arrows. Seeing this, Ling Chen's heart sank momentarily.

The arrows Wu Zhaofeng provided were limited, and though he had been frugal along the way, they were still insufficient.

Seeing Ling Chen's dazed appearance, Liu Kui couldn't help but burst into laughter, "Ling Chen, now without arrows, let's see what skills you have left." Saying this, Liu Kui threw the riot shield aside and stepped towards Ling Chen.

"Mr. Ling, be careful!"

Wu Zhaofeng, fearing for Ling Chen's safety, swiftly withdrew from the battle and stood protectively beside Ling Chen, warily watching Liu Kui.

"Mr. Wu, I'm fine; don't worry about me." As Ling Chen spoke, it was as if he sensed something, his eyes scanning the surrounding crowd. Suddenly, a faint brightness flashed in the depths of his gaze.

As Liu Kui stepped closer, Ling Chen once again raised the longbow in his hand, aiming directly at Liu Kui who was advancing forward.

"Hahaha!" Liu Kui laughed wildly, "Ling Chen, are you out of your mind? You have a bow but no arrows, what are you planning to shoot me with?"

Ling Chen's lips curled slightly, indifferent to Liu Kui's taunts, and he spoke meaningfully, "Who said you can't shoot an arrow without an arrow?"

Chapter 832 - 837: Prison Break (Part 5)

"Alright, since you're so capable, let me see for myself and broaden my horizons."

"No problem." Ling Chen pulled back the bowstring by himself. With a soft 'thud', a security guard standing beside Liu Kui fell to the ground. Upon closer inspection, the guard's right shoulder was pierced by an arrow, bleeding profusely.

Everyone was stunned by this scene, staring at Ling Chen in disbelief, frozen for a moment. Liu Kui, who had mocked Ling Chen earlier, widened his eyes as if he'd seen a ghost, a trace of horror flickering in his eyes.

"No, that's impossible!" Liu Kui took two steps back, muttering, "You can't possibly do that."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Liu Kui, seeing is believing. Now do you finally believe me?"

With that, Ling Chen once again raised his longbow, aiming at Liu Kui's body.

Feeling the sharpness in Ling Chen's eyes, Liu Kui's expression changed, hastily retreating backward until he was safely behind the group of security guards.

"Liu Kui, weren't you quite capable? Why have you turned into a turtle hiding now, not daring to face me?"

Hearing Ling Chen's taunting tone, Liu Kui opened his mouth but didn't know what to say. Although he wanted to stand out, he had to admit Ling Chen's skill had indeed unsettled him.

Seeing Liu Kui cowering behind the riot shield, Ling Chen chuckled to himself, then shifted the longbow's aim towards the crowd where Yu Peng stood.

Seeing the longbow aimed at him, Yu Peng jumped in fright, quickly ducking behind his comrades, not daring to show his face.

"Ha!" Ling Chen chuckled softly, "Do you really think hiding behind them will make you safe from me?"

With those words, Ling Chen's right arm moved repeatedly, creating several 'thud thud' sounds as the bowstring vibrated. Five empty arrows were released, and five security guards behind the riot shield fell simultaneously, each one hit in the shoulder. Although not life-threatening, they were incapacitated.

Watching those fallen security guards, Wu Zhaofeng was utterly shocked standing beside Ling Chen. Having witnessed Ling Chen's every move, he was certain that there were no arrows on Ling Chen's bow. However, he couldn't fathom how Ling Chen managed to strike people with empty shots.

"Mr. Wu, what are you standing there for, hurry and lead everyone out," Ling Chen quietly reminded him.

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Wu Zhaofeng snapped out of his shock and quickly led the group towards the prison exit.

"Stop them, don't let them escape," Yu Peng urgently shouted.

The security personnel were about to take action, but upon seeing Ling Chen raising his longbow, they hesitated, their steps uncertain. They had clearly seen Ling Chen's display earlier; even the riot shield couldn't block him. Anyone who dared step forward must be courting death. They were only working at the prison for a livelihood, without needing to risk their lives.

Realizing his men were not following orders, Yu Peng became furious, shouting, "Are you all deaf? I told you to stop them!" After that, Yu Peng turned his gaze towards Liu Kui hiding in the crowd and said, "Why are you just standing there? Don't forget why I called you here. If they escape, you'll be completely responsible."

At these words, Liu Kui's face darkened, eyes shifting uncertainly between Ling Chen and the longbow in his hand.

Suddenly, Liu Kui's expression turned cold. He grabbed a security guard nearby and threw him towards Ling Chen, attempting to use the man's body to block Ling Chen's vision.

But before Liu Kui could retract his raised arm, an arrow suddenly shot through the air, piercing his right arm. Feeling the pain, Liu Kui's expression changed drastically, quickly retracting his arm. Staring at the arrow lodged in his arm, a trace of suspicion flashed in his eyes.

Suddenly realizing something, Liu Kui shouted loudly, "It's not you!"

Hearing Liu Kui's outburst, Ling Chen asked, "What's that supposed to mean?"

Pulling out the arrow from his arm, Liu Kui said coldly, "This isn't the kind of arrow you just used. It's impossible for someone like you to exist in this world, so I'm sure there's another person nearby."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen grinned, "Liu Kui, it seems you're not too dumb after all. You've finally figured it out. You're right. It wasn't me who just shot the arrow." With that, Ling Chen tossed the longbow to the ground and called out, "Zhang Zhongfeng, come out!"

As soon as Ling Chen's words fell, Zhang Zhongfeng emerged from a corner of the wall nearby. Behind him were three others: Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, and Yuan Yun.

Seeing them, Liu Kui frowned and asked, "Who are you people?"

"Liu Kui, you're just ignorant then. Haven't you heard of the legendary archer Zhang Zhongfeng?" Ling Chen said with a smug smile.

"Archer God... Zhang Zhongfeng..." Liu Kui's lips moved, and a look of shock swept over his stern face, causing him to instinctively step back a few steps. Clearly, he had heard of Zhang Zhongfeng's reputation and knew of the archer god's prowess.

"Qiu..." Seeing Qiu Yong approaching, Wu Zhaofeng's expression turned excited. After so many years, he finally saw his savior.

Qiu Yong glanced at Wu Zhaofeng, noting his unusual expression, and couldn't help but feel puzzled. However, he was more concerned about Ling Chen's safety. He walked past Wu Zhaofeng and the others to Ling Chen's side, and asked with concern, "Ling Cheng, are you okay?"

Ling Chen smiled slightly, "I'm fine. Big Brother, you all arrived just in time."

"Indeed, we were lying in wait outside the prison after receiving your message, waiting for the right moment to act." With those words, Qiu Yong scanned the surrounding security personnel, saying calmly, "I'm taking my brother with me. Anyone want to stop us?"

Upon hearing this, everyone exchanged glances, but no one dared step forward.

Qiu Yong nodded in satisfaction, "Very good. Ling Cheng, let's go."

"Wait a moment!"

"What is it?"

"Take those two with us." Ling Chen pointed at Yu Peng and Liu Kui, who were hiding in the crowd.

"I'll do it." Without a moment's hesitation, Xu Ming responded to Ling Chen's request. In an instant, he vanished from his spot.

