

The Beauty 851

Chapter 851 - 856: The Mysterious Assailant

As soon as a sense of crisis emerged, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and immediately fell to the ground. Instantly, the thick piece of wood flew over Ling Chen's body, landing heavily on the ground.

After avoiding the sneak attack, Ling Chen immediately turned to look at the forest behind him. However, he saw nothing except the rustling leaves.

Trying to escape? Ling Chen raised an eyebrow and headed straight towards the forest. Entering the forest, Ling Chen's eyes searched around for a suspicious target. However, it seemed that the assailant had already fled far away and was not nearby. Although he couldn't find the person's whereabouts, Ling Chen discovered several shallow footprints on the ground.

It seems my intuition was correct!

Ling Chen thought to himself. Not only was someone secretly following him, but they were also trying to harm him. However, what puzzled Ling Chen was who the attacker was and why they were targeting him. Upon reflection, among the more than ten participants in this competition, none had a grudge against him. If that's the case, why would someone attempt to assassinate him?

As his mind raced, Ling Chen involuntarily thought of the deceased person he found earlier. Could the killer and the attacker be the same person?

If so, then the killer's motive is worth investigating.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen, unwilling to give up, searched the area again, but still found nothing. Forget it! Since he couldn't find anything, there was no need to waste time.

However, Ling Chen didn't forget to call the organizers to inform them. Someone attempted murder during the competition, and this had to be reported to the organizers for them to take action.

"Mr. Ling, we've received your report. Please wait, someone will contact you later," said the staff on the other end before cutting off the call.

Listening to the busy tone on the phone, Ling Chen was annoyed. In such a situation, the organizers' attitude was so perfunctory that it was hard to believe.

After a brief complaint, Ling Chen made a decision to himself. He participated in this competition on He Ziyun's suggestion, hoping to gain some experience. But now that his life was in danger, he couldn't treat it lightly anymore. If there was real danger, he would withdraw immediately to ensure his safety.

After all, no one would want to lose their life in such a senseless conflict.

After leaving the area where he was ambushed, Ling Chen hurried towards the northern part of the forest. With less than a day and a half left, he hoped to give it a shot and see if there was a chance to become the ultimate victor. Meanwhile, Ling Chen did not forget about the attacker earlier. Throughout his journey, Ling Chen remained vigilant, listening intently to the sounds around him.

As time ticked away, by evening, Ling Chen saw the night was falling, so he found a relatively safe place to sit and rest, planning his next move once he regained his strength.

However, Ling Chen clearly underestimated the determination of the others to win.

Even at night, the other Earthly List experts participating in the competition were not idle, still making their final efforts towards victory.

Ling Chen lay on a tree branch, originally planning to get a good night's sleep. In the hour he lay down, he heard three groups of people pass by the area. Moreover, the footsteps were hurried, as if rushing for something.

His innate curiosity got the best of Ling Chen, and he couldn't help but sit up, gazing into the distance. Vaguely, he could see some firelight appearing.

A lot of people!

Ling Chen slightly furrowed his brows, and from the firelight, he could tell that many people had already gathered there. With so many people gathered together, something big must be happening.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen decided to go and take a look, even if just to satisfy his curiosity.

Climbing down the tree, Ling Chen rushed towards the direction of the firelight non-stop. After more than ten minutes, ten or so people appeared in Ling Chen's sight. Counting them, there weren't too many or too few, exactly ten people.

There were thirteen participants in total, but at the start of the competition, Ling Chen had easily eliminated one contestant. During the day, he found a corpse. So, counting all the people and himself, there were eleven left.

At this moment, within Ling Chen's line of sight, all ten people were present. Moreover, from their formation, it seemed that they were divided into four factions.

Gong Xiong's side had four people, Wang Hao was alone, Qin Gang's master, Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang, had three people, and the remaining two elderly men formed a team.

Among these four factions, in terms of overall strength, Gong Xiong's group was the strongest, Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang's was second, then the two elderly men, and finally the last was Wang Hao. Of course, the rankings were because Ling Chen hadn't shown up. Otherwise, the one with the weakest strength would surely be him.

There was no other way, as these experts had been on the Earthly List for many years, while Ling Chen had just entered it, and could barely rank as the tenth on the Earthly List.

Ling Chen looked at the four groups of people, scanning them for a few moments before turning his gaze to the center of the groups. There, Ling Chen saw a golden shining statue. The statue was likely gold-plated on the surface, making it particularly eye-catching under the light of the fire.

Seeing everyone's tense expressions, Ling Chen's heart moved. Could that golden statue be the final item?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen couldn't help but lock his gaze on Wang Hao. If anyone present stood the best chance of finding this golden statue, it would undoubtedly be Wang Hao. Because Wang Hao had found the most statues and gathered the most information.

Ling Chen had previously examined the statue he found. At the base of the statue, he found a number. According to his hypothesis, each statue should have a key number at its base. If these numbers were arranged, they would form an accurate coordinate.

Wang Hao had the most numbers, and even if there was a small part missing, it wouldn't be a problem for him. With his intelligence, using other parameters, he could probably deduce the approximate location.

No wonder everyone was drawn here; it turned out they had found the most crucial item.

Looking at the golden statue that no one dared to touch, Ling Chen smiled to himself. The others were wary of each other and no one wanted to make the first move. They knew that whoever moved first would immediately become the target of others, leading to attacks from all sides. This was not a wise approach.

Seeing them hesitate one by one, unwilling to act, Ling Chen couldn't help but find it boring. At this point, why waste time? He was still waiting to watch the drama unfold. A chaotic battle among Earthly List experts would definitely be a rare spectacle.

As he contemplated, Ling Chen suddenly heard Wang Hao speak, "Everyone, I found the item first."

"So what?" Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang said coldly, "The organizers didn't specify that whoever finds it first gets it. Respect is given to the strong; whoever has the harder fists will claim this item."

Chapter 852 - 857: Bullying with Power

Wang Hao looked at Tian Ji Jiang with a faint smile, saying lightly, "You're quite right, but let me remind you. In my eyes, you don't qualify as a true formidable foe." As he said this, Wang Hao swept his gaze over everyone present and announced, "Let me lay it out clearly from the start, if anyone dares to fight me for this item, don't blame me for being harsh."

Hearing this, Gong Xiong sneered, "Wang Hao, are you trying to intimidate us by flaunting the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

"No matter what you think. In short, I must take this item with me." With that, Wang Hao flicked his wrist, and a soft sword coiled around his waist instantly appeared in his hand.

Seeing Wang Hao's determined stance, everyone exchanged glances, their expressions somewhat grim. If it were just Wang Hao, they wouldn't be afraid at all. But the involvement of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion made them reconsider the consequences.

Moreover, judging by Wang Hao's tone, he was determined to get the item, and whoever dared to compete with him might be retaliated against by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion afterward. Furthermore, they were all Earthly List experts, fully aware of Wang Hao's status in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. Being so young and already on the Earthly List, he must be a key protege of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. It's best not to provoke such a person.

"Wang Hao!" Tian Ji Jiang shouted coldly, "If you have the skills, speak with strength. Bullying others by relying on the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion? What kind of hero does that make you?"

"I remember the hosts said that as long as we don't take lives, any means are allowed, without restrictions. So tell me, did I misunderstand that, or did you all not comprehend it?"

As soon as he said this, everyone suddenly fell silent, not knowing how to retort.

Indeed, the hosts didn't restrict means. If you had the capability, you could also use your background to intimidate opponents. But the problem is, no matter how powerful their background was, it couldn't surpass the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

For a moment, Gong Xiong and others hesitated, unable to make a decision regarding Wang Hao. For them, winning would indeed be great. But to offend the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for victory was clearly an unwise choice.

