

The Beauty 871

Chapter 871 Joy Valley (3)

In the blink of an eye, two hours passed.

Although so much time had passed, Ling Chen had only completed half of the search in the adult zone. At this rate, it would take at least four to five hours to check the entire area.

"Boss Tang." Ling Chen called Tang Guolun on the earpiece, asking, "Have you found anything on your side?"

"Not yet, there are too many police here. We can't act overtly, and progress is slow. Let's wait for a while. We'll search again with Liu once they withdraw."

"Alright." After finishing the call with Tang Guolun, Ling Chen switched channels and asked, "Fatty, have you got it done yet?"

"Just finished." Hu Fei's voice came through the earpiece, "I breached Joy Valley's firewall and hacked into their security system. All surveillance is under my control, but I haven't found anything. Don't pin your hopes on me." Pausing briefly, Hu Fei continued, "Ling Chen, since it's a temporary base, it must be hidden."

"I know that. The problem is we can't find the entrance; it's all just talk until then. Hey, Fatty, look for the architectural plans of Joy Valley. Maybe you'll find something."

"Okay, I'll give it a try."

After several hours of searching, it was already midnight, and the police in Joy Valley had withdrawn to rest, leaving only a few to guard the scene, preventing anyone from breaking in.

Without the interference of the police, Ling Chen and the crew's efficiency increased significantly. However, despite the convenience, the four still came up empty-handed. New novel chapters are published on

Near one in the morning, after working for several hours, Ling Chen felt his stomach growling, nearly faint from hunger.

Damn, if I had known this would take so long, I would've packed some fast food from KFC as a midnight snack!

Watching Kaelina beside him, she also looked tired. The two of them leaned against the wall, resting and regaining their strength.

"Let's go, let's check over there." Ling Chen pointed ahead, saying.

Kaelina asked in confusion, "Didn't we already search there? Why go back?"

"Why so many questions, just follow me." With that, Ling Chen couldn't be bothered to explain and swiftly walked ahead. Though perplexed, Kaelina followed behind him.

Not too far away, Ling Chen and Kaelina arrived at a closed convenience store.

Seeing the tightly shut rolling door, Kaelina paused for a moment, instantly understanding Ling Chen's intent.

"Keep watch for me, I'll get this door open." With that, Ling Chen pulled out a small dagger from his pocket and inserted it into the keyhole of the rolling door, fiddling with it gently.

Click!

With a soft snap, the rolling door's lock yielded.

Ling Chen's lips curled into a slight smile as he quickly lifted the rolling door, gesturing for Kaelina to hurry inside.

Once the two entered the convenience store, Ling Chen closed the rolling door and casually flipped the switch on the wall. Instantly, an array of goods was illuminated before Ling Chen's eyes.

"Bread!" Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and without any formality, he leaped over the counter, grabbing cold sandwiches and sausage to devour ravenously.

"Want some?" Ling Chen offered the bread to Kaelina.

Watching Ling Chen eat heartily, Kaelina couldn't help but chuckle. Thinking he had discovered something, he had actually brought her to find food. By the way he was wolfing down the food, it seemed he was famished.

Still, after such a long labor, she was indeed hungry. Without hesitation, Kaelina accepted the bread, grabbed a bottle of milk, and sat at the table to enjoy her meal quietly.

After scarfing down several pieces of bread and sausage, Ling Chen finally felt his stomach was full. However, after chugging several bottles of soda, he was feeling an urgent need to relieve himself. With Kaelina around, he was a bit shy to mention it directly, so he said, "You sit tight, I'll go check the back."

With that, Ling Chen briskly walked to the back of the convenience store.

Finding a restroom, Ling Chen unzipped his pants. As the sound of flowing water emerged, a sense of relief appeared on Ling Chen's face.

Patting his full stomach, Ling Chen walked out of the restroom, heading straight for the front of the store. Now that his stomach was full, it was time to get back to business.

As he was about to rejoin Kaelina, Ling Chen's sharp eyes suddenly caught sight of a movable metal plate on the floor in the middle of the convenience store.

As a meticulous person, Ling Chen wouldn't overlook any detail. He immediately crouched down, grasped the handle of the metal plate with one hand, and lifted it with effort. Once the plate was removed, a strong sour smell emanated.

Below this... it feels like a warehouse. Because of the food stored here, that's why there's this strange smell.

After giving it a thought, Ling Chen called Kaelina over. After a few instructions, Ling Chen jumped down alone.

The small warehouse was equipped with a light bulb, and as Ling Chen flicked the switch, the pitch-dark warehouse was suddenly illuminated. Standing among a pile of boxes containing food, he looked around carefully, not missing any detail.

A few minutes passed before Kaelina, waiting above, asked, "So, did you find anything?"

"No, just some food supplies."

"Let's go. It's normal for a convenience store to have a warehouse, nothing strange."

Ling Chen acknowledged and casually turned off the light before planning to join Kaelina. However, as he was leaving, his gaze was suddenly drawn to a flashing red light.

In the corner of the warehouse, Ling Chen noticed a faint red glow, subtly blinking. If one didn't look closely, it could easily be missed.

"Hold on, I think I've found something."

Speaking, Ling Chen turned the light back on and quickly walked to the corner of the warehouse. As he got closer, Ling Chen finally discerned what the red light was.

It was an infrared sensor. Anything passing by would trigger the sensor immediately.

If it were just an ordinary warehouse, there'd be no need for such an installation.

There's something fishy!

An excited smile crept onto Ling Chen's face as he promptly called Kaelina down.

"Look," Ling Chen pointed at the infrared sensor and said, "There's definitely something wrong here."

Kaelina glanced around at the stacked boxes and said, "Move these things away and check. Maybe the entrance is here."

Ling Chen nodded, and without another word, immediately shifted the boxes, clearing the entire corner of the warehouse. During the move, while holding two boxes, Ling Chen suddenly froze, his expression dazed.

Noticing Ling Chen's change of expression, Kaelina asked, "What's up with you?"

Ling Chen opened his mouth, frowning, "Tell me... since this place has an infrared sensor, it must've detected us when we arrived. Why has nobody come for us?"

Chapter 872 - 877: Smoke Trap (1)

By the time Ling Chen realized the possible danger, it was already too late.

Before the two could react, Ling Chen and Kaelina suddenly felt the floor beneath them give way sharply, and then, their bodies dropped instantly.

Bang! Bang!

With two dull thuds, Ling Chen and Kaelina simultaneously fell to the ground from mid-air, coming into intimate contact with the floor.

Damn it!

Ling Chen cursed under his breath, ignoring the pain in his body, and quickly got up from the ground, observing the surroundings. His face changed slightly at a glance.

At this moment, he and Kaelina were trapped in a transparent cage. The cage was sealed all around with glass, with only a few finger-sized vents at the top.

"Kaelina." Ling Chen glanced at Kaelina, who was lying on the ground with a painful expression, and his heart sank immediately. He hurriedly supported her up and asked concernedly, "How are you, are you okay?"

Kaelina didn't speak, but the cold sweat on her forehead showed that her body had sustained severe injuries upon falling from above.

After all, from the top to the ground was about seven or eight meters high. Ling Chen, being an expert on the Earthly List, didn't have a problem with this height given his skills. But Kaelina was different. She was an assassin, not an expert. Falling from such a height, injury was inevitable.

"Boss Tang, Boss Tang!" Ling Chen pressed the button of his earpiece, calling out Tang Guolun's name. However, apart from a 'zzz' static sound, there was nothing else.

"Fatty, can you hear me, Fatty!"

However, neither Tang Guolun nor Hu Fei responded.

It's over!

Not being able to contact anyone outside and with Kaelina injured, their situation was undoubtedly very dangerous.

Just then, lights outside the glass suddenly turned on, and the surroundings became exceptionally bright in an instant.