Shortly after, two muffled groans of pain were heard. When Xu Ming returned, he held a person in each hand, Yu Peng and Liu Kui, both unconscious.

"Can we go now?"

Ling Chen gave a thumbs up, praising without reservation, "Second Brother, you're amazing."

Chapter 833 - 838: Evidence of Guilt

With Qiu Yong and others paving the way, and Yu Peng and Liu Kui falling into Xu Ming's hands, who dared to block their escape?

"Wait!" As they passed by Yu Peng's office, Tang Guolun suddenly halted the group, saying, "Ling Chen, hold on a moment, I'll go in and take a look." After speaking, Tang Guolun quickly walked towards Yu Peng's office. As he was about to open the door, he suddenly remembered something, turned around, and pointed at the unconscious Yu Peng, saying, "Leave him here."

Afraid of wasting time, Ling Chen instructed Qiu Yong to lead the others out first. He himself dragged Yu Peng by the collar and accompanied Tang Guolun into the office.

Ling Chen had been to Yu Peng's office once before. Upon entering, he saw Tang Guolun walking straight to Yu Peng's desk. Reaching the desk, Tang Guolun sat in the office chair, turned on the computer, and a window immediately appeared on the screen requiring a password for login.

Watching Tang Guolun type away furiously, Ling Chen couldn't help but ask, "Boss Tang, can you do this or not? We don't have much time."

Tang Guolun silently stared at the code rolling on the screen, seemingly oblivious to Ling Chen's words. Two minutes passed, and a slight smile of satisfaction spread across Tang Guolun's face.

"Ling Chen, see this? Just as I thought, this guy used prisoners to pursue his own interests, illegally profiting from it. Look, here's the record of his earnings. During his administration of Yan City Prison, he made eighty million US dollars in total. Hmph! Who knows how much he'll accumulate by the time he retires as Prison Director."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen curiously asked, "What exactly did he do?"

Tang Guolun flipped through the records, saying with derision, "This guy accepted clandestine contracts, assassinated targets—he'd do almost anything as long as it paid." With that, Tang Guolun found a USB stick in the desk drawer, plugged it into the computer, and copied all the information onto it.

Once the transfer was complete, Tang Guolun tossed the USB to Ling Chen, saying, "All this is evidence of Yu Peng's crimes. I'm entrusting it to you; it might come in handy for you someday."

Ling Chen nodded, securely tucking the USB away. Seeing that Tang Guolun was still busy at the computer with no intention of leaving, he couldn't help but ask, "Is there something else?"

Tang Guolun replied without looking up, "Haven't you forgotten that we all have microtracking chips implanted? If we don't disable these trackers, they'll find us no matter where we escape to." Pausing, Tang Guolun explained, "Yu Peng's computer is connected to the control center system. With Yu Peng's authorization, this computer can take over all functions of the control center."

As he spoke, Tang Guolun pointed at the unconscious Yu Peng and then at the fingerprint scanner next to the computer.

Seeing the gesture, Ling Chen immediately understood Tang Guolun's intention. He quickly picked up Yu Peng's thumb and placed it on the fingerprint scanner.

Beep!

As the red light on the fingerprint scanner turned green, a special interface immediately appeared on the computer screen.

Tang Guolun focused intently on the screen, his hands flying over the keyboard. Soon, all the lights in Yan City Prison went out, leaving only the computer that Tang Guolun was using powered.

"OK! It's done." After working for several minutes, Tang Guolun grinned and said, "Let's go. We've bypassed the control center's authority, no one can stop us now."

With that, Tang Guolun strode towards the office door.

After walking for two or three minutes, Ling Chen, surprised, discovered that the prison's checkpoints were all inactive. Apart from a few emergency lights illuminating the corridors, everything else was engulfed in darkness; all facilities were paralyzed.

Before long, Ling Chen and two others smoothly exited Yan City Prison without encountering a single obstacle.

Outside the prison, Ling Chen quickly spotted Wei Jiahao standing by the roadside, anxiously waiting for them.

"Brother Eight!" Ling Chen waved and called out to Wei Jiahao not far away.

"Brother Six." Wei Jiahao's face lit up with joy. He hurried over, urging, "Brother Six, we need to go now. I just got a call from Brother Three—the prison reinforcements are on their way, they'll arrive in a minute."

"Got it."

Just after Ling Chen and his group had left, three military transport trucks arrived at the Yan City Prison entrance. At this moment, Yan City Prison's electrical system was severed, plunging all facilities into chaos.

Consequently, prisoners from Yan City Prison were completely out of control, frantically escaping to the outside.

Fortunately, the reinforcements arrived promptly, securing the prison exit before the prisoners could escape and rounding them all up without letting anyone slip away.

An hour later.

In a Martial Arts Academy located in Beijing, Ling Chen met with Qiu Yong, Wu Zhaofeng, and others.

"Big Brother!" Ling Chen greeted everyone one by one.

Yuan Yun patted Ling Chen on the shoulder and chuckled, "You kid finally made it out. Your big brother and I didn't know what to do. When we first heard you were locked up in Yan City Prison, we just

wanted to bust you out immediately. Then Mr. He found us and advised patience, not to be impulsive. He said they had a way to get you out. So, we stayed put in Beijing awaiting word. Eventually, a guy named Pang Jiulin approached us, saying he had a message from you. Once we learned the message, we knew you were in danger."

Ling Chen grinned, "You were spot on, Brother Three."

The message Ling Chen sent via Pang Jiulin was simple; outsiders wouldn't understand the gravity of it. Ling Chen purposefully mentioned 'Brother Three' in that message—a reference not to Yuan Yun, but to his old Brother Three who perished at the hands of the God Organization. It was his Brother Three's death that allowed Ling Chen the chance to join the Eight Wonders.

Thus, Ling Chen intentionally brought up Brother Three to signal Qiu Yong and the others that he was in dire straits, his life was constantly in danger.

This is why Qiu Yong and the team remained hidden outside Yan City prison, awaiting the right moment for rescue.

When Yan City Prison's alarms sounded, Qiu Yong understood that the timing was perfect. With their skills, secretly infiltrating Yan City Prison was a cinch.

"Brother Six," Xu Ming, who had remained silent, spoke up, "I actually understand why Mr. He didn't want us to save you. You're a convict, and what we did amounts to a jailbreak—in the eyes of the law, we've all committed a crime. Mr. He considered this factor, which is why he restrained us from acting. Now that you've been rescued, what's your plan moving forward?"

"I'm not sure yet."

Chapter 834 - 839: Divide and Scatter (Part 1)

Ling Chen felt a bit helpless. He understood Xu Ming's point: because of him, the Eight Oddities had all become criminals. Of course, Xu Ming's words were not meant to blame Ling Chen or accuse him of implicating everyone, but rather to hope that he had a plan to deal with the current situation.

Ling Chen thought for a moment and asked, "Big brother, where is this place?"

"Martial Arts Academy," Qiu Yong replied. "It was opened by an old friend of mine, and it's been closed for many years, unused and abandoned here. I've thought it over, and this place is quite secluded, with few residents, making it a suitable hideout. Until you figure out our next move, we can stay here for a while."