Seeing the crowd still not making a move, Ling Chen touched his nose, a cold gleam in his eyes reminiscent of Mo Che.

If he hadn't seen it himself, Ling Chen would find it hard to believe that Wang Hao would bully to win; it really wasn't his style. To be honest, Ling Chen disdained Wang Hao's actions. Since he participated to compete, he should win with his own skills, so why resort to such tactics? It's disgraceful.

"Very well!" Seeing no one obstructing him, Wang Hao slightly curled his lips and walked straight towards the golden statue in the center of the arena.

Seeing Wang Hao embrace the golden statue and stride away, everyone couldn't help but take a few steps forward. But just then, Wang Hao swiftly turned around, forcing the crowd that had pursued him to retreat.

"Everyone, consider this a favor I owe today. If there's a chance in the future, I'll repay it doubly."

Hearing this, everyone's expressions softened significantly, and the sharpness in their eyes gradually faded. If Wang Hao had left with the item without saying anything, everyone would certainly feel displeased. But with Wang Hao's words, they felt much more at ease.

What is the most esteemed trait among martial artists? It's nothing more than the word 'favor.'

Of course, this 'favor' also depends on the recipient. Wang Hao was from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and was a prominent figure among the new generation in the Pavilion, with limitless potential in the future. Maintaining good relations with Wang Hao makes it easy to leverage the mighty tree that is the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Watching Wang Hao's departing figure, Gong Xiong said, "Wang Hao, considering what you just said, I'll give you face this time and won't make things difficult for you. Hope you keep your word and don't forget what you said tonight."

"Everyone can rest assured, I never go back on my word."

With that, Wang Hao had already left far away, disappearing from everyone's sight.

Tsk, tsk!

He actually diffused everything with just a few words. Ling Chen quietly clicked his tongue. Initially expecting a grand brawl, he felt somewhat disappointed that it ended just like that.

However, it also reflected the formidable reputation of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion.

Now, with everyone willingly handing over victory, what meaning does this competition have anymore? Thinking of this, Ling Chen shrugged, suddenly losing interest.

Though Ling Chen also wanted to give it a try and strive for the final victory, it no longer held any significance. The item was in Wang Hao's hands, and Ling Chen knew Wang Hao's strength well. Last time at the Yangxin Pavilion, Ling Chen was lucky enough to beat Wang Hao, largely due to the Blood Dripping Device.

At the moment, without the Blood Dripping Device, even without the Tianling Blade by his side or any other means of support, how could he fight Wang Hao? Besides, Wang Hao was, after all, from the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and since he was on good terms with them, there was no need to oppose Wang Hao.

Forget it, forget it!

Just treat it as wasting three days, experiencing the outdoor life anew.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen stretched, moving back to his temporary bed. With things wrapped up, he just needed a good sleep and then would meet with the hosts the next day.

The next day.

After waking up, Ling Chen saw the time was about right, so he headed alone to the meeting point.

On the way, Ling Chen encountered Gong Xiong and others. Everyone had received Wang Hao's assurance the night before and had already voluntarily given up the competition.

Soon, Ling Chen saw Wang Hao with the golden statue on his back. However, Wang Hao merely glanced at Ling Chen without a word, walking straight past him.

After walking for about half an hour, Ling Chen and the others finally arrived at the assembly point. But to Ling Chen's surprise, apart from them, there was no sign of the hosts.

Strange!

The host's representative clearly said to meet here in three days, yet there's not a soul in sight. Could they have gotten it wrong? But even if he misheard, it's unlikely that everyone else did.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket, intending to call the hosts to inquire.

"The phone can't be connected."

As Ling Chen was about to dial, he heard others around him say.

"I tried too, no one from the host's side is answering."

"How is this possible? Didn't they say we'd meet here? Even if the location was to change, they should have sent someone to inform us in advance," an elderly man complained.

Ling Chen put away his phone and looked around. When they came, they had taken several electric carts, but now not even one could be seen.

Something is off about this situation.

Ling Chen thought to himself. There's a saying that unusual things often have hidden reasons. Based on his years of experience, Ling Chen felt something was wrong. The hosts couldn't be this irresponsible. Also, even if the hosts didn't care, He Ziyun would never leave him. Yet now, even He Ziyun was missing, which certainly indicated trouble.

Chapter 853 - 858: Encountering the Supernatural

"Let's go. Since we can't contact the organizers, we might as well walk back directly." Someone realized something was off and immediately suggested.

The group had no choice; without electric cars, they could only rely on their own two legs. Riding the electric car didn't make it seem as if the back mountain was far from the villa cluster, but walking would take at least over forty minutes. Fortunately, everyone practiced martial arts, possessing exceptional skills and physical strength. For ordinary people, it might take an hour and a half to cover the distance.

As they got closer to the villa cluster, everyone quickened their pace, arriving one after the other at the entrance of the villa cluster. Upon arrival, Ling Chen discovered that all the entrances and exits of the villa cluster were sealed, the gates locked, and there was not a single security guard in the security room.

Ling Chen clearly remembered that when they left, at least three security guards were responsible for watching this entrance and exit, but at this moment there was no one, not even the gate was left unsealed.

Could something really have happened?

Thinking of this, the uneasiness in Ling Chen's heart grew stronger.

Watching the others climb over the gate, Ling Chen couldn't help but remind, "Everyone, be careful, there's something strange going on."

"What are you afraid of," Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang replied indifferently, "We have so many experts here, even if something happens, we're not afraid." After saying that, he disregarded Ling Chen's warning and walked straight in.

Seeing the group heading towards the villa cluster, Ling Chen sighed helplessly. He was just kindly reminding everyone to avoid danger later, but they took his good intentions for granted.

Trailing behind the group, Ling Chen walked step by step to the villa where he stayed.

At the villa entrance, Ling Chen looked at the closed door, knocked, but there was no response from inside.

An empty room?

Ling Chen frowned slightly, looking at the other villas. The situation was the same; it seemed as if all the villas had been emptied, not a single person in sight.

Apart from the guests staying in the villas, each villa was equipped with two attendants and a chef, who were supposed to be present at all times. It was impossible for them all to vanish.

After more than ten minutes, the scattered group gathered together again.

"I searched everywhere on my side, not a single person."

"Same here, seems like we've seen everything, not even a shadow."

"It's really bizarre. In just a few days, where did everyone run off to?"

"Something's wrong!" Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang looked at the group and said solemnly, "Something must have happened. I instructed my disciples to stay obediently in the villa and wait for my return. My disciples have never disobeyed my words, but when I went to the villa just now, there wasn't a single person. Also, it seems our phone signals are jammed. Except for the villa cluster's phones, we can't get through to any other calls."

Hearing this, Ling Chen immediately took out his phone and tried to call Hu Fei's number. But, just as Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang mentioned, the system prompted that the call could not be connected. However, when he dialed He Ziyun's number, the call went through, but no one answered.

Gong Xiong said coldly, "Can anyone tell me what exactly is happening here?"

"Old Gong, isn't that just nonsense? If we knew, it would be better. Right now, everyone is in the dark, not knowing what's happening."

"Everyone," Ling Chen glanced at the people present and spoke, "What Master Tian said just now is correct. Something certainly happened to the organizers and our people. However, their phones can be reached, which means they are still in the villa cluster, just temporarily we are unaware of their whereabouts."

Hearing this, Gong Xiong asked, "Then what do you suggest we do?"

"Whether there are any grudges in our hearts or not, it's best for us to work together now, not to panic. Whoever the opponent is, if they could quietly control the entire villa area, it means they are formidable. If I'm not wrong, our every move should be under their surveillance right now."