Ling Chen looked up and saw an explosion-proof door being opened by someone. Then, a few middle-aged men in suits walked in from outside.

Seeing the leading middle-aged man, Ling Chen's pupils contracted slightly, and he said in a deep voice, "It's you!"

"Ling Chen, we meet again." The middle-aged man said with a sly smile, his hands folded behind his back.

Lin Guodong!

Ling Chen frowned secretly. He had initially thought this guy had fled East Sea City, but it turned out he had been hiding here all along.

"Ling Chen, you really have some skills, to be able to find this place." Lin Guodong said with a smile, "I have to admit, you are indeed impressive. Unfortunately, I knew you would come, so I prepared in advance. How about it, all these are prepared for you, are you satisfied?"

"You knew I would come?"

"Of course." Lin Guodong nodded and said, "The address Zhu Hong gave you was real, but it was given to him by me. Oh, I forgot to tell you, Zhu Hong is now in a cooperative relationship with the God Organization. You are a huge threat to both the God Organization and him, so we had no choice but to find a way to take you out first."

After a pause, Lin Guodong continued, "East Sea City is a big piece of rich meat, but unfortunately, the underground forces of East Sea City are all in your hands. This has greatly hindered our development. Once you're dead, without you as the pillar, the underground forces of East Sea City will eventually be destroyed. By then, let's see who dares to stop the God Organization from advancing into East Sea City."

With Lin Guodong's words, a faint green mist suddenly emanated in the glass space where Ling Chen and Kaelina were.

The green mist emerged from all corners of the glass, instantly covering Ling Chen's head. Seeing the swirling green mist, Ling Chen's face immediately turned solemn. It was obvious that these green mists were poisonous.

"Ling Chen, just enjoy the treatment I prepared for you." Lin Guodong said complacently, "Having a beauty accompany you to death, you're not at a loss." After finishing, Lin Guodong turned around with his men and walked out.

As the explosion-proof door closed, Ling Chen pounded the glass hard, trying to break it. However, these were specially made thickened bulletproof glass, extremely hard, and it was difficult for Ling Chen to break through with his fist. Feeling the pungent odor at his nose, Ling Chen looked up at the top, where the green mist was slowly descending.

At this rate, in about three to four minutes, the entire glass space would be shrouded in green mist.

The odor entered his nose, and Ling Chen immediately felt a bit of a headache, even Kaelina in front of him became blurry.

Damn it!

Ling Chen gritted his teeth, forced himself to stay conscious, held his breath, then tore a piece of fabric from his clothes, wrapping it over Kaelina's nose and mouth, lest she accidentally inhale the poison gas.

Although the green mist was temporarily isolated, Ling Chen couldn't hold on for long. With his breath-holding skills, he could only last about a minute.

No, he must find a way to escape from here.

Ling Chen thought to himself. However, he couldn't contact Tang Guolun and Hu Fei. In this critical moment, apart from relying on himself, no one else could be relied upon.

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen clenched his fists, exerting all his strength, and slammed fiercely at the bulletproof glass in front of him.

Bang!

His fist hit the glass, immediately bouncing back, all strength lost.

Failed with one strike, Ling Chen did not stop, continuing to punch the bulletproof glass. At this moment, the only way out for both of them was to smash the glass. There was no other way.

"Ling Chen..."

At this moment, Kaelina's weak voice came through. Ling Chen turned his head to see Kaelina lying on the ground, holding the piece of fabric forcefully over her nose and mouth. However, due to her injuries and the indirect effects of the poison gas, Kaelina's body weakened further, her face pale as paper, on the verge of collapse at any moment.

Seeing Kaelina about to faint, Ling Chen couldn't help feeling anxious.

At this moment, the green mist was gradually approaching downwards, leaving them less and less space to move.

"Hold on a while longer, we'll be out soon." Ling Chen said. In fact, he wasn't even sure if this was to comfort her or to encourage her.

Time was of the essence, and Ling Chen didn't waste his energy on Kaelina. Staring at the bulletproof glass in front, Ling Chen held his breath, gradually relaxing his tense body, spreading his legs slightly, letting his hands hang naturally, like the starting move in Tai Chi.

Ten seconds with his eyes closed, Ling Chen's eyes suddenly opened, a sharp light bursting out.

Roar!

With a loud yell, Ling Chen raised his right hand, shaping it into a Phoenix Eye Fist stance. Staring fixedly at a point in front of him, he smashed forward with all his might.

Bang!

With a crisp sound, minute cracks unexpectedly appeared on the bulletproof glass in front of him.

Seeing the change in the bulletproof glass, Ling Chen's eyes immediately brightened.

Chapter 873 - 878: Smoke Trap (2)

Unexpectedly, this move actually worked.

Ling Chen was secretly delighted. Seeing Kaelina growing weaker, Ling Chen didn't have time to think more and launched the Phoenix Eye Fist again, instantly shattering the hard bulletproof glass.

Breaking the surface with a single point! This was the key technique Ling Chen used. He concentrated all his strength on the Phoenix Eye Fist, aiming at one single point. Of course, although he borrowed the technique of breaking the surface with a point, Ling Chen's ability to destroy bulletproof glass also depended on other skills.

Thanks a lot, Elder Tong!

Ling Chen inwardly expressed gratitude, quickly picking up the semi-conscious Kaelina and rushed out.

At this moment, a piercing alarm sounded from nearby. Ling Chen glanced at the surveillance camera in the corner and frowned slightly; Lin Guodong must have already known about his escape.

Right now, Ling Chen couldn't care less; he kicked open the explosion-proof door and dashed out.

Outside the room, Ling Chen scanned his surroundings and saw an exceptionally spacious underground space without partitions, all equipment, and office furniture were placed together.

On the right, several computers were lined up, displaying surveillance footage of the surroundings on the screens.

"There he is! Quick, stop him!"

The surrounding security personnel spotted Ling Chen and immediately focused on him. Within a moment, seven or eight guards armed with electric batons rushed over, surrounding Ling Chen and Kaelina.

"Where's Lin Guodong?" Ling Chen swept his eyes over the security personnel and asked.

"Charge, kill him!"

The guards ignored Ling Chen's question and swung their batons straight at Ling Chen's head.

"Get lost!"

Ling Chen shouted lightly, holding Kaelina's soft body, and moved swiftly between the guards. Before they could react, Ling Chen kicked two guards flying into their companions.

With the guards settled, Ling Chen's gaze swept across the room and locked onto Lin Guodong nearby.

Feeling Ling Chen's gaze, Lin Guodong's pupils shrank. He hurriedly instructed his men to protect him as they left.

Seeing Lin Guodong fleeing towards the exit, guarded by more than ten security personnel, Ling Chen didn't hesitate and chased after them, holding Kaelina. However, he hadn't chased far when Ling Chen suddenly stopped and turned to look at the nearby surveillance screens.

On one of the screens, Ling Chen discovered Little Hua's whereabouts.

After hesitating a moment, Ling Chen sighed helplessly. There was no choice; Little Hua's safety was paramount. Lin Guodong would have to be let go for now. Ling Chen then turned and ran in the opposite direction.

It didn't take long for Ling Chen to find Little Hua, who was locked in a room.

The small room was filled with the pungent smell of disinfectant. In the center was a bed on which Little Hua lay quietly, wearing loose white clothes, eyes closed, and limbs fastened to the bed with belts, unable to move.

Ling Chen noticed a surgical tray beside the bed with various surgical instruments and unlabeled medicine bottles.

Reaching the bed, Ling Chen gently laid Kaelina down, then touched Little Hua's cheek gently and called softly: "Little Hua, wake up, it's me."

But no matter how Ling Chen called, Little Hua did not respond. Even after he patted her cheek, he couldn't wake her.