"That works." Ling Chen nodded. For now, this was the only option.

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"What did you

In the office of the Lonely Wolf's headquarters, Qiao Zhen abruptly stood up from his chair, looking incredulously at Pang Jiulin. Frowning, he asked, "Are you sure this information is true?"

"General, it's absolutely true. I've confirmed it multiple times," Pang Jiulin said with a bittersweet smile. "Ling Chen not only escaped, but he also kidnapped the Prison Director of Yan City Prison. Additionally, he assisted other prisoners in breaking out successfully. According to the current numbers, more than thirty prisoners broke out, led by Ling Chen."

"Sigh!" Qiao Zhen sighed heavily and said in a low voice, "Didn't I tell you to remind that kid Ling Chen to stay put in Yan City Prison and not do anything? Why didn't he listen? Did you fail to convey my instructions clearly?"

"No, I was very clear. I told him we would do everything possible to get him out. Who knew he couldn't hold out for a few days and just escaped. General, what do we do now? We spoke so highly of him to our superiors, and now that Ling Chen has escaped, they're going to blame us. They might even suspect us of secretly aiding Ling Chen in escaping from Yan City Prison."

"Indeed." Qiao Zhen nodded and said, "That's quite likely. Jiulin, you're the new leader of Lonely Wolf, and the superiors will definitely come to you. You must find a way to handle this well, and ensure that this matter doesn't affect Lonely Wolf."

"Don't worry, General. I won't let Lonely Wolf be affected."

As soon as the words left his mouth, the phone on the desk rang.

At Qiao Zhen's signal, Pang Jiulin took a deep breath and picked up the phone, answering with a greeting.

As soon as he spoke, angry scolding came from the other end. It was an admonishing superior, and Pang Jiulin didn't dare to retort, so he listened obediently. After a few minutes, Pang Jiulin let out a bitter smile and put down the phone helplessly.

"How was it?" Qiao Zhen asked solemnly, "What did the higher-ups say?"

Pang Jiulin sighed, "General, I'm afraid Lonely Wolf is in big trouble this time. The higher-ups have issued a clear order to catch Ling Chen and rescue Yu Peng within ten days. If we fail to do so within the time limit, they will dissolve Lonely Wolf without any room for negotiation."

"Did they really say that?"

Pang Jiulin nodded and asked, "General, what should we do now?"

"Hmph!" Qiao Zhen couldn't help but curse, "That brat Ling Chen is just a headache for me. I've retired, and he still can't let me have some peace. Anyway! Jiulin, don't worry about anything else. Just follow the superiors' orders faithfully, mobilize all members of Lonely Wolf, and have them participate in the operation to capture Ling Chen. Remember, he must be captured alive, not a scratch on him. Do you hear me?"

"Rest assured, General. Even if you didn't tell me, I wouldn't harm Ling Chen."

"Once I catch that brat, wait to see how I deal with him."

...

A night passed.

The next morning, Ling Chen woke up from the floor of the bedroom, looking at the sunlight streaming in through the window, and got up to go outside.

Although this Martial Arts Academy had been abandoned for many years, it was quite spacious, especially with a few hundred square meters of the courtyard out back that was once used for students to practice martial arts. The Academy had many rooms, but since no one had lived there for years, the rooms were very messy.

However, given their current status as fugitives, there were no such concerns; as long as they could sleep soundly, it was enough.

Arriving at the courtyard, Ling Chen saw Tang Guolun was already up, jogging alone and exercising.

"Boss Tang." Ling Chen waved his hand, calling out from afar.

Seeing Ling Chen approaching, Tang Guolun stopped running, panting, and wiped the sweat from his forehead with his clothes, smiling, "Why are you up so early?"

"I'm used to it. Besides, given the current situation, how could I sleep soundly?"

"That's true. So, have you thought it over? Do you have a good plan?"

"Not yet. Based on my years of experience in special government departments, the government has certainly received word and is conducting a city-wide search for us. The airport, train stations, highways, these places are probably under blockade; we cannot get near them."

"You're right." Tang Guolun agreed, "Beijing is the capital of Huaxia, with higher security levels than other cities. If it were just one or two people, we might be able to sneak out using local resources, but we have three or four dozen people. We can't all leave together without splitting up and going our separate ways."

"That's what I thought too, so I wanted to discuss it with you." Ling Chen said, hesitating for a moment, as if he was about to say something but stopped.

Noticing Ling Chen's odd expression, Tang Guolun asked, "What do you want to say? We've been through hardships together; there's nothing we can't talk about."

"Alright," Ling Chen nodded. "Boss Tang, since you put it that way, don't blame me for being blunt. Boss Tang, the dozen or so people you brought out this time are all criminals, different from us. We were framed, but they are true criminals. By taking them out of prison, aren't you..."

Before Ling Chen could finish, Tang Guolun couldn't help but chuckle. He cut Ling Chen off, saying, "I understand what you're getting at. You don't want true criminals to wreak havoc on society again. But I assure you, they are absolutely eligible to leave Yan City Prison with me." Pausing, Tang Guolun continued earnestly, "Ling Chen, although I'm a criminal, my nature isn't bad. And you should know me; I've never done anything harmful to society. Among the criminals I brought, each was carefully selected. Also, you might not know this, but they are victims in a way too, not really criminals."

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked puzzledly, "Boss Tang, what do you mean? Are they not criminals?"

Chapter 835 - 840: Divide and Disperse (Part 2)

"No. They are indeed criminals, and they were imprisoned because of their crimes. But you must understand, their crimes were theft and computer fraud; they never committed murder. Given their offenses, a few years of imprisonment would suffice. However, Yu Peng, to satisfy his own desires and have more people at his disposal, spared no effort to transfer them from various prisons to Yan City Prison. Once there, they stayed for years, even decades, with no chance of release. To my knowledge, among the dozen or so prisoners I brought out, seven had already served their sentences, but Yu Peng kept finding excuses to extend their terms, preventing them from getting out. So tell me, was it wrong for me to bring them out?"

After hearing Tang Guolun's words, Ling Chen knew there was no need to continue the topic.

Perhaps those prisoners were wrong, but the real culprit was Yu Peng, who secretly manipulated everything and harmed innocent people.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen shifted his focus and said, "Boss Tang, there's something I'd like to ask you. When you were in prison, you told me that your friends were killed by people from the God

Organization and you wanted to avenge them. I wonder if this is truly your heartfelt wish or... if you just said it casually."

"That's my heartfelt desire." Tang Guolun said earnestly, "I once swore that if given the chance, I would certainly avenge them. You should know that I am a person who always follows through on my words."

After a pause, Tang Guolun asked, "Are you asking me these questions because you want to collaborate with me?"

"Yes." Ling Chen nodded and said, "I mentioned before that I've been fighting against the God Organization. Unfortunately, my strength is too weak, and the God Organization has been established for decades with solid foundations. It's difficult for me alone to take them down, so I hope to join forces with some like-minded people to fight against the God Organization."

Actually, since escaping from Yan City Prison, Ling Chen had been worried. Although Tang Guolun previously promised to help him, they had now escaped the prison and were free. With Tang Guolun's skills, if he wants to leave Beijing, he could do so at any time, going wherever he likes without being found.