"You mean someone is monitoring us? Where!"

Ling Chen pointed to the surveillance cameras around them and said, "Since those people have controlled the villa area, they must have also taken over the entire security system. If we want to take action, it's best to first blind their eyes, so they can't see us. I suggest..."

"Enough!" At this moment, Wang Hao, who had been silent, suddenly interrupted and said, "Everyone, the situation is very clear now. We have been invaded by unknown enemies, and our friends and others have fallen into their hands. Only by uniting our strength and joining forces do we have a chance to rescue them. Currently, we have eleven people in total. Listen to my plan: two people form a group and try to destroy the monitoring in the villa area. In fifteen minutes, gather back here. Any objections?"

"No problem. There's no time to lose; let's act swiftly."

As they spoke, the group quickly divided into teams, two people per team. However, since there were only eleven people, someone was bound to be left out. Unfortunately, that person was Ling Chen.

Watching everyone disperse without anyone paying attention to him, Ling Chen touched his nose and laughed indifferently.

It seemed they thought he was too young and weak, so no one wanted to team up with him.

However, Ling Chen wasn't angry about this, but rather about Wang Hao. He was speaking just fine, but that guy forcibly took over his speech, acting like he was the leader here. Such rude behavior annoyed Ling Chen.

Fine!

Since no one wanted to collaborate with him, he wasn't going to bother doing the hard work either.

Looking around, Ling Chen's gaze immediately locked on a villa not far away. That villa was next to his, the residence of the mysterious old man. Ling Chen had previously found it strange that the old man's capabilities had reached the state of Unity of Heaven and Man. If an external enemy invaded, the old man should be able to handle it with his skills.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen quickened his pace and headed straight for that villa.

Arriving at the villa's entrance, Ling Chen knocked on the door and found it ajar, not locked from the inside.

Pushing the door open, Ling Chen cautiously stepped in, eyes vigilant, listening for any movements around. Entering the living room, Ling Chen's face suddenly changed.

The spacious and bright living room was in complete disarray, a scene of devastation, with tables and chairs smashed, wood fragments scattered all over.

Seeing this, Ling Chen immediately retreated to the kitchen adjacent to the living room, picking up two knives on the fly. From the traces on the scene, it was clear that there had been a fight here. Not only that, but both sides were very strong, resulting in cracks all over the walls and doors.

After checking the first floor of the villa, Ling Chen found no suspicious characters. So, he continued up the stairs to the second floor.

Thud!

Just at that moment, a light noise suddenly came from a bedroom on the second floor.

Ling Chen's gaze narrowed slightly, gripping the knives tighter, then quickly stepped to the bedroom's door.

Chapter 854 - 859: The Chef

Hearing the suspicious sounds from the bedroom, Ling Chen instantly became alert, gripping two knives as he cautiously approached the bedroom door. Listening to the noises coming from inside, he took a deep breath, grasped the doorknob with one hand, and gently pushed the door open.

As the door swung open, Ling Chen swiftly charged in, rolled on the ground, and dashed to the window, pressing his back against it, and quickly scanning the room. Surprisingly, there was no one in the spacious room.

Something's not right! Ling Chen slightly furrowed his brows. He definitely heard sounds from inside when he was outside.

Could I have heard wrong?

Impossible. Ling Chen deeply trusted his ears. Especially after undergoing special training with Yang Chen, his hearing became incredibly sharp; he couldn't have misheard.

In that moment, Ling Chen focused his gaze on the wardrobe in the room. The wardrobe was two meters tall and three meters wide, enough to hide several people.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen spoke, "Come out, I know you're hiding in there."

His words dropped, yet there was still no movement inside the wardrobe, not a single sound. Seeing this, Ling Chen said in a stern voice, "Not coming out, huh? In that case, don't blame me for being rude." With that, Ling Chen flicked his wrist, and the knife in his hand flew out, embedding itself in the wardrobe door with the tip piercing through.

"This is just a warning. I'll count to three. If you don't appear, my next knife won't miss."

"No, don't kill me!"

Just as Ling Chen finished speaking, he heard a plea from inside the wardrobe. Soon after, the wardrobe door opened, and a pale-faced man in a chef's outfit emerged, looking fearfully at Ling Chen.

"I... I don't know anything. Please, don't kill me, spare my life," the man pleaded as he dropped to his knees with a thud.

Examining the man's attire, Ling Chen asked, "Are you a chef?"

"Yes, yes," the man replied hastily. "I am the exclusive chef for this villa, only know how to cook."

Ling Chen nodded. The man's expression didn't seem fake, and his chef's clothes were stained with oil. His hands, too, were calloused from handling kitchen knives. From these observations, the man shouldn't be lying.

After confirming the chef's identity, Ling Chen sheathed his knife and asked, "Since you're the villa's chef, you should know what happened here. Tell me everything you saw and heard."

"Yes." The chef didn't dare to delay and honestly recounted the events.

After listening to the chef's account, Ling Chen frowned even more deeply.

Who would have thought, really unexpected, that those guys would resort to such despicable means.

Just last night, the entire villa was attacked by men in black. The assault lasted from midnight until three in the morning.

At that moment, the chef got up for a late-night bathroom break and narrowly escaped being captured. Moreover, he witnessed two masters dueling in the living room.

Thinking about the mysterious old man's strength, Ling Chen couldn't help but feel curious about who had the credentials to confront that enigmatic elder. If nothing else, that person must have been a Heavenly List master.

Quickly processing his thoughts, Ling Chen asked, "You said earlier that the intruder was defeated?"

"Yes," the chef quickly replied. "That intruder was indeed formidable, but even he wasn't a match for the old master. The fight had barely begun when the old master injured him. Initially, the old master wanted to apprehend him, but unfortunately, those people captured the old master's granddaughter at a critical moment. Concerned for his granddaughter's safety, the old master had no choice but to comply and leave with them."

"Granddaughter?" Ling Chen asked. "Does the old master really have a granddaughter? Do you know who she is?"

"Of course I know. The old master's granddaughter is named Tong Ye."

"It's her?" Ling Chen was instantly surprised. He was well aware of who Tong Ye was but hadn't expected her to be the granddaughter of that mysterious elder.

Right!

He Ziyun had previously told him that the Martial Arts symposium was initiated by Tong Ye's grandfather. Moreover, her grandfather held a high status in the Martial Arts World, parallel to Su He. No wonder the elder could achieve Unity of Heaven and Man; he had a distinguished background.

However, what Ling Chen couldn't understand was why someone would do such a thing.

"Do you know where they're being held?"

"I'm not sure," the chef said. "After the incident, I stayed hidden in the bedroom, fearing to go out, so I don't know much about outside events."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen pondered a moment before continuing to ask, "I believe they're still in the villa area. Since you're the chef here, you're probably familiar with the surroundings. Let me ask you, is there a hidden, spacious area here?"

"A hidden place..." The chef scratched his head, thinking. After a while, he seemed to recall something and quickly said, "I know a place. It's the villa area's warehouse, built in the basement. The space there is large, with everything stored there."

"Tell me the location."

"Alright."

Leaving the villa, Ling Chen went alone to the rendezvous point. By then, the team sent to disable the surveillance cameras had returned in succession, gathering to discuss the rescue strategy.

Not long after, Wang Hao and another middle-aged man returned as well.

"Wang Hao, we've destroyed all the villa's surveillance cameras. They can't monitor us. What do you think we should do now?"

Before Wang Hao could speak, an elder interjected, "I say, we should call the police and let them handle it."

"Agreed, I think so too. Times have changed. It's not the time for individual heroics. Besides, if they have guns, what then? Are we going to block bullets with our bodies?" someone in the crowd chimed in.