Seeing this, Ling Chen thought for a moment and decided to lift Little Hua from the bed. Little Hua's small frame made her lightweight, carrying her and Kaelina should be manageable.

However, as Little Hua's body was lifted, Ling Chen's expression suddenly changed. He was shocked to see that Little Hua's shirt was stained red with blood.

Seeing the bright bloodstains, Ling Chen dared not move Little Hua's body any further and hurriedly lifted her shirt. Immediately, he saw a ten-centimeter-long wound on Little Hua's abdomen. Although it had been stitched up, fresh blood was still seeping from it.

These bastards!

Ling Chen gritted his teeth, a flash of anger in his eyes. Judging by Little Hua's wound, the surgery must have just taken place. Ling Chen didn't know what Lin Guodong and his team intended but treating Little Hua this way was outrageous.

No wonder Little Hua hadn't woken up yet; she was likely injected with anesthetics, and now remained comatose since the drug's effects hadn't worn off.

If Little Hua hadn't undergone surgery, Ling Chen could just carry her away. But that's not an option now; freshly operated Little Hua was very weak. Taking her with them might affect the wound.

There had to be another way.

With rapid thoughts racing, Ling Chen cast a glance at Kaelina.

"How are you holding up, can you still manage?"

Kaelina smiled bitterly and pointed at her left leg: "I can't feel this leg for now."

"I have an idea, hang in there!"

Saying that, Ling Chen quickly walked to a medicine cabinet in the corner, opened the door, and checked the bottles inside carefully. Soon, he returned to Kaelina with a bottle and syringe.

Watching Ling Chen's actions, Kaelina asked: "What's this?"

"Adrenaline, this should help you hold out until we get outside." With that, Ling Chen injected the syringe into Kaelina's body.

As the adrenaline was fully administered, Kaelina's previous weakness vanished; she became energetic as if she had endless strength.

"Let's go!"

Leaving the room, Ling Chen led the way with Kaelina pushing a metal bed, Little Hua on it as they quickly made their escape.

At this moment, the temporary stronghold was deserted. While Ling Chen rescued Little Hua, everyone else had executed an evacuation process. Seeing the empty underground base, Ling Chen pressed on, picking up speed towards the exit with Kaelina and Little Hua in tow.

The temporary base was marked with signs indicating the safety path. Ling Chen wasted little time and followed them to the exit.

The base's emergency exit was located in Joy Valley's storage room. Upon exiting, Ling Chen immediately heard Hu Fei's voice through the earpiece: "Ling Chen, can you hear me? Say something."

"I hear you." Ling Chen replied.

"Where did you go? I've been trying to contact you forever; I thought something happened to you."

"I found the temporary stronghold. Little Hua's with me. Hurry and notify Boss Tang to get over here and meet up with me."

"I already did. I thought something happened to you just now, so I had Boss Tang and Liu head towards you. Get in touch with them; they should be there."

"Got it!"

Finishing up with Hu Fei, Ling Chen turned to Kaelina behind him: "You go find the fat guy and settle Little Hua."

Chapter 874 - 879: Pursuing Lin Guodong

"And what about you?"

"Lin Guodong just escaped, he shouldn't have gone far, maybe we can catch up with him."

"Alright then, be careful." With that, Kaelina pushed the bed and quickly left.

After Kaelina left, Ling Chen contacted Tang Guolun and Liu Dongsheng through the headset. Before long, the three of them met up.

"Ling Chen, there are police officers on duty outside Joy Valley, so if anyone leaves Joy Valley, the police will definitely notice. But I just took a look, there's no movement outside Joy Valley," Tang Guolun said. "The God Organization has so many people, if they are trying to escape from Joy Valley, they can't just disappear silently, there will definitely be some traces left behind."

"Boss Tang, what do you think?"

"I think..." Tang Guolun's eyes flickered, and he said, "A cunning rabbit has three burrows, let alone people from the God Organization. Although you found their temporary base, how can you ensure the God Organization has only one temporary base here? Joy Valley is vast, with many hidden places, maybe they've built other bases."

Hearing Tang Guolun's analysis, Ling Chen nodded, thinking it made some sense. Although rescuing Little Hua took some time, it wasn't too long. When he came out of the temporary base via the safety passage, Lin Guodong and the others were all gone without a trace, which was really strange.

Due to today's explosion incident, the police have been highly attentive, dispatching many officers to be on duty even late at night. Both inside and outside, Joy Valley is crawling with police. If Lin Guodong had escaped with a large group, it would surely have alerted the police. Furthermore, Hu Fei had already infiltrated Joy Valley's security system and could monitor the situation in Joy Valley in real-time.

Ling Chen asked Hu Fei, but there was nothing found on the surveillance. It's impossible for Lin Guodong and the others to just vanish without a cause. From this, it's apparent that Tang Guolun's deduction is highly probable.

After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen looked back at the utility room. He had just escaped from there.

"Ling Chen!" At this point, Liu Dongsheng pointed to the surveillance camera not far away and said, "That camera is aimed right at the utility room. Ask Mr. Hu to bring up the surveillance footage and see if anything was overlooked."

In less than two minutes, Hu Fei had already sent back the information, and the camera had not captured anyone.

"That's impossible!" Ling Chen frowned. He clearly saw Lin Guodong escape through the safety passage, how could he not see anyone, unless he had some invisibility trick?

"That's it!"

While thinking, a sudden inspiration flashed across Ling Chen's mind.

Just because the surveillance didn't capture Lin Guodong doesn't mean Lin Guodong had a way to avoid the cameras. From another perspective, it's very likely Lin Guodong never left the utility room, which is why the cameras didn't capture him.

If that's the case... Thinking of this, Ling Chen immediately ran towards the utility room.

Tang Guolun and Liu Dongsheng exchanged glances and quickly followed Ling Chen's footsteps.

Entering the utility room, Ling Chen flipped the switch on the wall. Under the dim light, the piled-up items in the utility room came into view.

On the floor of the utility room, there was a movable wooden plank, the place where Ling Chen had just come out from. Besides that hidden safety exit, the room was filled with brooms, dustpans, and some bulging canvas bags all piled along the wall.

While Ling Chen was searching the utility room, Tang Guolun squatted beside the safety exit, looking at the wooden plank with great interest.

After a while, seeing Tang Guolun squatting there without moving, Ling Chen couldn't resist asking, "Boss Tang, what are you looking at?"

Tang Guolun snapped his fingers and smiled, "No need to search, I know how they left."

Hearing this, Ling Chen quickly asked, "You know?"

Tang Guolun pointed to the movable wooden plank on the floor and said, "The key actually lies in this wooden plank. You just came out of here, right?"

Ling Chen nodded.

"Good." Tang Guolun smiled slightly, and casually lifted the wooden plank, gently moving it aside. Instantly, the exit Ling Chen had previously come through was covered by the plank, and another exit appeared beside it.

Seeing this, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned, his eyes a bit vacant.

"Boss Tang, this is..."

"It's a relatively simple magic trick," Tang Guolun explained. "There are actually two passages below this wooden plank, but if you don't know the principle, you would treat it as a single safety exit and wouldn't think otherwise. I must say, the person who designed this is very clever, but it's unfortunate they met me. I've encountered similar mechanisms abroad before, but this one is more sophisticated and not easy to detect."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's mouth curled into a grin; he gave a thumbs-up and praised without reservation, "Boss Tang, you're amazing."

"Alright! Stop with the flattery, hurry up and pursue them."

Ling Chen responded and immediately jumped into the passage.

Indeed!

Looking at the surrounding environment of the passage, Ling Chen thought to himself, this place is entirely different from the previous safety passage.

Following the passage forward, after about forty meters, Ling Chen heard a conversation up ahead. Right then, Ling Chen gestured to Tang Guolun and Liu Dongsheng behind him to slow their pace.