Because of this, Ling Chen wanted to ascertain whether Tang Guolun genuinely intended to help him.

"Ling Chen, I know what you're worried about. Rest assured, I never go back on my promises. Also, I enjoy challenges, and taking down the God Organization is a good choice."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen smiled slightly, feeling much more at ease.

After chatting with Tang Guolun for a while, Ling Chen saw Yuan Yun climb over the wall from outside, carrying dozens of buns and soy milk in plastic bags.

"Ling Cheng, got up early, huh? Hungry? Come, try these freshly steamed buns." After speaking, Yuan Yun glanced at Tang Guolun beside him and invited him with a smile, "Join us!"

While having breakfast, Ling Chen asked, "Third Brother, did you notice anything when you went out to buy breakfast?"

"The entire city is on lockdown, and the police force in all places has doubled. Additionally, the police are conducting a phased search of various areas in Beijing. I've discovered that it's impossible to leave Beijing now unless we disperse."

Ling Chen and Tang Guolun exchanged a glance, a faint smile in their eyes.

"Third Brother, just as we thought. That's exactly what we're thinking. If we leave together, we'll be too conspicuous; the only way is to break up into smaller groups. However, what I'm concerned about now isn't anything else, but whether those people can escape on their own after splitting up."

"You absolutely don't have to worry about that." Tang Guolun waved confidently and said, "I won't dare make promises about other things, but I can absolutely guarantee that they have the ability to escape Beijing. Ling Chen, my eye for people has never been wrong. Moreover, if they were incapable, why would I put so much effort into helping them escape?"

"Alright! Since that's the case, let's not waste any more time and act quickly." Ling Chen immediately made a decision.

With a plan in place, arranging the other matters was easier. Once everyone was up, Tang Guolun gave a brief explanation to the prisoners he brought out and asked, "By the way! Ling Chen, where should we meet after leaving Beijing?"

Ling Chen thought for a while and replied, "Let's go to East Sea City. Then I'll give you a contact number, and once you arrive in East Sea City, you can call those numbers, and someone will naturally welcome you."

"Alright, it's settled then. We'll meet in East Sea City."

After sending off Tang Guolun and his group, there were still about a dozen people left in the Martial Arts Academy. Besides the Eight Monsters, there were Wu Zhaofeng and his people.

"Qiu, where are you planning to go?" Wu Zhaofeng asked.

"Ling Cheng just said it, we're going back to East Sea City. Wu, if you have other places to go, there's no need to follow us. Now that you're free, you can go wherever you like in the future."

"How can that be?" Wu Zhaofeng shook his head and said, "I haven't repaid the debt of saving my life, and besides, I'm now all alone without even a home, so where else can I go? Qiu, if you don't mind, let me follow you."

Qiu Yong politely declined, "We Eight Monsters have always been used to being free-spirited and don't like having people follow us. Wu, if you don't have another place to go, then go to East Sea City. Ling Cheng has some resources over there, and he needs people right now, so you might as well go help out. It'll make it easier for us to meet in the future."

"Well..." Wu Zhaofeng hesitated a bit. He wasn't keen on being dependent on others.

"Forget it!" After thinking for a while, Wu Zhaofeng said, "Being in prison for so many years, I want to wander around a bit as well. And when I get a chance, I'll definitely visit East Sea City to meet you all."

"Alright, then we'll meet again if fate allows." Qiu Yong clasped his fists.

After Wu Zhaofeng and his group left, Xia Yue couldn't help but say, "Big Brother, why didn't you persuade him to stay? If those three Earthly List experts could join Ling Cheng's forces, wouldn't that be a fantastic boost."

"Since he's unwilling, why force him? Anyway, let's not talk about this." After speaking, Qiu Yong turned to Ling Chen and asked, "Ling Cheng, are we leaving Beijing together or separately?"

"It's safer to act separately, as we're too conspicuous together."

"Alright. I'll go first; let's meet in East Sea City."

Once Qiu Yong left, Xu Ming and the others also started to depart. Before long, the huge Martial Arts Academy was left with only Ling Chen and the imprisoned Yu Peng and Liu Kui.

Better deal with those two first before leaving.

Ling Chen deliberated for a moment, then turned and headed inside the house.

Chapter 836 - 841: The Plan to Leave Beijing

Inside the room, Yu Peng and Liu Kui were tied with their hands behind their backs, their mouths stuffed with rags, only able to make 'mmph mmph' sounds. Seeing Ling Chen approach, their cries grew louder. Ling Chen walked up to them and casually removed the rag from Yu Peng's mouth. Immediately, regaining his ability to speak, he shouted, "Ling Chen, let's talk this over. If you let me go, I'll give you as much money as you want."

"Money?" Ling Chen smiled indifferently and said, "Yu Peng, do you really think I'm that shallow? Money isn't everything, at least not in front of me. You've done so many bad things, it's time you faced retribution." Saying this, Ling Chen glanced at Liu Kui with a cold tone, "You're the same."

With that, Ling Chen lifted Yu Peng from the ground and pushed him towards the door.

Seeing himself left behind, Liu Kui couldn't help but 'mmph mmph' in an attempt to get Ling Chen's attention.

Hearing Liu Kui's cries, Ling Chen turned his head and looked at Liu Kui, who was filled with a pleading expression, and coldly said, "Liu Kui, you've got so much blood on your hands, it's time you got what you deserve. If you want to blame anyone, blame yourself for your evil deeds." After speaking, no matter how loud Liu Kui's voice became, Ling Chen remained unmoved, taking Yu Peng with him as he left.

Ling Chen had long thought about how to deal with Liu Kui. This Martial Arts Academy had been abandoned for years, and almost no one came here, so he decided to let Liu Kui fend for himself. As for Yu Peng, he still had other uses, and couldn't be allowed to die just yet.

After leaving the Martial Arts Academy, Ling Chen looked at a small path not far away and patiently waited.

After a few minutes, an unremarkable modern car slowly drove up the path and parked beside Ling Chen.

The car door opened, and a middle-aged man in a suit got out from the driver's seat. Seeing the person, Ling Chen's lips curled into a smile as he greeted him, "Mr. Ye, long time no see."

The middle-aged man wasn't anyone else but Ye Liangyong, a disciple of He Ziyun. Ye Liangyong was a businessman with his own enterprises in Beijing. Ling Chen thought over and over, and it seemed like Ye Liangyong was the only one in Beijing who could help him now.

"Ling Chen, what's going on with you? Breaking out of prison like that, do you know how much trouble you've caused for Master and the others?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen asked in surprise, "Mr. Ye, how did you know about this?"

"How could I not know." Ye Liangyong replied impatiently, "Master has been staying in Beijing recently, living at my house, so I know everything about you. I understand you faced a lot of injustice this time, but you can't act recklessly, it'll only cause trouble for everyone. As far as I know, the higher-ups have already given Lonely Wolf the final order: if they can't capture you and rescue Yu Peng within ten days, Lonely Wolf will be disbanded."

"What?" Ling Chen was taken aback, not expecting such severe consequences.