"Hmph! As practitioners of Martial Arts, if we can't even resolve this, relying on others, then all our skills go to waste. Matters of the Martial Arts World should be settled within. Since they've dared to act recklessly, let's confront them and see what they truly are capable of."

Seeing the group in disagreement, Wang Hao glanced around at the crowd, and slowly spoke, "Alright, everyone, quiet down and listen to me for a moment."

With Wang Hao speaking, the crowd immediately fell silent, focusing their attention on him. He continued, "There's no need to argue over this. Why not consider both options?"

"Wang Hao, what do you mean?"

Chapter 855 - 860: Exclusion

"It's simple, we can send someone outside to call the police. Before the police arrive, why don't we try and see if we can rescue those people? What does everyone think?"

"Not bad. I think this suggestion is very good." As soon as Wang Hao finished speaking, someone immediately agreed.

"I think so too. But who do you think is suitable to call the police?"

Wang Hao smiled slightly and scanned the people with his eyes, finally locking onto Ling Chen.

Feeling Wang Hao's gaze, Ling Chen frowned slightly. Could it be that this guy wants me to go out and call the police? While pondering, he heard Wang Hao say, "There's no danger in calling the police, so why not let the weakest among us go, everyone agree?"

"Okay."

Everyone nodded and then focused their eyes on Ling Chen. Among these people, Ling Chen was the youngest. In their view, even though Ling Chen's strength had reached the Earthly List, he was still considered the weakest among them. So, letting Ling Chen call the police was undoubtedly the best choice.

Ling Chen touched his nose, shrugged, and said, "Since everyone has nominated me, I'll go and call the police." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Another thing, I just found a survivor in the villa over there. According to the clues he provided, others might be locked in the underground warehouse in the northeast of the villa area. If you want to rescue them, you can go and have a look there."

Wang Hao said unhappily, "Why didn't you tell us such important information earlier?"

"Didn't I just say?" Ling Chen replied, "I was just suspecting they were locked in the warehouse, you guys..."

"Enough!" Before Ling Chen could finish, Wang Hao impatiently cut him off, "Don't worry about these things, we know what to do. You just focus on your part. Everyone, let's go!"

With that, Wang Hao led the group straight to the northeast of the villa area.

Watching Wang Hao and others leave, Ling Chen smiled to himself. Not letting him go, he was just as happy not to. There was bound to be a fight. However, what bothered Ling Chen the most was Wang Hao's attitude. That guy acted so bossy, as if he really thought of himself as the leader, requiring everyone to follow his arrangements.

If it weren't for Ling Chen's suggestion and information, Wang Hao wouldn't have made those arrangements.

Forget it! Why bother with someone like him?

Adjusting his mood, Ling Chen immediately headed out of the villa. Since the surveillance cameras in the villa had been destroyed, Ling Chen wasn't afraid of being secretly watched. Not long after, he reached the villa's exit.

Seeing the sealed gate, Ling Chen climbed over the nearby wall. Reaching the closest road, Ling Chen took out his phone and dialed the emergency number. Indeed, after leaving the villa's shielded area, the phone could be used normally.

After calling the police, Ling Chen put away his phone and turned back towards the villa area. No way could he ignore He Ziyun's uncertain whereabouts; he couldn't remain indifferent while knowing He Ziyun might be in danger.

At this moment, outside the villa's warehouse, Wang Hao and the others hid on both sides of the corridor, observing the surroundings of the warehouse.

After a while, Wang Hao gestured to Gong Xiong and others nearby. Immediately, the group split into two teams and swiftly approached the warehouse door.

The warehouse door was made of steel plates, locked with a large lock from the outside. However, they noticed that the iron lock had been destroyed and discarded casually on the ground.

"Everyone, be careful." Wang Hao instructed, then suddenly kicked the iron door open and rushed inside.

Simultaneously, Gong Xiong, Heavenly Mechanism Jijiang, and others followed closely, rushing into the warehouse together.

However, the moment they entered the warehouse, blinding lights suddenly shone upon them. Instantly, everyone raised their hands to block the light, instinctively closing their eyes, not daring to face the glaring lights directly.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I advise you to be smart and surrender quietly without making futile resistance."

As the voice sounded, Wang Hao's expression changed slightly, he shouted coldly, "Who are you?" As he spoke, he struggled to open his eyes to see the speaker. But under the blinding light, Wang Hao's vision was hindered, everything was blurry, and only a vague human silhouette could barely be made out.

Gritting his teeth, Wang Hao tapped his toe lightly, and his body instantly rushed forward.

Bang!

Suddenly, a gust of wind hit, and before Wang Hao could react, he felt a pain in his abdomen, and his body flew backward, landing heavily on the ground.

From start to finish, Wang Hao never found the attacker's whereabouts. Not only him, but even the others didn't notice. The blinding lights were too intense, with visibility less than a meter.

"Ladies and gentlemen, I suggest you be more sensible and stop resisting." The voice rang out again.

Gong Xiong snorted coldly, shouted, "What's with the chatter, just take them out."

As Gong Xiong's words fell, without hesitation, everyone dashed towards the edge of the light, trying to escape the intense beams.

"Hmph! A bunch of clueless folks, since you asked for it, don't blame us for being rude. Fire!"

At the command, a series of 'whoosh whoosh' sounds cut through the air from above.

Before anyone could see clearly what it was, they felt as though their bodies were pierced by arrows, the pain was excruciating. Moreover, as the pain spread, they found their limbs inexplicably weak, unable to even stand.

In the blink of an eye, seven or eight people had fallen to the ground, leaving only a few with stronger abilities struggling to hold out. However, they didn't last long before collapsing, unable to move.

Once everyone had lost their ability to move, the glaring lights were finally turned off, and everyone's vision gradually recovered.

At that moment, around the warehouse, dozens of people were squatting — chefs of the villa, waitstaff, event organizers, security, and others who had come for the martial arts seminar.

Everyone's hands were bound behind their backs, feet tied with ropes, and mouths gagged, unable to speak.

Seeing this scene, Wang Hao's face turned incredibly grim. They originally intended to rescue these people, but instead, ended up trapping themselves.

He never imagined the opponent would use this strategy against them.

Miscalculation! A huge miscalculation!

If only he had known, he wouldn't have led everyone rushing in so hastily, unprepared.

However, rather than calling it a miscalculation, it was more about Wang Hao's own lack of capability. Even though Wang Hao was powerful, his experience in this area was zero, incomparable to Ling Chen.

Chapter 856 - 861: Falling Into the Trap

"I've warned you all long ago, surrender obediently, but you just wouldn't listen and insisted on bringing this upon yourselves."

The voice came through, and everyone turned to look. The speaker was an old man with white hair and a small patch of silver beard. At this moment, the old man stood with his hands behind his back, looking coldly at Wang Hao and the others.

"You are..." Gong Xiong scrutinized the old man, a trace of doubt flashing in his eyes. After pondering for a while, Gong Xiong seemed to recall something, his face suddenly changed, surprised, "I remember now, you're Ji Gang!"

Ji Gang sneered and said, "I didn't realize there are people among you who recognize me. Since you know my identity, you'd better behave, don't force me to do it myself." After speaking, Ji Gang waved his large hand and lightly commanded, "Tie them all up."

"Yes."

A few men responded and quickly walked towards the group with ropes in their hands.

Before long, Wang Hao and his team were tightly bound with ropes and tossed into the corner of the warehouse.

Hmph!

Gong Xiong looked coldly at Wang Hao, though his mouth was gagged, it did not prevent him from expressing his discontent in other ways. Besides Gong Xiong, others also looked at Wang Hao with a face full of complaints.