As the conversation grew clearer, Ling Chen took a deep breath, his toes lightly tapping the ground, his body shot forward like an arrow released from a bow.

In an instant, three security personnel guarding outside the passage appeared in Ling Chen's view.

The three security personnel were caught off guard, utterly stunned, with a dazed look on their faces.

Taking advantage of the moment, Ling Chen didn't utter a word, striking swiftly. In the blink of an eye, all three security personnel fell to the ground without making a sound, rendered unconscious.

"Clear!"

Upon hearing Ling Chen's voice, Tang Guolun and Liu Dongsheng immediately stepped out of the passage.

Glancing at the security personnel on the ground, Tang Guolun asked, "Ling Chen, do you have a plan?"

"When I rushed into the temporary base earlier, I didn't notice any strong fighters around Lin Guodong. Just the three of us should be able to handle it. Boss Tang, you focus on controlling the computer. Boss Liu, help contain

the security personnel and prevent them from bothering me. As for Lin Guodong... leave him to me," Ling Chen arranged. This was an excellent opportunity for him. Previously, Ji Gang was protecting Lin Guodong, making it impossible for him to make a move. But this time, with Ji Gang absent, let's see who can safeguard Lin Guodong.

With everything ready, Ling Chen took the lead, passing through an anti-explosion door, and his gaze was immediately drawn to Lin Guodong, who stood in front of the computer. At this moment, Lin Guodong was gesturing at the screen, saying something unknown. However, judging by his wide, delighted grin, he was evidently pleased about something.

Hmph!

Wait and see, soon you'll be crying!

Chapter 875 - 880: Pursuing Lin Guodong (Part 2)

"Go!"

As Ling Chen's words fell, Tang Guolun and Liu Dongsheng immediately took action, rushing towards different targets.

With their movement initiated, Ling Chen's gaze was fixed on Lin Guodong. This time, he must capture Lin Guodong.

At this moment, Lin Guodong stood in front of the computer, looking at the data displayed on the screen, his face full of smiles. After years of research, he finally achieved a breakthrough from Little Hua. How could he not be excited? He had already planned to celebrate tonight and raise a glass to the future of the God Organization.

Ah!

But suddenly, a piercing scream disrupted Lin Guodong's thoughts. His smile vanished, and he quickly turned to look in the direction of the sound. Immediately, he saw a middle-aged man swinging two electric batons wildly amidst the crowd. In just a few moments, seven or eight security personnel had fallen to the ground.

This guy... Lin Guodong's expression changed slightly, staring at the man in surprise.

How could he appear here?

While Lin Guodong was momentarily stunned, a 'bang' was heard, and a security guard flew from nearby, landing right at his feet. Seeing this, Lin Guodong's face dramatically changed.

Ling Chen!

Watching the young man walk toward him step by step, Lin Guodong's pupils contracted slightly, and he involuntarily stepped back, speaking in a low voice, "How are you here?"

"Lin Guodong, I have to admit, you're smart and very cunning. You almost deceived me. Unfortunately, you planned thoroughly but didn't expect Elder Tang to see through your tricks," Ling Chen said calmly. "Surrender; you can't escape now. Without Ji Gang by your side, let's see who can save you today."

Upon hearing this, Lin Guodong's expression became extremely unpleasant. This time, he thought the cooperation with Zhu Hong wouldn't go wrong. As long as Ling Chen fell into the trap, he would surely die. However, he still miscalculated, not expecting Ling Chen to escape.

What surprised him even more was that Ling Chen discovered this place's existence.

If he could, Lin Guodong would have arranged for Ji Gang to protect him, but Ji Gang was recently busy with other matters and had no time to accompany him. Moreover, he had great confidence in this temporary base's secrecy. Located within Joy Valley, there were tourists everywhere above, and even if discovered, he could use them to ensure his safety.

However, before taking action, Ling Chen deliberately triggered the security alarm in Joy Valley, causing all the tourists to be evacuated and surrounded by police.

At present, without Ji Gang's protection and no tourists to use as leverage, Lin Guodong instantly sensed a strong sense of crisis.

No!

Lin Guodong gritted his teeth secretly. He had worked hard to achieve a breakthrough, and if caught now, everything would be over.

Thinking of this, Lin Guodong grabbed the water cup on the table and hurled it fiercely at Ling Chen. As the water spilled out, Lin Guodong quickly turned and ran away.

"Stop him!"

After hearing Lin Guodong's command, a few security personnel responsible for close protection knew they couldn't defeat Ling Chen but had no choice, rushing forward despite their fear, trying to block Ling Chen's path.

Seeing the group charging forward, Ling Chen's lips curved slightly. With a gentle tap of his toe, his speed instantly unfolded. The security personnel hadn't reacted yet and felt as if someone stepped on their shoulders. When they came to their senses, they found Ling Chen already flying over their heads, stepping on their shoulders.

Hearing footsteps getting closer behind him, Lin Guodong turned to see Ling Chen swiftly approaching, only about ten meters away.

Seeing this, Lin Guodong's hand reached for his waist. Immediately, he flicked his wrist, and a cold gleam shot towards Ling Chen's forehead. As the cold gleam approached, Ling Chen twisted his waist, his body slightly tilting to the side. The cold gleam instantly flew past him, hitting a security guard behind him.

Dagger!

Tilting his head, Ling Chen glanced and saw a sharp dagger embedded in the security guard's chest. The dagger had hit the man's vital point, causing instant death.

Can't believe this guy has some skills. Ling Chen thought to himself.

While pondering, Lin Guodong had already reached a blast-proof door. He placed his right hand on the fingerprint scanner on the wall, and as the red light turned green, the thick blast-proof door opened immediately.

Not good!

Seeing the blast-proof door about to close, Ling Chen's expression slightly tensed, and he focused all his strength on his legs, pushing off forcefully. In an instant, his body leaned forward slightly, reaching extreme speed, rushing to the blast-proof door.

As the blast-proof door still had a gap, Ling Chen extended his hand and quickly wedged his phone into the gap. Instantly, the moving blast-proof door stopped.

Though the phone blocked the door closing, the blast-proof door weighs a hundred pounds. A fragile phone couldn't last against it. In less than two seconds, the phone was crushed by the blast-proof door, making the gap smaller and smaller.

Without hesitation, Ling Chen quickly stuck his fingers into the gap and pushed hard against the blast-proof door.

With the explosion of his strength, the blast-proof door slowly moved to the side, inch by inch. When the gap was more than ten centimeters wide, Ling Chen swiftly pushed his body through the gap.

Bang!

Just as Ling Chen passed through, losing his force to stop it, the blast-proof door closed, blocking all pursuing security personnel behind it.

Fortunately, my speed was fast enough.

Ling Chen wiped the sweat from his forehead, not wasting time resting. He immediately pursued the direction Lin Guodong fled. There was only one safety passage behind the blast-proof door, saving Ling Chen a lot of time.

Soon, Lin Guodong's figure appeared in Ling Chen's sight.

"Stop, don't run!"

Ling Chen shouted, increasing his speed again, catching up with Lin Guodong in just a few strides.

Hearing Ling Chen's footsteps getting closer, the fleeing Lin Guodong suddenly turned, swinging his arm at Ling Chen.

Ling Chen initially wanted to take the hit directly, but seeing the blade in Lin Guodong's hand, he changed his mind, quickly retreating to avoid the blade's attack range.

Stopping, Ling Chen took a deep breath, looked directly at Lin Guodong, and said, "Stop running; you're at a dead end."

Lin Guodong gripped the half-foot blade tightly and replied coldly, "Never conclude easily until the last moment. How do you know I can't escape? Ling Chen, do you really think I'm afraid of you?"

Ling Chen glanced at the blade, curling his finger, "Come, let me see what else you got."