"Mr. Ye, you're right, this was indeed my fault. I didn't consider others." Ling Chen said apologetically. In fact, before deciding to break out, he had thought about many things, but this incident was beyond his expectations, and he didn't expect the higher-ups to be so furious, taking it out on Lonely Wolf.

"Alright! It's already happened, talking about it won't change anything. Ling Chen, I just want to know: what do you plan to do next? Continue running? Lonely Wolf has orders to capture you, and if you resist, they'll face the risk of being disbanded."

"Mr. Ye, since Mr. He is staying with you, does he know I contacted you?"

"He doesn't know yet, I didn't tell him. You're aware of Master's temperament. If he knows your location, he'll definitely come to see you. So, I wanted to ask you face to face about your plans before deciding whether to tell Master."

"That's good." Ling Chen secretly breathed a sigh of relief, genuinely afraid Ye Liangyong would reveal his whereabouts to He Ziyun. As it stood, he wasn't prepared to meet He Ziyun yet.

"Mr. Ye." Ling Chen pointed to Yu Peng beside him, and said, "His name is Yu Peng, the Prison Director of Yan City Prison. I suppose he's the one the higher-ups are looking for."

"Correct. So, are you planning to hand him over to me, so I can give him to Lonely Wolf for them to complete their mission?"

"No." Ling Chen took a USB drive from his pocket and handed it to Ye Liangyong, instructing, "Mr. Ye, please hand Yu Peng and this USB drive to Mr. He. Once he sees what's inside, he'll naturally understand why I chose to break out."

The USB contained all the evidence of Yu Peng's past crimes, copied from Yu Peng's computer by Tang Guolun. With this evidence, Yu Peng could be sentenced to death. Ling Chen wanted the higher-ups to know the kind of person they were trying to save.

After watching Ye Liangyong drive away, Ling Chen set off alone, heading to the city center of Beijing.

As Yuan Yun mentioned, there were two or three times more police in Beijing than before, frequently patrolling the roads and checking passing vehicles.

Watching the patrolling police stop and go in the distance, Ling Chen walked on the sidewalk and bought a baseball cap at a shop to cover his face, to avoid being recognized by the passing officers.

Ling Chen's purpose on this trip was clear: to find a way to leave Beijing as soon as possible. Having lived in Beijing for many years, he knew the city well. In addition, Ling Chen also knew a few of the city's underground figures. To leave Beijing, all he needed was to contact them for help. These people had connections on both sides of the law, with extensive networks.

While walking, Ling Chen's attention was suddenly caught by a row of tables and chairs on the street. Around those tables and chairs, dozens of citizens gathered, while on the other side of the tables sat several doctors in white coats.

Free clinic? Seeing the banner behind the doctors, Ling Chen smirked. No wonder there were so many people; the doctors were offering free consultations.

Scanning the area, Ling Chen's gaze instantly froze on one of the doctors.

"Xiaozhu!"

Ling Chen was taken aback, not expecting to see Zhu Xiaozhu in such a place.

It seemed Zhu Xiaozhu's medical skills were well-known in Beijing, attracting many patients who came for her. Of the five doctors participating in the free clinic, only Zhu Xiaozhu had a long line, while the others in front had only three or four people, or none at all.

For some time, Ling Chen hadn't seen Zhu Xiaozhu, and she was still the same as before. Her beautiful, watery eyes; delicate, smooth face; and cherry-like, attractive red lips maintained a friendly smile, making people unconsciously want to approach her.

Chapter 837 - 842: Free Clinic (1)

Perfect timing!

Ling Chen thought to himself. He originally wanted to meet with Zhu Xiaozhu to ask about Zhu Hong. Unfortunately, too many things had happened recently, leaving him no energy to see Zhu Xiaozhu. Now that he encountered her on the road, he definitely wouldn't miss such a good opportunity.

At the moment, Ling Chen pressed the brim of his baseball cap and quickly walked to the back of the volunteer medical team, quietly waiting.

It took a full two hours or so before more than thirty patients in front were finally done. Ling Chen glanced behind him, it was almost lunchtime, and the people behind him didn't decrease but instead increased, more and more.

When it was Ling Chen's turn, Zhu Xiaozhu suddenly stood up, looked at everyone with a tired expression, and apologized with a smile: "Everyone, I'm sorry, I need to have lunch. I'll continue to diagnose everyone after I take a break." After saying this, Zhu Xiaozhu turned around and headed towards the medical vehicle behind her.

However, at this moment, a few rowdy young men suddenly squeezed out from the crowd and walked straight to the row of tables and chairs.

"Hey! If you want to see a doctor, you have to stand in line, you can't just cut in line, how can you have no manners at all."

"What are you talking about?" A young man with dyed red hair turned around and glared at the speaker, sneering: "Do I still need to queue? Do you know who I am? Let me tell you, I control this area, you better behave yourself, if anyone dares to say one more word, you won't just see a doctor, I'll send you straight to the hospital."

"What are you doing?" Seeing this scene not far away, Zhu Xiaozhu quickly ran back, scolding those young men.

"Yo!"

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu running towards them, the eyes of those young men lit up instantly, feeling amazed.

"Tsk ts! Didn't expect such a beauty here. Guys, we're pretty lucky." As he spoke, a young man smiled, hands in pockets, swaggering over to Zhu Xiaozhu, saying with a smile: "Beautiful, how about giving us some face and have some fun with us?"

"How dare you!" Zhu Xiaozhu, with a stern face, lightly scolded, "This is a volunteer medical base, you are not allowed to cause trouble here, leave immediately."

"Alright, as long as you agree to leave with us, we'll leave at once."

Hearing this, Zhu Xiaozhu angrily said: "If you don't leave, I'll call the police." Saying this, Zhu Xiaozhu took out her phone from her pocket, ready to dial the police.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu's move, the young man immediately rushed forward and kicked the phone out of her hand.

"Girl, don't be disrespectful; I've already given you face. Either you obediently come with us, or we'll take you, your choice."

"Stop it, all of you!" At this moment, an angry voice came from behind.

The young man and Zhu Xiaozhu turned to look, only to see several men in the queue coming forward with angry faces and saying: "Kid, don't disrespect Doctor Zhu, get lost and stop causing trouble here."

"Yo! Are you guys trying to play hero in front of me?" The red-haired youth coldly smiled: "Let's see what you're capable of."

As he finished speaking, the red-haired youth waved his hand. Instantly, more than twenty young men squeezed out from the surrounding crowd, all gathered around the red-haired youth, glaring at those men.

Seeing so many people suddenly appear around them, the few men who intended to stand up immediately backed down, quickly fleeing the crowd for fear of retaliation.

At this moment, seeing the red-haired youth's behavior, some concerned people in the crowd had already called the police, hoping to seek police assistance.

However, it seemed the red-haired youth had noticed everyone's small movements. He signaled to his men with his eyes. A group of his men immediately understood and started dragging Zhu Xiaozhu away.

"No, let me go!" Zhu Xiaozhu struggled desperately, but unfortunately, she was too weak to compete with the young men and could only let them drag her away.