Wang Hao was the organizer of the operation. Since problems occurred, Wang Hao naturally had to take primary responsibility. If it weren't for his hasty decision to act, they wouldn't have easily fallen into the trap.

Facing the dissatisfied gazes of everyone, Wang Hao lowered his head, pretending not to see, pondering something alone.

At this moment, outside the warehouse, Ling Chen stood at the tightly closed door, glanced at the fallen iron lock on the ground, and immediately stepped back, hiding in the corner.

So much time has passed, and there's been no movement inside the warehouse, indicating that Wang Hao and the others might be in trouble.

Under such circumstances, entering through the front door of the warehouse is absolutely inadvisable; it would only make oneself a live target. Plus, who knows what kind of traps might be behind the door.

Ling Chen, with his rich combat experience, knew well that without absolute certainty or at least fifty percent confidence, it was best not to act rashly. Doing so would only put oneself in danger.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen's eyes lit up; he quickly left the entrance of the underground warehouse.

Returning to the surface, Ling Chen looked around, memorizing the surrounding environment, then carefully examined the nearby lawn.

There had to be ventilation systems in the underground warehouse; since it was built underground, the other end of the vent must be on the surface.

After searching for over ten minutes, Ling Chen finally found one of the ventilation outlets. He removed the cover, measured the width of the vent. It wasn't very wide but barely enough to accommodate a small-bodied adult.

Ling Chen's physique was standard, this vent was just right for him to squeeze through. Although it was a bit tight, there was no other way; this was the only entrance apart from the main door, he had to go in from here.

Creeping into the vent, Ling Chen's chest and back were tightly pressed against the upper and lower surfaces of the duct, his hands constantly reaching forward, propelling his body forward.

The ventilation duct was over ten meters long, Ling Chen crawled for a full five minutes. The space was too narrow, making it hard to stretch; and he didn't want to make noise, letting those in the warehouse hear.

When Ling Chen crawled to the other end of the duct, his forehead was already covered with sweat.

Taking a breath, Ling Chen looked down through the vent cover, seeing more than a dozen people tied with ropes, sitting against the wall, motionless.

Because the cover was only so big, Ling Chen's sight was limited, he could only see this many people.

Lying in the duct, Ling Chen adjusted his breathing while listening to the sounds inside the warehouse. After a few minutes, he gently lifted the cover of the vent, then poked his head out.

Seeing Ling Chen's head emerge from the vent, the people below were instantly startled.

Ling Chen, fearing they might speak up and expose his position, hurriedly made a silent gesture, signaling everyone not to speak.

After that, Ling Chen cautiously jumped down from the vent, closed the cover again to avoid detection.

Glancing around and making sure no enemies were coming, Ling Chen quickly walked to a man's side and removed the gag from his mouth.

"Hey man, where are the others?"

"They're all on the other side of the warehouse."

Ling Chen nodded and asked, "Do you know how many enemies there are?"

"I don't know, but I saw over twenty people."

"Over twenty?" Ling Chen thought to himself. This number might not be complete, there are at least seventy or eighty people in the villa, to control all these, at least fifty people should be mobilized.

"You guys stay here for now, I'll go check over there." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen reassured, "Don't worry, I've already called the police, they'll definitely safely get you all out."

"Thank you!" The man said gratefully.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, patting the man's shoulder, "Don't thank me now, wait until you're rescued then thank me." With that, Ling Chen again stuffed the rag back into the man's mouth.

The warehouse was massive, covering a thousand square meters, segmented into several areas, used for storing different items.

According to what the man said earlier, the others should be held next door.

Soon, two fully armed men appeared in Ling Chen's sight.

Seeing their gear, Ling Chen's heart sank.

God Organization!

He was too familiar with the attire of the God Organization, he certainly wouldn't mistake it. Probably only a force like God Organization could control an entire villa area.

Now it was trouble.

Ling Chen secretly cursed. If it's the God Organization, surely there are experts with them. Moreover, there's certainly a Heavenly List expert among them.

Ji Gang!

Besides him, Ling Chen couldn't think of anyone else.

If he encounters Ji Gang here, he's done for. No way around it, the guy's a genuine Heavenly List expert, what could he, an Earthly List specialist, use to fight him?

Right!

A sudden idea struck Ling Chen's mind.

Weren't they using Tong Ye to threaten Tong Ye's grandfather? Since that's the case, they should be here too. As long as he could rescue Tong Ye's grandfather, he'd have a strong ally. By then, he wouldn't have to fear Ji Gang at all.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen quietly retreated to the side, observing the patrol movements of the two guards.

After a few minutes, seizing the moment when the two guards were inattentive, Ling Chen silently slid to their rear. Before they could react, Ling Chen struck swiftly, punching hard.

Suddenly, there were two muffled grunts, both guards fell to the ground, unconscious.

After dealing with the guards, Ling Chen dared not delay, hurriedly dragged them aside, then used debris from the warehouse to conceal their bodies, to prevent discovery.

Chapter 857 - 862: Heavenly List Elder (1)

Putting on the uniform of the enemy guard, Ling Chen tried his best to cover his face to avoid being recognized by the people of the God Organization. There was no choice, he was quite the 'celebrity' in the God Organization, probably not many who didn't know him.

With a guard's uniform, Ling Chen's movements became much more convenient, at least he could move around the warehouse openly. Others noticed his presence, just glanced casually, not taking much time for a closer look. After wandering in the warehouse for a while, Ling Chen found a small, separate room.

Two people were guarding outside the small room, although he couldn't get close, Ling Chen could still hear the voices coming from inside, as if two or three people were talking, but it was not very clear due to the distance.

Having just wandered around the warehouse area and found no sign of Tong Ye's grandfather's whereabouts, he figured he was likely confined inside that room.

At that moment, Ling Chen found a concealed place and quietly observed. After about five minutes, the door to the small room was pushed open from the inside. Immediately, an old man walked out from within.

Seeing the person, Ling Chen reflexively shrunk back a little.

Ji Gang!

It really was that guy.

Since Ji Gang came out of the small room, ten to one, Tong Ye's grandfather was inside. Watching as Ji Gang left, Ling Chen was about to head towards the small room. With Ji Gang gone, it was the best opportunity to make a move. After a few steps, Ling Chen's steps halted slightly, a flash of hesitation flickered in his bright pupils.

After two or three seconds, Ling Chen, who was originally heading towards the small room, suddenly chose to give up the action, retreating back to his original position.

Ling Chen just realized that even if he rescued Tong Ye's grandfather, it would be of no use. As long as Tong Ye was still in the hands of the God Organization, her grandfather would be threatened. Therefore, before rescuing Tong Ye's grandfather, he must rescue Tong Ye first.

However, Ling Chen had searched the warehouse and didn't find any trace of Tong Ye, nor did he know where the God Organization had confined her.

Forget it! Let's search once more, maybe something was overlooked earlier.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen turned and left, continuing to search for Tong Ye's whereabouts in the warehouse.

As he searched, suddenly, a man walked out from not far away, waved at Ling Chen, and urged, "You, quickly come here."

Ling Chen was slightly stunned and instinctively prepared to leave, but he quickly realized that he was currently impersonating a member of the God Organization. If he left, it would certainly arouse the other's suspicion.

"What are you still dawdling for, come over quickly." Seeing Ling Chen not responding for a long time, the man couldn't help but urge again.

"Coming!" Ling Chen replied in a low voice.

Upon coming closer, the man glanced at Ling Chen, not examining him closely. Moreover, Ling Chen deliberately lowered his head, making it unclear.

"Follow me."

With that, the man led Ling Chen directly towards the north wall of the warehouse. When Ling Chen was almost at the north wall, he suddenly noticed many boxes stacked in front, layer upon layer, like a wall, partitioning off an independent space. So there was this place, how did I not notice it before?