Chapter 876 - 881: Pursuing Lin Guodong (Part 3)

Lin Guodong gripped the half-foot long blade, his eyes coldly fixed on Ling Chen as he circled slowly around him, seemingly searching for an opportunity to strike.

Suddenly, Lin Guodong leaned forward, moving at lightning speed, and in the blink of an eye, he was in front of Ling Chen, thrusting the blade towards a vital point.

From the moment Lin Guodong moved, Ling Chen's gaze remained locked on him, watching his every move. At this moment, as the blade approached, Ling Chen's eyes narrowed slightly, showing a hint of surprise.

What speed!

Before this, Lin Guodong had never demonstrated his martial skills. However, just from that single move's speed, Ling Chen could be one hundred percent certain that Lin Guodong's skills were not only formidable but also very strong.

No wonder this guy didn't show any fear when facing me alone; turns out, he has such strong abilities. It seems that he has always been hiding his strength, only revealing it at a critical moment.

With the blade closing in, Ling Chen had no time to think. He slightly sidestepped, quickly evading Lin Guodong's attack. Immediately after, Ling Chen spun around, launching a steel fist fiercely towards the air.

Though his fist didn't make contact with Lin Guodong, Ling Chen, being an Earthly List expert, unleashed Hua Realm energy throughout his body, capable of harming someone from a distance with ease.

However, contrary to Ling Chen's expectations, as the Hua Realm energy burst forth, Lin Guodong's wrist flicked, sweeping the blade to effortlessly neutralize his energy.

Earthly List expert!

Ling Chen's pupils shrank, filled with astonishment as he looked at Lin Guodong.

He knew Lin Guodong had trained in martial arts and was very strong, but he didn't expect him to be an Earthly List expert. Moreover, Lin Guodong's ease in neutralizing his Hua Realm energy indicated that his realm was far above his own.

An Earthly List expert's Hua Realm energy increases step by step as their realm advances, with more energy being utilized as the realm reaches higher levels.

Feeling the shock in Ling Chen's eyes, Lin Guodong's lips curled into a cold smile, "Did you think I was easy to bully? If that's what you thought, I'm sorry to disappoint you."

Ling Chen nodded, replying, "I admit I underestimated you. Well, the Ling Family was once a Martial Arts family, so how could you, as part of it, not know kung fu?"

With that, Ling Chen stepped forward, steel fists clenched, assuming a defensive stance.

"Come, let me experience just how formidable the Ling Family truly is."

Upon hearing these words, Lin Guodong looked at Ling Chen meaningfully and said, "You know quite a lot. Since you know, I won't hide it anymore. Yes, I'm from the Ling Family. But Ling Chen, don't forget your own identity; you're also part of the Ling Family. As a member of the Ling Family, will you really oppose your own people?"

"I bear the name Ling, but don't lump me in with the Ling Family. In my memory, the Ling Family has nothing to do with me. To me, you're just a bunch of strangers. Even if I acknowledge a blood relation with you, so what? Do you think I'd go along with you?"

"Forget it!" Lin Guodong waved dismissively, "I know I can't persuade you. If I could have brought you to our camp, I would have done so long ago. I'm telling you this for no other reason than to remind you—if you don't consider our Ling Family, think about yourself and your parents."

"My parents?" Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, with a hint of doubt in his ink-black pupils.

He knew about his father Ling Kun, but from childhood to adulthood, his father never mentioned his mother. Even if he asked, his father always found excuses to avoid the topic.

Seeing Ling Chen's puzzled expression, Lin Guodong couldn't help but laugh.

"What, your father never mentioned your mother at all? I suppose not—that kind of thing he wouldn't tell you. But if you beg me, maybe I'll be merciful enough to tell you."

"Shut up!" Ling Chen coldly snapped, "Even if I wanted to know, I wouldn't ask you. Lin Guodong, don't waste your breath—let's fight!"

"Fine, since you're seeking death, I'll grant it to you."

With those words, Lin Guodong stepped forward boldly, raising his arm to hack towards the top of Ling Chen's head with the sound of wind being sliced.

As the blade neared, Ling Chen shifted left and right, continuously changing positions.

Noticing Ling Chen's movements, Lin Guodong's arm holding the blade paused slightly, his eyes tightly tracking Ling Chen, trying to predict his movements and position. At that moment, Ling Chen slipped, disappearing instantly from Lin Guodong's view.

Nine Yang Qiankun Step!

With the movement technique unfolding, Ling Chen's body was like a nimble eel, swiftly moving around Lin Guodong, repeatedly approaching closely to launch a surprise attack. However, Ling Chen somewhat underestimated Lin Guodong's prowess. Each time he got close, Lin Guodong seemed to have heightened senses, accurately judging his position, forcing him to retreat fruitlessly.

"Nine Yang Qiankun Step?" Lin Guodong sneered, the tone laced with disdain.

"You know?" Ling Chen felt curious; Lin Guodong could actually recognize his movement technique.

"Why wouldn't I know? The Nine Yang Qiankun Step is a martial arts Absolute Skill from hundreds of years ago, passed down through generations. Until a century ago, the master who possessed the Nine Yang Qiankun Step hadn't found an heir and met an untimely death. Since then, the Nine Yang Qiankun Step was lost. However, it was lost only in name; a copy of the manual remains in the martial arts circles. Coincidentally, an ancestor of the Ling Family was fortunate enough to obtain a copy of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step manual. Although it was later taken by others, the Ling Family had already made a copy and retained it. Any Ling Family member is entitled to practice this skill. So don't think that you and Su He are the only ones in this world who know the Nine Yang Qiankun Step."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen was once again taken aback.

Lin Guodong actually knows the Nine Yang Qiankun Step! Moreover, from what Lin Guodong said, there are quite a few in the Ling Family who know it.

Seeing Ling Chen's stunned expression, Lin Guodong smiled arrogantly, "Ling Chen, don't underestimate the Ling Family. The Ling Family possesses things far beyond your imagination. What is the Nine Yang Qiankun Step? The Ling Family has plenty of martial arts manuals. If you ever get the chance to visit the Ling Family, the things there would keep you awake for three days and nights."

"Rest assured, I'll visit the Ling Family sooner or later, but not as a guest—I'll be there to raid and pillage."

"For that, you'll have to have the capabilities," Lin Guodong spoke as he swung his arm, bringing the blade around to threaten Ling Chen's neck from behind.

"Begone!"

With a light shout, Ling Chen swept his right leg horizontally, kicking away Lin Guodong's hand holding the blade. Using this opportunity, Ling Chen tapped the ground with his toes, closing in on Lin Guodong in an instant and launching both fists simultaneously like a dragon searching the sea.

Chapter 877 - 882: Pursuing Lin Guodong (Part 4)

Seeing Ling Chen's fists coming at him, Lin Guodong swayed his feet, instantly dodging under Ling Chen's punches.

Nine Yang Qiankun Step!

Ling Chen's expression slightly changed; this guy really wasn't lying, he indeed knew the Nine Yang Qiankun Step. Moreover, from Lin Guodong's familiarity in executing it, it was evident he had practiced it for a long time.

In that instant, both of them displayed the Nine Yang Qiankun Step to the fullest, only shadows of the two were seen maneuvering around in the confined space, constantly changing positions.

Moments passed, Ling Chen and Lin Guodong finally stopped, both panting heavily as they looked at one another.

Continuously using the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, even for two Earthly List masters, was a bit unbearable.

"It seems... neither of us can defeat the other." Lin Guodong gasped, weakly looking at Ling Chen said, "Today, I can't kill you, and you can't catch me either."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen rested his hands on his knees, said, "Don't conclude too early before the last moment."

Earlier, during the exchange with Lin Guodong, Ling Chen already felt that Lin Guodong's strength was indeed slightly superior. However, Lin Guodong, being a high-ranking member of the God Organization, might rarely make a move easily and therefore lacks combat experience. With rich experience, Ling Chen barely compensated for the gap between them.