The few doctors who came with Zhu Xiaozhu for the volunteer medical service saw this scene and hurried over to help. However, with just a glare from the red-haired youth, the doctors immediately froze, honestly standing still, not daring to move. They were doctors, not ready to fight these thugs.

Not to mention whether they could win, they were also outnumbered.

Seeing Zhu Xiaozhu being taken away, everyone was as anxious as ants on a hot pot, not knowing what to do.

"Hey buddy, let it go!"

Just then, a hand rested on the shoulder of the red-haired youth from behind.

The red-haired youth turned sharply, only to see a young man wearing a baseball cap standing behind him. Because the man intentionally kept his head down, the young man's appearance was unclear.

"Kid, are you trying to butt in too?" The red-haired youth said displeased: "Get lost before I get angry."

"No respect?"

"Damn! Who the hell are you, why should I respect you, you... Ouch!" The red-haired youth's words changed to a scream as his face contorted, almost crying.

"Please, please, let go, quickly let go." The red-haired youth desperately grabbed the other's arm, trying to move the arm off his shoulder. But no matter how hard he tried, the other person remained unmoved, his arm as solid as an iron bar, immensely strong.

"Kid, what are you doing, quickly release our boss."

Seeing the red-haired youth suffer, the others hurriedly charged forward, surrounding the young man.

Seeing the hostile-eyed young men, Ling Chen smirked slightly, said nonchalantly: "You want me to let him go? Let's see if you have the ability."

Once he said this, several young men immediately waved their fists, ready to knock Ling Chen down. But what kind of person is Ling Chen, could he possibly take these punks seriously?

Before those punks even got close, Ling Chen's body shook, Hua Realm exploded. Instantly, those few who were waving their fists collapsed, clutching their stomachs and crying out in pain.

"What's going on?"

Looking at their companions on the ground, the others were stunned. They clearly saw that their brothers hadn't touched Ling Chen yet ended up downed and injured, it was too mysterious.

As everyone was dumbfounded, Ling Chen slightly raised his head, his eyes sweeping over the punks present. Feeling the fierce look, inexplicably, a chill ran down everyone's spine.

"Get lost, all of you." Ling Chen commanded coldly. After saying that, he released his hand, swiping his arm sideways, and the red-haired youth's body was thrown out, heavily landing on the ground.

"Boss, boss!"

A few punks hurriedly rushed forward, helping the red-haired youth up from the ground.

Chapter 838 - 843: Free Clinic (Part 2)

"Who... who are you?" the red-haired young man pointed at Ling Chen and asked through gritted teeth.

"It's better if you don't know, anyway, I'm someone you can't afford to mess with." Ling Chen replied indifferently, then shifted his gaze away, ignoring the red-haired guy and his hooligans.

"Fine, remember this, anyone who crosses me, Red Hair, won't have a good end." The red-haired young man spat out a threat, then immediately scurried away with his subordinates.

Red Hair?

Ling Chen chuckled to himself, never expecting that guy to be nicknamed Red Hair—it's quite fitting.

"Excuse me, sir." While he was lost in thought, a gentle voice came from the side. Just by hearing the voice, Ling Chen knew who it was without even looking.

Zhu Xiaozhu!

Seeing no response from Ling Chen, Zhu Xiaozhu smiled gently and said, "Sir, thank you for stepping in to help just now."

"Exactly. If it weren't for this gentleman's skills, Doctor Zhu might have been in big trouble. Hmph! Those thugs are despicable, it's best if they all get locked up." A doctor beside her said angrily.

"Sir?" Zhu Xiaozhu looked at Ling Chen's back. Seeing that he hadn't turned around, she couldn't help but feel curious. A beautiful woman like her taking the initiative to thank him, yet he showed no reaction—could it be that he doesn't like beautiful women?

After hesitating for a moment, Zhu Xiaozhu spoke again, "Sir, thank you for helping me earlier."

"No need to be polite. We are friends, helping each other is what we should do." With that, Ling Chen turned around, raised his head to meet Zhu Xiaozhu's beautiful eyes, and a faint smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

Seeing the familiar face suddenly appear before her, Zhu Xiaozhu was momentarily stunned, not regaining her senses for quite a while.

"You... Ling Chen, what... what are you doing here?"

Zhu Xiaozhu asked in surprise when she came to her senses.

"I happened to be passing by, so I came to see you." Ling Chen smiled slightly, "It's been some time since we last met, hasn't it? Ever since you returned to Beijing, you haven't visited East Sea City."

"I..."

Zhu Xiaozhu opened her mouth but didn't know what to say. Moreover, facing Ling Chen's gaze, Zhu Xiaozhu felt panicked inside, her eyes flickering uncertainly, daring not to meet Ling Chen's eyes directly.

"What? Can't even bear to look at me now?"

"No, I..." Zhu Xiaozhu was about to explain, but at that moment, Ling Chen's pupils contracted slightly, and he grabbed Zhu Xiaozhu's hand, leading her to the side of the road.

"Ling Chen, where are you taking me?" Zhu Xiaozhu asked in confusion.

Ling Chen didn't answer. Instead, he quickened his pace and escorted Zhu Xiaozhu to a nearby milk tea shop.

Just as the two entered, several police officers arrived at the free clinic site. While chatting with Zhu Xiaozhu earlier, Ling Chen noticed their presence, so he took Zhu Xiaozhu away to avoid encountering them.

Sitting in the milk tea shop, Ling Chen ordered two drinks and then removed the baseball cap from his head.

"Ling Chen, what are you doing in Beijing this time?"

Hearing Zhu Xiaozhu's inquiry, Ling Chen smiled and replied, "Nothing much, just handling some personal matters." After a pause, Ling Chen changed the topic, "Xiaozhu, I think you should know why I'm looking for you."

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded gently, a somewhat helpless smile on her face, "I knew it long ago, no matter how I hide from you, you'd find me eventually. Ling Chen, actually, you don't need to say it, I already know what you want to ask."

"Since that's the case, you must have a lot to say to me."

"Last time in East Sea City, my elder brother found me and told me many things. Ling Chen, I know about the enmity between you and my brother; I'm not counting on you two to give up hatred, because I know very well that it's a difficult decision for anyone. However, from my standpoint, one is my biological brother, the other is my friend—no matter who gets hurt, I won't feel good. So, after thinking for a long time, rather than being painfully caught in the middle between you two, it's better to step away and let whatever happens be your concern, not mine. The only thing I can do is shed a few tears at your funerals."

"Xiaozhu..."

"Don't ask anymore, if you want to know about my brother, I'm sorry, I know nothing. After we met last time, I haven't seen him again, nor has he contacted me. I have no idea where he is or what he's doing now." Saying this, Zhu Xiaozhu looked up at Ling Chen, with a face full of pleading, "Ling Chen, please, stop looking for me. I don't want to experience that kind of pain again."

Hearing this, Ling Chen said full of apology, "I'm sorry, it's my fault for not considering your feelings. Alright, if you don't want to see me again, I won't bother you."

With that, Ling Chen stood up from his seat and walked towards the milk tea shop's exit.

Watching Ling Chen leave, Zhu Xiaozhu bit her thin lips lightly, her beautiful eyes shimmering with tears. Back then, she regarded Ling Chen as the most important man in her life. Besides Ling Chen, only her father and her brother could occupy such an important position in her heart.