As he thought, Ling Chen followed the man behind the boxes and saw a small space with a chair, on which sat a person; it was Tong Ye. At this moment, Tong Ye was tied to the chair with her hands behind her back, with a guard specifically responsible for monitoring her.

The man pointed at Tong Ye and instructed, "You two take her out, there's a car waiting outside."

"Understood."

Ling Chen nodded in agreement, secretly laughing. What a windfall, he was just thinking of finding Tong Ye, and unexpectedly she fell into his lap so readily.

At that moment, with the cooperation of another guard, Ling Chen escorted Tong Ye out of the warehouse.

Not long after, the three of them made their way through to the outside of the warehouse unimpeded. Upon reaching the surface, Ling Chen immediately saw a Mercedes-Benz van parked by the roadside.

Seeing Ling Chen and the others approaching, the door of the van was immediately opened, and a man in a suit jumped out from the back seat, indicating towards the car, "Put her in."

Upon reaching the Mercedes-Benz van, Ling Chen glanced inside; apart from the man in the suit, there was only a driver. Just three people, easy to handle.

Once everyone was in the vehicle, the door shut, and the body of the Mercedes-Benz van suddenly shook. After more than ten seconds, it finally calmed down. Then, the engine roared to life, and it quickly dashed towards the villa gate.

Five minutes later.

A person came rushing outside the warehouse door, directly crashing open the tightly shut door, then collapsed to the ground.

Seeing the fully armed man lying on the ground, with bloodstains, the few guards at the door immediately rushed over and asked, "What happened?"

The man raised his trembling hand, pointed outside, and weakly said, "Outside... outside someone... hijacking..." After speaking, the man tilted his head and fainted on the ground, unconscious.

"Quick, notify the top, we're under attack outside."

"Understood!" A guard quickly took out a walkie-talkie, reporting the situation to the top.

In a short while, more than twenty fully armed guards formed two teams, hurriedly heading out of the warehouse.

As the footsteps gradually faded away, the previously unnoticed fainted man slowly lifted his head, glanced around, then smiled lightly to himself, getting up from the ground.

Those guys are really easy to fool, believing just one or two random words. Ling Chen thought to himself.

Now, with half of the guards in the warehouse dispatched, it became much easier for Ling Chen to move. It wasn't long before Ling Chen found He Ziyun, who was trapped among the crowd.

"Ling Chen?" He Ziyun was surprised, not expecting to see Ling Chen here.

"Mr. He, don't ask too much right now." Saying this, Ling Chen cut the ropes binding He Ziyun with a dagger, then handed the dagger to him, instructing, "Wait for the right moment, let everyone else free, I have other matters to attend to, I'll leave this to you."

After giving his instructions, Ling Chen didn't stay longer, immediately heading to the other side of the warehouse. His time was extremely tight; though he managed to lure away half of the guards, it wouldn't delay for too long, he needed to complete his task quickly.

In no time, Ling Chen found Wang Hao, Gong Xiong, and the others trapped in a corner. These were the Earthly List masters; he would need their help quite a bit later, he had to rescue them first.

Seeing the fully armed Ling Chen, everyone was slightly stunned, looking at Ling Chen in surprise, "How are you here?"

"I was worried about you all, so I came back after calling the police." As he explained, Ling Chen untied the ropes on everyone.

"Everyone, stay here for now, don't rush to leave, wait for my signal to make a move." Ling Chen seriously instructed them.

Chapter 858 - 863: Heavenly List Elder (2)

Wang Hao glanced at Ling Chen and asked indifferently, "What are we waiting for? We're all here, why not charge out together?"

"Charge out?" Ling Chen retorted angrily, "Wang Hao, do you think you're that capable? Fine, if you're so confident in yourself, then leave Ji Gang outside to you. As long as you can hold Ji Gang back, I'll follow you without hesitating."

Upon hearing this, Wang Hao's expression changed slightly, and he swallowed the words that were about to come out of his mouth. Although he believed his own skills weren't weak, facing a master from the Heavenly List was still beyond his courage.

"Enough!" At this moment, Gong Xiong spoke up from the side, "Everyone listen to Ling Chen, I think he's more reliable." As he said this, Gong Xiong shot an unpleasant look at Wang Hao, clearly unhappy with Wang Hao's previous actions.

Feeling the discontent in Gong Xiong's gaze, Wang Hao frowned slightly, a hint of coldness flashing in his eyes, and his look towards Ling Chen became more hostile.

"I'm going first. Remember, wait for my signal."

After splitting up with Gong Xiong and the others, Ling Chen returned to the outside of the small house again. Waiting quietly for a moment, seeing that Ji Gang didn't appear, Ling Chen picked up the electric baton in his hand and quickly walked towards the small house's door.

"Stop!" The two guards at the door saw Ling Chen approaching, immediately reached out to stop him, and asked in a deep voice, "What are you doing?"

Ling Chen glanced over them, and without another word, directly swung the electric baton in his hand over.

Bam! Bam!

Two muffled sounds, and the two guards at the door immediately fell to the ground unconscious.

After dealing with the guards, Ling Chen quickly pushed open the small room's door and rushed inside.

Just as Ling Chen had anticipated, on a single folding bed inside the room lay an old man, Tong Ye's grandfather. However, the old man had his eyes tightly shut and his breathing was steady, as if in a deep sleep. Next to the folding bed was an IV stand with several fluid bottles hanging from it, all fluids converging through conduits and flowing into the old man's body.

Looking at those bottles of fluid, Ling Chen didn't think twice, and directly pulled the conduits out from the old man's body.

"Old man." Ling Chen lightly patted the old man's cheek and called out a few times by his ear, but the old man seemed unconscious, with no reaction.

Ling Chen had no choice, so he decided to use a bit more force, patting the old man's cheeks with a loud smack. After a while, seeing the old man still unresponsive, Ling Chen sighed helplessly, had to help the old man up from the bed, then carried him on his back and strode towards the outside.

Since the elderly man couldn't wake up now, he'd have to take him away first to avoid being discovered by Ji Gang later.

However, things often come as you fear. Just as Ling Chen stepped out of the door, he saw Ji Gang leading several followers coming over from a distance.

As their eyes met, Ji Gang's gaze instantly turned cold and he shouted, "Ling, you've got a lot of nerve to dare cause trouble here. Men, capture him for me!"

With this command, the several men behind Ji Gang immediately took action, swiftly closing in on Ling Chen, who was immediately enveloped by layers of encirclement, with nowhere to retreat.

"Ling Chen, I advise you to surrender willingly, don't make it difficult for yourself."

Hearing this, Ling Chen frowned slightly, his gaze sweeping over each of the men.

He wasn't afraid of these guys; it was just that with Ji Gang supervising nearby, even if he dealt with these small fries, he wouldn't be able to break through Ji Gang's defenses.

Troublesome!

What should I do now?

While pondering, one of the men swung a fist and rushed forward, the fierce punch force bursting forth, straight towards Ling Chen's face.

How formidable!

Ling Chen's pupils contracted slightly, he hurriedly retreated two steps, avoiding the blow of the opponent's fist.

The man in front of him had strength that definitely rivaled a master from the Earthly List, no wonder he was sent to subdue him, it turned out this guy was also a master.

In a quick turn of thought, Ling Chen dared not think more, the Nine Yang Qiankun Step was instantly executed, his body light as a swallow, stepping over stars, dodging the attacks of many with agile footwork.

Relying on the flexibility of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen narrowly escaped danger several times, without being hit by enemies.

Watching Ling Chen's movement technique, Ji Gang, who was observing from the side, frowned slightly, a sharp look flashing in his eyes.