As a result, after such a long exchange, neither had claimed victory.

"Ling Chen, why persist so? The God Organization originally had no enmity with you; it was you who insisted on getting involved. If it weren't for your meddling, you could now enjoy the stability of an ordinary person."

"I have considered that question too, I suppose... maybe I am just born with a troublesome fate. Alright, chat time is over, let's move." With that said, Ling Chen mustered his energy, striding toward Lin Guodong.

But just at this time, Lin Guodong suddenly pulled something out from his pocket, aiming it at Ling Chen's body.

Seeing that box the size of a mobile phone, Ling Chen's heart sank. For some reason, a strong sense of unease surged within him. For a moment, Ling Chen halted his steps, standing still while gazing directly at the box.

"I told you." Lin Guodong sneered, "Don't underestimate the Ling Family. Humph! What is the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion compared to the Ling Family's collection? Have you seen what I'm holding? This is the most renowned secret weapon in Martial Arts from hundreds of years ago, the Soul Chasing Needle! Don't be fooled by its small size, inside it hides a hundred and eighty steel needles, even a Heavenly List master might not dodge

them. The Ling Family has a rich heritage, but there is only one of this secret weapon, which I took for self-defense just in case. Ling Chen, dying under the Soul Chasing Needle, you should feel honored."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen's expression instantly turned solemn, eyes unblinking as he stared at the secret weapon, rapidly contemplating a countermeasure in his mind.

"It's time to end all of this. Ling Chen, don't blame me, in terms of family generation, you should call me uncle. Unfortunately, you are too much of a hindrance. Only by eliminating you, can the God Organization continue to develop. Rest assured, it won't be long before I send your parents underground to reunite with you."

With that, Lin Guodong's finger went to the trigger of the secret weapon, ready to press the mechanism.

Seeing Lin Guodong's action, Ling Chen's pupils contracted, and without daring to think further, he hurriedly turned around and dashed away.

Ah!

Just as Ling Chen was about to run away, a scream came from behind him.

After a brief pause, Ling Chen immediately turned to look back. Instantly, he saw Lin Guodong clutching his right wrist, face full of pain, the secret weapon had dropped to the ground.

Not waiting for Lin Guodong to retrieve the secret weapon, Ling Chen took a few quick steps and swiftly dashed forward, snatching the secret weapon away.

"Ling Chen, are you alright?"

At this moment, Liu Dongsheng hurriedly approached, asking with concern.

It was Liu Dongsheng who arrived in time and used a stun baton to knock the secret weapon out of Lin Guodong's hand. If he hadn't intervened at the critical moment, Ling Chen's body would probably have been pierced by the steel needles.

"I'm fine." Ling Chen secretly let out a breath, feeling a sense of having survived a disaster.

"Thanks, Boss Liu!"

"No need to be polite." Liu Dongsheng nonchalantly said. As he finished speaking, he pointed at Lin Guodong, asking, "What do you plan to do with him?"

"Take him back first, I still have many questions to ask him."

"Alright, leave him to me, you go meet up with Elder Tang."

Ling Chen nodded, chopped Lin Guodong on the neck, instantly knocking him out. Lin Guodong may be a master on the Earthly List, so entrusting him to Liu Dongsheng for safekeeping, Ling Chen wasn't completely reassured. Hence, it's better to knock him out.

Having dealt with Lin Guodong, Ling Chen retraced his steps, soon finding Tang Guolun busy in front of the computer.

"Boss Tang." Ling Chen went forward and greeted.

"You're here!" Tang Guolun glanced at Ling Chen approaching, then continued to focus on the computer screen, while saying, "Ling, we've got a big gain this time."

"Really?" Upon hearing this, Ling Chen curiously leaned over, asking, "What big gain?"

Tang Guolun pointed at the documents and data on the screen, saying, "I think we've found the most critical secret of the God Organization." With that, Tang Guolun grabbed a host from the table, simply and roughly dismantling the hard drive, saying, "All the files inside are encrypted, can't crack them all for now, we will study them gradually after getting back. In conclusion, I'm quite sure we've grasped the lifeline of the God Organization."

"Great!" Ling Chen was a bit excited. After struggling against the God Organization for so long, they finally had a big gain, not having wasted so much effort.

"Here, keep this thing safe." Tang Guolun tossed the hard drive to Ling Chen, letting him keep it.

Even though it was just a slight gesture, Ling Chen gained a bit more trust in Tang Guolun.

With the hard drive secured, Ling Chen looked around, the security and staff were all tied up by Liu Dongsheng, squatting in the corner, not daring to move.

"Boss Tang, has the signal been restored here?"

"I've lifted the signal blocking device, we can communicate with the outside now."

At that moment, Ling Chen used an earpiece to contact Hu Fei outside, instructing him to find a way to guide the police here. With so many prisoners, the three couldn't handle them all. Besides, they were just some minor fry, no value, better leave them for the police to deal with.

After Ling Chen and the others left with Lin Guodong, the police soon found the temporary base with Hu Fei's secret assistance.

With things developing to this stage, Ling Chen no longer needed to stay, the police were sufficient to clean up the aftermath.

Returning to the research base, it was already four in the morning.

Not pausing to rest, Ling Chen directly brought Lin Guodong to the interrogation room.

Chapter 878 - 883: Interrogation (1)

After waking up Lin Guodong, Ling Chen placed a chair in front of him, rested his hands on the backrest, and stared directly into Lin Guodong's eyes, asking, "I don't need to tell you; I believe you're already aware of your current situation. So, you have only two choices now: either cooperate obediently and tell us all the intelligence related to the God Organization, or I'll beat you first and then get the information I want out of your mouth."

Lin Guodong looked at Ling Chen without fear, his lips slightly curled in a half-smile, and said, "I don't want to choose either of those. Is there a third option?"

"Lin Guodong!" Ling Chen's tone instantly rose eight degrees, saying, "Don't think I'm joking with you. Let me tell you, if you don't clarify everything, you'll never have a good day again."

Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen continued, "Since you know my previous job nature, you should be aware that I'm quite experienced with interrogation techniques, so you'd better not force me. Otherwise, the one to suffer will be you."

Hearing this, Lin Guodong replied indifferently, "Ling Chen, I'm a senior member of the God Organization, involved in all kinds of things. No matter what you want to know, I can tell you. But the problem is, I don't want to disclose these secrets to you."

"You..."

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, Lin Guodong continued, "You don't have to force me or use those methods to threaten me. As a senior member of the God Organization, I've already come to terms with my fate. For me, there are only two choices: death or life, that's all. So, you don't need to waste words here, just kill me."

Ling Chen frowned slightly and said, "You're really not afraid of death?"

Lin Guodong laughed and said, "Afraid? Who isn't afraid of death? But any grand scheme requires sacrifice. As a Ling Family member, if I don't even have this awareness, then it's a waste of the Ling Family's teachings and training." After speaking, Lin Guodong changed the topic and looked at Ling Chen, "Ling Chen, I'll say it again, you're talented. As long as you face your identity and cooperate with the Ling Family, joining forces, I can assure you, the rewards will exceed your expectations very soon."

"Enough!" Ling Chen said impatiently, "Don't bother me with these. Let me tell you, I don't have ambitions as big as yours. For me, a plain life is already enough. To be honest, sometimes I can't understand, the Ling Family is big and influential, with money, power, and prestige; why not enjoy a stable life and instead fund the God Organization? Isn't everything you have now sufficient?"

"You're wrong." Lin Guodong countered, "Whether money or power, those are superficial things, the Ling Family disdains those. Many years ago, the Ling Family stopped pursuing those things you've mentioned. Our goals are far greater; actually, before the Ling Family took over the God Organization, we had already clarified the family's objective. Funding the God Organization and bringing its power under control was merely to speed up achieving the goal."