But now, the two most important men in her life are at odds with each other—how could she not be heartbroken?

So, rather than being saddened and shedding tears for them, it's better to not see or hear anything.

After leaving the milk tea shop, Ling Chen looked around, then walked along the sidewalk. He hadn't walked much before he suddenly saw a bus coming down the road, stopping at the roadside.

Ling Chen intended to walk past the bus, but when he noticed the words on the side of the bus, he immediately halted his steps.

Martial Arts Symposium?

Ling Chen's heart stirred. Some time ago, he saw the invitation for the Martial Arts Symposium at He Ziyun's place. He promised He Ziyun that if he had the time, he would definitely check it out. Unfortunately, with so many things happening, he almost forgot about it.

While pondering, the bus door opened, and more than twenty passengers got off one after another.

Ling Chen took notice that among these passengers, there were men and women, young and old. Although they appeared ordinary on the surface, Ling Chen's eyes were keener than an average person's, and he could tell that these people were not ordinary.

Moreover, he also detected the presence of several skilled individuals among them.

In fact, recognizing a skilled person is simple enough. Steps, aura, demeanor, eyes, plus a bit of intuition—with these elements, while not 100% accurate, you're pretty close.

Unexpectedly, this Martial Arts Symposium seems quite interesting. Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, then glanced in the direction where the group was heading.

About a hundred meters away from the bus, there was a cluster of villas, and a red banner was hung at the entrance with the gilded words "Martial Arts Symposium."

So the Martial Arts Symposium is being held here.

Ling Chen's lips curled into a slight smile; since he's already here, why not go and check it out? After all, it wouldn't take much time.

Chapter 839 - 844: Martial Arts Symposium (1)

After making a decision, Ling Chen immediately followed behind the group and headed towards the nearby villa cluster.

This villa cluster is considered a high-end residential area, surrounded by three-meter-high walls. To enter the villa area, you must pass through an iron gate. However, there's a guard outside the gate. Moreover, everyone entering the villa area must present an invitation letter.

Only those whose identities have been verified can enter smoothly. Ling Chen saw this from a distance and immediately stopped.

He didn't have an invitation letter, and if he went in rashly, he would definitely be escorted out by the guards at the door. After thinking it over, Ling Chen decided to give up entering through the main entrance and instead came to the outer wall several tens of meters away from the main gate.

After checking left and right to confirm no one else was present, Ling Chen lightly tapped with his toes, his legs suddenly exerted force, and soared high from the ground. When he reached a height of two meters and his momentum waned, Ling Chen's toes lightly stepped on the wall repeatedly, leveraging the wall's elasticity to rise further.

Next, he grabbed the top of the wall with both hands, lightly exerted his arms, and deftly flipped over the wall.

Once inside the villa cluster, Ling Chen dusted off the dirt on his body, pretending as if nothing had happened, and walked along the main path.

At this moment, twenty to thirty guests were walking along the tree-lined road. Seizing his chance, Ling Chen flashed smoothly from the surrounding greenery to the middle of the road, blending naturally into the crowd.

No one noticed this outsider who joined halfway.

In the villa cluster, Ling Chen saw many men and women in suits with smiling faces. They were enthusiastically serving tea and fruit to passing distinguished guests. Ling Chen, unreserved, grabbed tea with his left hand, fruit with his right, eating and walking.

Following the crowd a little further, Ling Chen arrived at a luxurious hall.

The hall was several hundred square meters, the floor was tiled with marble, the walls decorated with light golden wallpaper, and several golden chandeliers added to the sumptuous and impressive atmosphere.

Ling Chen shook his head silently, too opulent. He reflected on past Martial Arts Tournaments, where locations were simple, with large bowls of liquor and big guys, bustling and lively, unlike the current elaborate practices. Nowadays, everyone is exceedingly polite, afraid of offending others. Moreover, people are very conscious of their reputation, always boasting as if afraid others won't know how impressive they are.

Ling Chen had little interest in the courtesy of the people in Martial Arts; he found a quiet spot, then sat down on a sofa.

Just as he settled, Ling Chen saw a woman walking his way. The woman seemed around twenty-three or twenty-four years old, very elegant looking, with a round face, fair skin, her hair cascading down her back, a few delicate bangs swaying gently with her steps.

The woman approached, her bright eyes sweeping lightly over Ling Chen before retracting her gaze, sitting down on the sofa next to him.

When the woman sat down, Ling Chen immediately smelled a strong fragrance in the air and couldn't help but glance at her.

The woman looked quite delicate, but the perfume on her seemed unsuitable, too overpowering. For women, being a bit more elegantly modest is best; why make it so glamorous like those women in special professions?

"What are you looking at?" The woman seemed to notice Ling Chen's gaze and snapped coldly, "Never seen a beauty?"

Ling Chen shrugged, immediately diverting his eyes from the woman. Was it necessary to get upset over a couple of glances? This woman was too petty. Besides, he'd seen plenty of stunning beauties; this woman wasn't really one in his eyes.

After sitting for a short while, the number of guests in the reception hall increased, nearly a hundred people. Some acquaintances gathered in threes and fives, smiling, discussing this Martial Arts symposium. Ling Chen listened but didn't hear anything useful.

At this time, a few men walked from the distance. Judging by their direction, they seemed headed towards the woman. Ling Chen glanced with his peripheral vision, and sure enough, upon their appearance, the woman's brow furrowed slightly, showing a touch of displeasure. Nevertheless, she remained seated, without any intention of leaving.

When the men approached, they bowed respectfully to the woman, smiling, "Young Lady."

"What do you want?" The woman responded indifferently, apparently displeased with their visit.

A crew-cut man smiled apologetically, "Young Lady, when you ran away from home this time, the Master was very worried. He hopes you can return soon, lest he gets upset."

The woman said impatiently, "So what if he's upset? Let him be upset. I specifically came to attend the Martial Arts symposium, and I won't leave before it ends. Lei Jiang, stop wasting your breath on me, go back and don't bother me here."

Upon hearing this, the man named Lei Jiang immediately restrained his smile, solemnly stating, "Young Lady, since you refuse to go back with us, don't blame us for the offense."

The woman's bright eyes blinked, glaring at Lei Jiang, "Do you intend to lay hands on me?"

"Sorry, Young Lady, the Master orders that you must be taken back no matter what. He said he knows your purpose in attending the Martial Arts symposium. Under no circumstances will he allow you to see that person again."

"Who's in charge here, you or me?" The woman couldn't help but roar, "Since you call me Young Lady, then spare me the nonsense and get out of my sight. I don't want to see you anymore." With that, the woman turned her head away, not even looking at the men.

At this moment, the woman's loud voice attracted the attention of numerous guests, who began whispering among themselves.

Feeling everyone's gaze, the woman flicked her head, coldly saying, "What are you looking at? For your information, my name is Tong Ye. You better stay cautious."

Upon hearing the name 'Tong Ye,' everyone present immediately changed their expressions, hurriedly retracting their gaze, ignoring what was happening, pretending they hadn't seen anything.