"Stop it, all of you!"

Upon hearing Ji Gang's shout, the men immediately stopped, pushing aside to enlarge the encirclement.

"Ling Chen, let me ask you, what's your relationship with Su He?"

"Why should I tell you?"

"Hmph! Not going to say, huh? No problem, even if you don't say, I can guess. The Nine Yang Qiankun Step is Su He's exclusive Absolute Skill, never passed on except to his direct disciples. Ling Chen, I never thought Su He would be your master. I always thought that old Su He was dead. Tell me, where is Su He?"

"You want to know where my master is? Fine, as long as you let us go, I'll tell you right away. How about that?"

"Ling Chen!" Ji Gang said coldly, "I see you're refusing a toast only to be forced to drink a forfeit. Alright, since you refuse to listen to reason, don't blame me for being impolite." With that, Ji Gang gestured and said in a deep voice, "Remember, don't kill him, he is of great use to me."

"Yes!"

The men nodded, without hesitation, they attacked again, pressing closer and instantly compressing Ling Chen's space to within a meter.

Having seen Ling Chen's Nine Yang Qiankun Step, the men cooperated very tactically, deliberately forming an encirclement, sealing all around, squeezing Ling Chen's activity space little by little, so his Nine Yang Qiankun Step couldn't be fully utilized.

Sensing the opponent's strategy, Ling Chen felt bad. If this continued, he would inevitably be caught by them. More importantly, he was carrying Tong Ye's grandfather on his back, which was restricting his movement and speed, stopping him from executing his skills fully.

No way, I must find a breakthrough to escape.

The thought had just arisen when Ling Chen felt strong force attacking from his back. Instantly, he staggered forward, losing control of his body.

Bam!

With an elderly man on his back, Ling Chen's balance immediately faltered, causing him to crash heavily to the ground, along with the elderly man rolling down.

Glancing at the unconscious old man, Ling Chen secretly rejoiced. Luckily, if the elderly man hadn't taken the blow for him just now, he would surely have been injured.

"Capture him."

Hearing the approaching footsteps, Ling Chen quickly flipped up from the ground, dashed to the old man's side, and heaved the man back onto his back, then rushed towards the warehouse door.

"Still trying to escape?"

Ji Gang snorted coldly, flicked his wrist slightly and several streaks of cold light shot out, straight at Ling Chen.

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Chapter 859 - 864: Heavenly List Elder (3)

The sound of something cutting through the air reached Ling Chen, and he turned his head to see several flashes of cold light immediately appear in his vision. At the same time, several men who had been pursuing him leapt forward at lightning speed, and in the blink of an eye, they were right behind Ling Chen, launching punches and strikes at him.

Faced with such a dense barrage of attacks, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, standing in place dumbfounded, unable to think of a tactic. With so many attacks, no matter how he responded, he would still be hit by others.

It's over!

This was the only thought in Ling Chen's mind.

At this critical moment, Ling Chen suddenly felt an overwhelming and irresistible force surge towards him. Before he could react, that force propelled his body far away, allowing him to narrowly avoid those attacks.

Immediately after, with a light shout, all the men who had leapt towards him were blown away, landing heavily on the ground.

At this moment, Ling Chen, who had come to his senses, looked intently to see the elder, who had been unconscious earlier, standing steadily on the ground, his posture as upright as an indomitable pine tree.

Finally awake!

Ling Chen secretly sighed in relief. Fortunately, the elder woke up in time; otherwise, he would have surely fallen into Ji Gang's hands.

Seeing the elder intervene, Ji Gang's pupils contracted, and he looked coldly at the elder, saying, "Tong Zhentian, don't forget your granddaughter is still in my hands. If you dare to hurt anyone again, don't blame me for being rude to your granddaughter."

Hearing this, Tong Zhentian frowned slightly, his elderly eyes flickering with hesitation.

"Elder Tong, don't listen to him," Ling Chen quickly spoke up, "Miss Tong Ye is very safe now. I've already rescued her to a safe place."

Tong Zhentian's eyes lit up, and he asked, "You're not lying to me?"

"Elder Tong, I wouldn't dare make up something like this. If you don't believe me, let them bring your granddaughter out for you to see."

Upon hearing this, Tong Zhentian immediately locked his gaze on Ji Gang, saying in a deep voice, "You wanted to use my granddaughter to threaten me, didn't you? Fine, then bring her out for me to see. As long as I confirm her safety, I promise to follow your arrangements and won't harm your subordinates."

Ji Gang bit his teeth and looked at Ling Chen, saying, "Kid, remember this; I will settle this score with you sooner or later."

His words virtually admitted that Tong Ye was not in his hands.

"Let's go!" Ji Gang waved a large hand, preparing to retreat with his men.

"Go? Ji Gang, where do you plan to run?" Tong Zhentian snorted coldly, "As a Heavenly List expert, you resort to such despicable means to threaten me and collude with evil forces like the God Organization. You are the kind of Martial Arts scum everyone wants to kill. Today, you will leave your life here."

As soon as he finished speaking, Tong Zhentian lightly tapped his toes, and his body vanished like a gust of wind.

Ling Chen's eyes followed Tong Zhentian, but aside from a blurry figure, he couldn't keep up with Tong Zhentian's pace at all.

Fast, so fast! The speed Tong Zhentian displayed had surpassed human limits.

Is this the extraordinary realm achieved after reaching Unity of Heaven and Man? Ling Chen was full of envy.

After a brief moment of daze, Ling Chen snapped back to reality. He almost forgot that He Ziyun and Gong Xiong were still waiting for his signal.

Immediately, Ling Chen shouted, "Everyone, attack together. Don't let a single one escape."

As Ling Chen's voice spread through the warehouse, He Ziyun and the others broke free from their ropes and began to release the other captives.

More and more experts joined the battle, and the members of the God Organization were no match. In no time, dozens of God Organization members were completely controlled.

"Mr. He."

Ling Chen knocked out a guard with one punch and hurried to He Ziyun's side, asking, "How is the situation on your side?"

"Very smooth. By the way, where's Ji Gang?"

"Elder Tong is dealing with..."

"He ran away."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Tong Zhentian's voice came from behind. Ling Chen turned around, looking at Tong Zhentian approaching, and asked in surprise, "Elder Tong, how did you let him escape?"

"Ji Gang is a Heavenly List master, very powerful. If I were at my peak, I might have been able to subdue him, but my body is quite weak now. If I forced myself to act, not only would I fail to catch him, but I might also get injured myself. We'll let him go this time, and find an opportunity to deal with him later."

As he spoke, Wang Hao and Gong Xiong, along with others, arrived.

Seeing Tong Zhentian there, Wang Hao immediately stepped forward and saluted, respectfully calling, "Elder Tong."

Tong Zhentian nodded and asked, "Is everyone alright?"

"No problem, we have the God Organization members under control," Wang Hao replied.

"We really owe it to Ling Chen for helping us escape this disaster," Gong Xiong chimed in. "Ling, thank you so much."

After Gong Xiong spoke, others also expressed gratitude. They knew that if it weren't for Ling Chen's timely intervention, they wouldn't have been able to escape.

Tong Zhentian chuckled and said, "Ling Chen's contribution is indeed substantial. He also rescued me, and thanks to him, my granddaughter was also saved."

Hearing everyone's generous praise for Ling Chen, Wang Hao's expression turned a bit sour.

He glanced around at everyone present and said dismissively, "Everyone, let's not rush to thank him. This might be a ploy by the God Organization."

"A ploy?" Everyone was slightly puzzled and asked, "Wang Hao, what do you mean by that?"