"What's the goal?" Ling Chen immediately asked.

Faced with Ling Chen's inquiry, Lin Guodong smiled without speaking.

Seeing the other party remain silent, Ling Chen sneered slightly and said, "Even if you don't say it, I can guess."

"Really?" Lin Guodong asked meaningfully, "Then tell me, what do you think the God Organization's ultimate goal is?"

"I've watched videos of Yang He and those people, and their transactions with the God Organization. Over the years, Yang He and others have been secretly funding the God Organization. In return, the God Organization regularly provides them with a kind of medicine. That medicine can delay human aging and make people younger and younger. I must admit, you're quite a team, being able to develop this medicine. If it were a medical invention, you'd be worthy of a Nobel Prize, shocking the world. Unfortunately, your success is built on the lives of countless people."

After listening to Ling Chen's words, Lin Guodong chuckled softly and said, "Do you think that's the God Organization's ultimate goal? If that's what you think, then I can only say, you don't understand the God Organization, and you don't understand the Ling Family."

"No matter." Ling Chen said indifferently, "Sooner or later, when all those encrypted documents are decrypted, even if you don't say it, I can figure out your purpose."

"Please go ahead." Lin Guodong said carelessly, "However, I'd like to make a small request. Since you don't intend to kill me, please prepare breakfast for me with bread and eggs, plus a glass of milk. I want steak for lunch, and Chinese cuisine for dinner. Besides these, the accommodation must have air conditioning, and must be clean. I'm a clean freak; if the room isn't clean, I won't be able to sleep."

"Ha!" Ling Chen said coldly, "Your requests aren't many. Unfortunately, I can't satisfy a single one." With that, Ling Chen didn't bother with Lin Guodong anymore and got up to walk out of the interrogation room.

"Wait!"

Hearing Lin Guodong's voice come from behind, Ling Chen turned around and asked, "Do you have any other requests?"

"Not really, just wanted to remind you not to forget those requests because you'll need them soon."

"Alright, I'll remember them. But I'll remind you as well, this is not the God Organization, nor the Ling Family, you'd better behave and not force me to take action against you." After speaking, Ling Chen left the interrogation room without looking back.

"Fatty!"

Hu Fei, who had been waiting outside the door, quickly approached Ling Chen and asked, "What happened?"

"Take him down and treat him well." When saying 'treat,' Ling Chen emphasized the tone.

"Got it!" Hu Fei rubbed his hands, a sinister smile on his lips.

Leaving the interrogation room, Ling Chen went straight to the control center.

At this moment, it was already past five in the morning, but the staff at the control center were still working overtime; none of them were resting.

In front of three computers placed side by side, three technicians were striking the keyboards, eyes fixed on the screens, a stream of code flowing from their fingertips.

Behind the three, Tang Guolun was watching the screens seriously, occasionally giving pointers for the technicians to make corrections.

"Boss Tang."

Ling Chen walked up to Tang Guolun and asked, "How's it going? Have those encrypted documents been decrypted yet?"

"It's somewhat tricky." Tang Guolun said, "These encrypted documents use a special encryption method, for instance, inputting specific words or phrases is the only way to make sense of the gibberish. Otherwise, it might take a long time and still not succeed."

Chapter 879 - 884: Interrogation (2)

No wonder Lin Guodong seemed so confident earlier; he already knew that without specific characters and words, they couldn't decrypt the encrypted documents at all.

No way!

The encrypted documents must be unlocked, Ling Chen thought to himself. This is his best chance to access the secrets of the God Organization; once these documents are cracked, all of the God Organization's secrets will be laid bare before him. He cannot afford to miss such a good opportunity.

As he pondered, Tang Guolun looked at Ling Chen and said, "I suggest you still go find Lin Guodong. As long as we can get the keywords from him, we can unlock the contents of the documents."

"I would like to," Ling Chen smiled wryly and said, "I spoke with Lin Guodong in the interrogation room earlier, but that guy has a tight mouth; nothing can be gleaned from him. I think even torture wouldn't be useful. Lin Guodong is dead set on not speaking, and he's prepared to die."

"Is that so?" Tang Guolun thought for a moment and said, "Then let me try talking to him; maybe it'll yield unexpected results."

"That works too." Ling Chen nodded. Tang Guolun used to be an FBI crime consultant and understands criminal psychology best. Switching him in to talk to Lin Guodong might yield more intelligence.

After Tang Guolun left, Ling Chen continued staying in the control center, watching the content displayed on the three computer screens.

The hard drive taken from the temporary base contains many confidential files, with over two hundred folders. Each folder represents a confidential operation of the God Organization.

Among these files, the folder labeled 'Top Secret' attracted Ling Chen the most. Unfortunately, as Tang Guolun said earlier, these files are encrypted specially; only specific keywords can open them.

Half an hour later, Tang Guolun walked in from outside. Seeing his helpless expression, Ling Chen knew it was hopeless.

"You were right; that guy is indeed tough to deal with, immune to persuasion; nothing works. I say just stop wasting words with him and serve him some real torture; let's see how long he can withstand it."

Just then, a staff member in the control center stood up and spoke into the microphone, "Mr. Ling, someone is looking for you."

"Who?"

Ling Chen asked and quickly walked to the staff, taking the microphone.

"Hello! Who is this?"

As soon as Ling Chen's words came out, he heard a hearty laugh from the other end of the line: "Ling Chen, long time no see, do you remember me?"

The voice triggered a person in Ling Chen's mind immediately.

"Lin Jiawei! It's you? How did you know the phone number here?"

"It's not difficult for the God Organization," Lin Jiawei laughed and said, "Ling Chen, I think you should know the purpose of my call. Lin Guodong was captured by you, so I just wanted to make a call to see if you're willing to negotiate."

"You want to rescue him?" Ling Chen sneered inwardly but kept his tone serious.

"First, let me hear the terms you offer. If they are suitable, perhaps I'll consider them."

"As long as you release Lin Guodong, East Sea City will be under your control in the future. No matter what happens, the God Organization will neither meddle in East Sea City nor send anyone into your territory. Furthermore, the God Organization is willing to pay a ransom of one billion US dollars to secure Lin Guodong's freedom and safety."

Upon hearing these generous terms, Ling Chen was secretly amazed. The God Organization is indeed lavish, actually willing to spend one billion US dollars to save Lin Guodong. However, this indirectly explains Lin Guodong's standing within the God Organization.

"Ling Chen, how about it? Are you satisfied with the terms we offered?"

"The terms are good, but they haven't reached a satisfactory level for me. How about you go back and discuss it further?"

"Ling Chen, I advise you not to push too hard; one billion US dollars is already a lot. Also, I must remind you not to assume that just because you captured Lin Guodong, you hold the advantage. It's true that Lin Guodong is a senior in the God Organization, but not indispensable. In short, his value is only worth one billion US dollars; if you don't accept it, we have nothing to discuss. Moreover, there's something you should know: there are ten teams waiting around East Sea City's surrounding area. If the negotiation collapses, we'll immediately take action. So, whether for yourself or for others, you better think it over carefully."

"No need to consider," Ling Chen said indifferently, "I still hold that you haven't offered satisfactory terms. If you truly have the intent, then have your boss come and talk to me. Except for him, I won't accept any negotiations. Well, I've said what I needed to say; how you decide is your business. If you plan to strike, I'm up for the fight."

After speaking, Ling Chen hung up the phone before Lin Jiawei could say anything else.

"Who was on the call?" Tang Guolun asked.

"Lin Jiawei, someone from the God Organization. They want to negotiate with me to release Lin Guodong." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "They are quite generous, offering terms worth one billion US dollars."

"Really?" Tang Guolun's eyes lit up, asking, "Why didn't you agree?"