Tong Ye?

Ling Chen silently contemplated this name. In his memory, he had never heard it before. However, judging by everyone's reaction, this woman named Tong Ye seemed to have quite a background. Otherwise, why would everyone be so fearful of her?

As he pondered, the man named Lei Jiang spoke, "Young Lady, we're acting on orders, hoping you won't make it difficult for us. Also, the Master has issued a strict order that regardless, you must be taken back."

Chapter 840 - 845: Martial Arts Symposium (2)

"Fine!" Tong Ye suddenly jumped up from the sofa, pointed at Lei Jiang's nose, and snorted, "Is it that my words no longer matter? Well, since you're all people my dad hired, and he's the one who pays you, naturally you only follow his orders. Alright, in that case, let me see what you're capable of. Lei Jiang, I know you have some skills, but I've never had a chance to experience them. Today, I'll give it a go."

As soon as she finished speaking, without waiting for Lei Jiang to respond, Tong Ye's wrist flicked slightly, and several sleeve arrows immediately flew out of her sleeve, shooting straight towards Lei Jiang's face.

Tsk tsk!

Upon seeing this scene, Ling Chen couldn't help but shake his head. This woman was really ruthless, aiming straight for the vital points. The opponent, after all, was one of their own, how could she use such a vicious method? Besides, sleeve arrows are hidden weapons, not martial arts skills.

As the sleeve arrows approached, Lei Jiang's standing still body suddenly swayed from side to side. In the blink of an eye, he easily dodged several sleeve arrows. Immediately after, before Tong Ye could make another move, Lei Jiang's feet paced rapidly, resembling a swift wind, quickly rushing towards Tong Ye.

Not bad!

Ling Chen nodded quietly to himself, impressed by Lei Jiang's skills. Lei Jiang's skill might not be very high, but his movement technique was exceptionally clever. Ling Chen considered his eyesight pretty good, not even a fly could escape his notice. However, when Lei Jiang dodged the sleeve arrows just now, even he couldn't clearly see the opponent's movements, indicating that Lei Jiang was truly skilled.

In a moment's thought, Lei Jiang had already edged close to Tong Ye, reaching out to grab her shoulder, intending to subdue her. However, just as Lei Jiang's hand was about to touch Tong Ye, she suddenly swung her arm, making a strange move.

With Tong Ye's action, two small arrows, each about ten centimeters long, suddenly shot out from her waist, aimed directly at Lei Jiang's body.

Not good! Seeing this situation, Ling Chen's heart sank, a sense of dread filling him.

He didn't expect that there were hidden weapons at Tong Ye's waist, and at such close range, even if Lei Jiang's skills were high, it would be impossible to dodge the attack of those two arrows.

Ling Chen frowned slightly, silently sighing in his heart, unable to help but shift his gaze away. He knew that at such a distance, Lei Jiang was undoubtedly doomed. Not to mention Lei Jiang, even if it were him, it would be difficult to avoid the attack of those two arrows.

Clang clang!

However, at this moment, two crisp sounds suddenly reached Ling Chen's ears.

"Let go of me!"

Hearing Tong Ye's embarrassed and annoyed voice, Ling Chen turned his head in surprise, looking back at Lei Jiang and Tong Ye. At this moment, Lei Jiang had one hand grabbing Tong Ye's shoulder and the other twisting her arm, making her unable to move.

Not hurt? Ling Chen was astonished, thinking Lei Jiang was surely dead, but unexpectedly, he was completely unharmed. While contemplating, Ling Chen noticed that two arrows had fallen by Tong Ye's feet, the very hidden weapons that almost took Lei Jiang's life just now.

"Let go of me, didn't you hear?"

Tong Ye shouted loudly, struggling desperately with both hands, trying to break free from Lei Jiang's restraint, but Lei Jiang showed no intention of letting go, speaking calmly, "Miss, stop being capricious, come back with me."

Tong Ye snorted softly, defiantly asking, "How did you dodge those two arrows just now? Why weren't you hurt?"

Hearing this, Lei Jiang smiled slightly, unbuttoned his suit, and then took out a thin steel plate from under his shirt. The area of that steel plate was not large, but just enough to protect the abdomen.

Seeing the steel plate in Lei Jiang's hand, Ling Chen immediately understood. It turned out he had hidden a steel plate in his clothes beforehand, no wonder the arrows couldn't penetrate. Ha! This guy really had foresight, knowing to be prepared in advance.

"Miss, I know your skills. To put it bluntly, that's not really martial arts, but some vicious hidden weapons. True Martial Arts practitioners despise using such things. You keep saying that person is good

to you, teaching you real skills, but in reality, he's just using some dirty tricks to placate you. Continuing to use such malicious hidden weapons will do you no good." After a pause, Lei Jiang continued, "The master has already informed me about your hidden weapons long ago, so I was prepared in advance. Your hidden weapons are useless against me. I advise you to obediently come back with me."

"No, I just won't go back." Tong Ye said with a displeased expression, "The previous fight doesn't count, my dad told you all my details, if he hadn't, you wouldn't have beaten me."

"Miss is right, if it weren't for the master's reminder, I would have been a dead man by now. Does miss think killing is an amusing thing?"

"No, I just..."

"Tong Ye?"

Just then, an surprised voice suddenly came over.

Looking carefully, they saw a handsome young man striding over, his face filled with joy.

"Qin Dong!"

Upon seeing the newcomer, Tong Ye's expression immediately shifted from worry to joy, excitedly shouting, "Qin Dong, come and save me, someone is bullying me."

The young man named Qin Dong approached, seeing Tong Ye subdued by Lei Jiang, frowned slightly and said, "Friend, what are you doing? A grown man bullying a weak woman, what kind of hero does that make?"

Lei Jiang glanced at him, expressionless, "You're Qin Dong? Just in time, my master asked me to deliver a message to you: stay away from our miss, and don't approach her again. Otherwise, don't blame me for being impolite."

"Miss?" Qin Dong glanced at Lei Jiang, with a smirk, "So you're with the Tong Family. However, this is a personal matter between Tong Ye and me, not something for a servant like you to meddle in. Even if her dad has issues with me, he should tell me personally."

"Qin Dong, don't refuse the toast only to drink the forfeit," Lei Jiang warned.

Qin Dong smirked, "That'll depend if you have the ability." As soon as he finished speaking, his expression suddenly changed, and he looked at Tong Ye with soft eyes, "Don't be afraid, I'll get you out right away."

Tong Ye nodded excitedly, "Teach them a lesson for me."

"Come on!" Qin Dong beckoned to Lei Jiang provocatively, "Let me see what you're capable of."

Facing Qin Dong's provocation, Lei Jiang, without a word, handed over Tong Ye to his companion for safekeeping, then stepped forward towards Qin Dong, cupping his hands, "Please, enlighten me!"

Before he could finish saying 'enlighten', Qin Dong suddenly took action, moving with lightning speed, instantly closing in on Lei Jiang, striking with a palm.

Seeing Qin Dong's move, Ling Chen's pupils slightly contracted.

A Dragon List expert!

Though Qin Dong was young, his strength was not to be underestimated, having already reached the level of the Dragon List.