This guy... Ling Chen looked at Wang Hao with a face full of dissatisfaction. How does this guy always seem to undermine him at critical moments? Could it be he can't stand to see him do well?

While pondering, everyone heard Wang Hao speak, "Let me make a few points first. First, the location of the warehouse was provided to us by Ling Chen, but when we entered, we fell into traps and ambushes, leading to our capture. Think carefully, isn't that suspicious? Also, the warehouse has only one main entrance, so why was it that we were ambushed, but he wasn't? Moreover, he managed to rescue all of us single-handedly. Ling Chen is merely an Earthly List expert, and their side has plenty of Earthly and Heavenly List experts. How could he have the ability to pull this off?"

"So you think Ling Chen is secretly colluding with the God Organization?" He Ziyun chimed in.

Wang Hao said blandly, "Given these suspicions, I have to be cautious. As the saying goes, 'the heart of a man is evil.' It's better we remain vigilant."

"Hmph!" Gong Xiong said coldly, "I think you're just driven by jealousy, which is why you're slandering Ling Chen. Wang Hao, don't blame me for being blunt, but everything that happened before was

arranged by you. If you weren't so reckless, how would we have fallen into the trap? If you ask me, you shouldn't blame others for this; you can only blame yourself for not being as capable as others. To be honest, I regret listening to you. If Ling Chen had made the arrangements, perhaps we would have already rescued everyone smoothly."

Chapter 860 - 865: Unique Master Technique (Part 1)

Gong Xiong's words made Wang Hao's face turn extremely unpleasant. He never expected that Gong Xiong would speak so bluntly, not giving him a shred of dignity.

Regarding Gong Xiong's words, Wang Hao was most clear in his heart. Indeed, he was very jealous of Ling Chen. He originally wanted to be the one to save everyone, but in the end, Ling Chen took it from him. How could he feel good about it?

Not only top experts from the Earthly List attended the martial arts conference this time, but also many martial artists. If he could gain favor from these people, it would undoubtedly enhance his status and influence in the martial arts world.

He left the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion and came to the martial arts conference for two ultimate purposes, one of which was simply to mix in and make himself known, to lay the groundwork for his future rise.

As for the other purpose, that was to find a mentor.

Tong Zhentian is a top expert from the Heavenly List and the only one who can compare with Su He. Since Su He took Ling Chen as a disciple, he had to think of another way, and Tong Zhentian was undoubtedly the best choice.

"Alright." At this time, Tong Zhentian timely spoke, "Wang Hao just wants to be a bit cautious. I believe he has no ill intentions, so let's not overthink."

Hearing Tong Zhentian speak for Wang Hao, everyone wisely shut their mouths. Wang Hao lifted his head and gave Tong Zhentian a grateful look.

"However..." Tong Zhentian paused, then said with a smile, "I've seen what Ling Chen has done with my own eyes. I believe he's innocent with the God Organization. No matter what, Ling Chen is our savior this time. Everyone should properly thank him."

Gong Xiong nodded in agreement, saying, "Elder Tong has finally said a fair word." With that, Gong Xiong cupped his fists toward Ling Chen and said, "Brother Ling, if there's anything I did to offend you, please forgive me and don't take it to heart."

"No worries." Ling Chen's lips curved slightly as he smiled and said, "We are all people from the martial arts world. Helping each other is what we should do." Then, Ling Chen turned to look at Tong Zhentian, "Elder Tong, I've settled Miss Tong Ye in a safe place. Let me take you to her now."

"Alright, I appreciate it." Tong Zhentian was most worried about his granddaughter. If it weren't for Tong Ye, how could he be coerced by the God Organization?

A group of people left the warehouse, and Wang Hao, following Ling Chen who was surrounded by a crowd ahead, furrowed his brows, his expression extremely grim. He was stronger than Ling Chen, but last time at the Yangxin Pavilion's martial arts ring, he lost to Ling Chen. And this time, he lost to Ling Chen again. For the young elites of the Yangxin Pavilion, the youngest expert on the Earthly List, Wang Hao's self-esteem was stronger than anyone else's. Moreover, he had an inherently competitive nature. The repeated failures left him feeling severely shaken.

Just wait!

Wang Hao clenched his fists, secretly gritting his teeth as he looked at Ling Chen ahead. Sooner or later, I will surpass you.

Leaving the warehouse, the organizer's representative led everyone back to the venue, while Ling Chen led Tong Zhentian to where Tong Ye was hiding. As the saying goes, the most dangerous place is the safest, Ling Chen didn't let Tong Ye escape far but arranged for her to stay in the bathroom of a villa area.

"Grandpa!"

Seeing Tong Zhentian appear at the door, Tong Ye immediately burst into tears, rushing forward with open arms to tightly hug Tong Zhentian's neck.

"Alright, alright!" Tong Zhentian gently patted Tong Ye's back, comforting her, "It's all over."

Tong Ye wiped the tears from the corners of her eyes, looking at her grandfather and asking, "Grandpa, what about those bad people?"

"Rest assured, they've all been caught." Saying this, Tong Zhentian pointed at Ling Chen beside him, "You should quickly thank Ling Chen. If it weren't for his help, neither your grandpa nor you would have escaped."

Tong Ye obediently responded and looked at Ling Chen with gratitude in her eyes.

Looking at Tong Ye's obedient appearance, Ling Chen smiled slightly. Just a few days ago, when he first met this young lady, she was so arrogant, like a proud peacock. Now, she showed no sign of being spoiled and behaved gently and obediently beside Tong Zhentian.

"Elder Tong, let's go back."

"Alright."

When the three of them returned to the venue, several police cars drove up outside the villa area, sealing off the warehouse site completely.

Not long after, several military transport trucks drove up and stopped directly at the warehouse entrance. Immediately after, a fully armed special forces unit entered the warehouse, escorting all the prisoners inside onto the vehicles.

Ling Chen stood at the venue entrance, watching from afar. This incident involved the God Organization, and the police were unable to handle it. So Ling Chen called Pang Jiulin, informing him of the situation and requesting his help. Those captured members of the God Organization would be sent directly to the military district for strict interrogation.

An hour later, as the military trucks left, Ling Chen turned and returned to the venue.

At this moment, in the center of the venue, the organizer's representative walked boldly onto the stage and said in a loud voice, "Everyone, please quiet down for a moment, I have something to announce."

Upon hearing this, the noisy venue immediately quieted down, focusing their attention on the organizer.

"Everybody, first and foremost, on behalf of the organizer, I express a sincere apology to everyone here. If it weren't for our lack of precaution, this incident wouldn't have happened, endangering everyone's personal safety. Here, on behalf of the organizer, I promise that from now on, we will strengthen our vigilance to prevent such incidents from happening again. We hope everyone present will continue to support us." Pausing, the organizer's representative continued, "Besides, I must particularly thank one individual. Even if I don't say it, I believe everyone knows who it is. That's right, it's Ling Chen, Mr. Ling. When our lives were at risk, it was Mr. Ling who stood up bravely, disregarding his own danger, saving everyone. Here, on behalf of the organizer, I express sincere thanks to Mr. Ling. Additionally, we have prepared a small gift."

As the words fell, a man in a suit immediately brought a delicate box in front of Ling Chen.

"This... this isn't really necessary, is it?" Ling Chen touched his nose and said, "I only did what should be done; there's no need to be so courteous."

"Mr. Ling, this is just a token of our appreciation, please don't refuse."

"Ling Chen, don't be modest, accept it," Tong Zhentian said from the side.

Seeing Tong Zhentian speak, Ling Chen no longer acted coyly; he smiled, received the box in his hand, and nodded, "Then I thank everyone."

"Alright!" The organizer's representative changed the subject, "Everyone, now let's get back on track."