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "Why rush? The initiative is in our hands now, so why hurry to strike a deal with them? Let's wait a bit longer, until we've completely extracted Lin Guodong's secrets, then it won't be too late to negotiate."

"Two birds with one stone!" Tang Guolun grinned and said, "You're quite sneaky."

"Isn't negotiation like doing business? We have to be sly. Alright, Boss Tang, you continue with your work; I won't disturb you." With that, Ling Chen stepped out of the control center.

Meanwhile, in a luxurious villa in East Sea City.

"How's it going? Any progress?"

The question came from Zhu Hong. Beside him stood several men in white lab coats, all gathered around a pile of glassware, carefully observing the data displayed on the computer screen, furrowing their brows slightly as if the data wasn't satisfying.

"Mr. Zhu, are you sure Ling Chen's blood is effective? We've conducted several experiments already, but the results are the same, completely useless."

"Could it be... you made a mistake?" one of the bolder men asked.

"Impossible!" Zhu Hong said coldly, "Ling Chen's blood can perfectly fuse with the enhancement agent; I saw it with my own eyes, absolutely no mistake. The issue must be errors in your experimental process leading to this situation. I'm telling you, don't make excuses to cover up your mistakes. From now on, I'll keep a close eye on you. I want to see who made the mistake, you or me."

"Yes." Nobody dared to contradict Zhu Hong's words, and the group of men hurriedly tidied up their things, beginning the experiment anew.

Chapter 880 The Mysterious Leader

Research Base.

Ling Chen pushed open the door to a bedroom and stepped inside.

Seeing the man lying on the bed, Ling Chen smiled slightly and asked, "How is it, feeling better?"

"Much better." Seeing Ling Chen approaching, Bai Huanjun quickly sat up, leaning against the wall at the head of the bed, and said, "It's still more comfortable back here; the hospital was too unbearable."

"Last time was tough for you." Ling Chen said, sitting at the bedside, "Your body hadn't recovered yet, and I still had you take the risk to meet on my behalf."

"Why these polite words." Bai Huanjun chimed in, "Even if we're not friends, we're in a working relationship. Don't forget, it was you who gave me two million at the start to help me through hard times, which I have always remembered. Plus, when I was at the hospital, you saved me. If one were to calculate, I owe you much more than money, even my life is something you gave. So, there's no need for such polite words in the future."

"Okay, I won't say it." Ling Chen replied with a smile: "However, I must correct you on one thing. It is not an employer-employee relationship between us, and I have never seen you as my subordinate. In my eyes, you are my friend."

A couple of days ago, the person who went to meet Zhu Hong was not really Ling Chen himself but Bai Huanjun in disguise.

Ling Chen knew very well that Zhu Hong wanted his blood for some reason. That guy is very cunning and must not be allowed to succeed. So, Ling Chen thought it over and realized that only having Bai Huanjun impersonate him could foil Zhu Hong's plans.

"Alright, you get some rest first; I have other things to take care of, I'll leave now, and come see you when I have time."

Saying that, Ling Chen got up and walked out of the bedroom.

Returning to his room, Ling Chen lay on the bed and yawned. He had stayed up all night to capture Lin Guodong, and now as he relaxed, he felt extremely tired, wanting only to have a good sleep.

However, just as Ling Chen was about to rest, there was a 'knock knock knock' at the door from outside the room.

"Who is it?" Ling Chen asked irritably.

"It's me, open up quickly."

Upon hearing Hu Fei's urging voice, Ling Chen feared something urgent might have happened and hurriedly got up from bed, quickly walking to the door.

Opening the door, he saw Hu Fei standing outside and asked, "What happened?"

Hu Fei handed the phone in his hand to Ling Chen and said, "A call, for you. Hey, where's your phone? They said they couldn't reach your phone, so they called mine to find you."

"Phone?"

Only then did Ling Chen remember that when he was chasing Lin Guodong, in order to prevent the blast door from closing, he had wedged his phone in the door crack, and it ended up being crushed by the door.

Taking the phone Hu Fei handed over, Ling Chen answered, "This is Ling Chen, who's calling?"

"Have you forgotten? Didn't you ask me to call you just now?" A woman's voice came from the other end.

Ling Chen thought hard; this woman's voice was very unfamiliar; he felt he hadn't heard it before. Additionally, he was puzzled when he had made contact with this woman and why she said it was him who asked her to call.

With a quick turn of thought, Ling Chen asked, "Who exactly are you? I don't seem to know you."

"Ling Chen, you really have a short memory. Have you forgotten that when Lin Jiawei spoke with you on the phone, you mentioned something?"

Upon hearing the reminder, Ling Chen's expression changed instantly.

Could it be... this woman is the mysterious leader of the God Organization?

But how could it be a woman?

He remembered that Nanrong Yuan had said that the mysterious leader of the God Organization was a man and a Huaxia national.

Listening to this woman's voice, it was very standard Mandarin, so it's likely she is from Huaxia. However, this information differed significantly from what Nanrong Yuan provided, turning from a man to a woman.

Seeing Ling Chen not speaking for a while, the person on the other end said, "What, didn't you want to talk to me? Why aren't you saying a word?"

Ling Chen collected himself and replied immediately, "You're mistaken; it's not that I don't want to speak, it's that I was waiting for you to speak. Don't you all want to make a deal with me? In that case, you should state your terms, and I'll see if I'm satisfied."

"Ling Chen, I advise you to be content, don't push your luck. Ten billion US dollars is not a small amount. I offered this price not because Lin Guodong is associated with the God Organization but because of his relationship with me. If you think you can threaten us by using Lin Guodong, you're sorely mistaken. Let me tell you, not a penny more than ten billion US dollars, and you must make a decision immediately. If you can't make a decision before I hang up, our transaction ends here, and Lin Guodong is at your disposal; we don't care if he lives or dies."

Wow!

Impressive, this woman is indeed impressive.

Ling Chen silently applauded. Just now, he was wondering what made this woman capable of being the leader of the God Organization. But after hearing her words, Ling Chen felt she was quite formidable. Whether in rhetoric, strategy, or grasping people's minds, she was very seasoned.

Deserving of being the leader of the God Organization, she indeed has a way.

However, even though that woman is powerful, Ling Chen wouldn't admit defeat so quickly either.

"Well, have you thought it through?"

Upon hearing the woman's voice again, Ling Chen said calmly, "Alright, since you all don't care about Lin Guodong's life or death, I might as well say it directly; your ten billion US dollars aren't worth my attention. You haven't even checked who Ling Chen's woman is; do I look like someone who's short of money?"

After speaking, Ling Chen didn't give the other party a chance to reply and directly hung up the phone.

Seeing Ling Chen's move, the eavesdropping Hu Fei at the side hastily said, "Why did you hang up on her? That's ten billion US dollars. Have a proper talk; why be so impulsive?"

Ling Chen shot Hu Fei a glare and said irritably, "Can you stop being obsessed with money? This is the art of negotiation, do you understand? That woman wanted to threaten me? She thought I'd be scared of her canceling

the transaction and losing ten billion US dollars for nothing. So why not show her with my actions that I don't care? Just wait and see, within three minutes, she will definitely call back."

"You are the wind, I am the sand, entangled and lingering... to the ends of the earth..."

Just as Ling Chen finished speaking, the phone started ringing again. Listening to this clichéd old song, Ling Chen disdainfully glanced at Hu Fei, wondering what era was it that he'd still use such a song as a ringtone.

Hu Fei glared back at Ling Chen, meaning do you mind?

When the ringtone reached thirteen rings, Hu Fei anxiously pointed at the phone, urging Ling Chen to quickly answer it.

Ling Chen smiled slightly, unhurriedly answered the call, and said, "Hello! Who is this?"

"It's me. Mr. Ling, I apologize for my earlier words. I must admit, you are a worthy opponent to take seriously. So, let's have a serious talk."