

The Beauty 931

Chapter 931 Total Annihilation (3)

"Me?" The person pointed at their own nose and replied with a smile, "I forgot to introduce myself. My name is Chen Quan. I wonder if you've heard of me."

Chen Quan?

The moment this name was mentioned, the expressions of Qiu Yong and the others changed immediately.

Recently, Ling Chen had brought up the name 'Chen Quan' several times in their presence, so they had a very deep impression of it. Chen Quan, a master on the Heavenly List, had been imprisoned by the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion for decades and had only recently escaped. They didn't expect him to be involved in this operation.

At this moment, a few people began to step out from the crowd. Besides Chen Quan, there were several others. If Ling Chen were here, he would definitely recognize their identities.

Zhu Hong, Chu Huaiyang, Song Mingzhe. These were all Chen Quan's followers.

Earlier, Qiu Yong and the others used the cover of smoke to attempt to rescue someone from Ji Gang's grasp. Who would have thought that as soon as they charged into the crowd, they were stopped. Moreover, they were all injured in the process, losing the ability to act. Only now did they realize that the person who stopped them was Chen Quan.

No wonder! When a master on the Heavenly List takes action, how could they possibly withstand it?

After learning the identities of Chen Quan and the others, Qiu Yong sighed helplessly, a touch of bitterness in his clouded old eyes.

With two masters from the Heavenly List present, no matter how skilled they were, it was impossible for them to be a match for the other side. At this moment, Qiu Yong and the others instinctively turned their gaze to Xu Ming. Last time, when facing Chen Guanghe, Xu Ming had easily defeated him. In their

eyes, Xu Ming was undoubtedly synonymous with 'mystery.' So, in such a critical moment, everyone hoped Xu Ming could once again display his mystery and strength.

However, facing everyone's gaze, Xu Ming remained motionless. Seeing his reaction, Qiu Yong and the others couldn't help but feel a bit disappointed; it seemed they were doomed this time.

"Take them all down," Ji Gang waved his hand, issuing the command.

Soon, several members of the God Organization surged forward, tying up Qiu Yong and the others with specially made ropes.

Meanwhile, Ji Gang walked straight up to Lin Guodong and Lin Qiqi, and asked, "Mr. Lin, Miss Lin, are you both alright?"

Lin Guodong rubbed his somewhat sore shoulder and smiled slightly, "We're fine. Mr. Ji, it's thanks to your help this time that we could escape unscathed. Thank you!"

"You're too kind, Mr. Lin. I'm also a member of the God Organization, and these are things I should do." With that, Ji Gang pointed to the captured Qiu Yong and the others, asking, "Mr. Lin, what do you plan to do with these people?"

Lin Guodong thought for a moment, then said, "Lock them up for now; don't harm them. Ling Chen hasn't returned yet, and they might be of great use."

"Yes!"

It's over!

At this moment, in a dark alley outside the research base, Hu Fei, Yang Chen, and Wei Jiahao hid in the shadows, watching as Qiu Yong, Tang Guolun, Qin Genglong, and Kaelina were escorted to the vehicles, inwardly lamenting the situation.

They had thought Qiu Yong and the others could use Lin Guodong and Lin Qiqi to rescue Tang Guolun and the others, but they hadn't expected that not only did they fail to rescue them, they also got themselves captured.

"Hu, what do we do now?" Wei Jiahao asked worriedly.

Hu Fei scratched his head and replied with a bitter smile, "I have no idea what to do. Now we can only wait for Ling Chen to come back."

After a while, seeing all the vehicles of the God Organization drive away, Hu Fei immediately called Yang Chen and Wei Jiahao, preparing to sneak back to the research base. They had left in such a hurry earlier that many valuable items were left behind. Now that Ji Gang and the others had left, it was time to retrieve them.

However, before the three could get close to the research base, they heard a loud 'bang.'

In an instant, flames shot up to the sky, and the raging fire engulfed the entire base. Hu Fei and the other two, being too close, were instantly blown away by the shockwave, crashing into the walls of the surrounding buildings, and they immediately lost consciousness.

...

Early morning!

At East Sea International Airport, Ling Chen opened the cabin door, stood at the entrance, stretched his lazy body, and breathed in the fresh air, feeling much more refreshed.

"Mom, we're back." Ling Chen turned back, smiling at Yang Qingling behind him.

"Aren't you going to help your grandparents down?" Yang Qingling reminded.

"Got it!" Ling Chen chuckled, turned back into the cabin. After a while, he helped two elderly people slowly walk out. These two elders were none other than Ling Chen's grandfather and grandmother, Yang Yan and Gong Meiling.

Due to pressing time, Hu Fei urged Ling Chen to return quickly. Unable to refuse, Ling Chen had no choice but to pick up his grandparents and head straight for East Sea City. Fortunately, the two elders were still in good health and were able to endure more than ten hours of plane travel.

Once off the plane, the Hongyu Group's special car was already waiting outside the airport.

As the group got into the car, Nanrong Wanqing asked, "Shall we go back to Wealthy Manor first, or...?"

"Let's go straight back," Ling Chen said. Yang Qingling initially wanted to take Yang Yan and his wife to stay at a hotel, but Ling Chen was adamant. He had finally found his family, and how could he bear to let them stay in a hotel? Besides, the Nanrong Family had plenty of places to stay.

"Mom, don't worry about troubling Wanqing. Once I finish my business in a few days, I'll accompany you to look at houses."

Yang Qingling nodded and said, "No rush. You handle your own affairs first."

As they spoke, the ringtone of Ling Chen's phone rang.

Ling Chen thought to himself, it's probably Hu Fei urging him again. He had told Hu Fei yesterday that he would arrive in East Sea City this morning.

Taking out his phone, Ling Chen was surprised to find that the caller was not Hu Fei, but Xia Mutong.

Strange! Why is Xia Mutong looking for him so early?

Answering the call, Ling Chen smiled and asked, "Officer Xia, do you need something from me?"

"You can still laugh,"

Upon hearing Xia Mutong's cold voice, Ling Chen was slightly stunned and asked puzzledly, "Officer Xia, what's wrong? What happened?"

"Don't you know?" There was a hint of surprise in Xia Mutong's tone. After a pause, Xia Mutong asked, "Where are you right now?"

"The airport, I just got back from abroad."

"No wonder. Your friends are in trouble. If it's convenient, I suggest you check the news."

The news?

Ling Chen felt his heart sink, with an ominous premonition immediately looming over him. Hanging up the phone, Ling Chen quickly turned on the in-car television and switched the channel to the news station. Soon, a live news report appeared on the screen.

"Dear viewers, in the early hours of last night, an explosion occurred in a residential building located in the city center region. Police are still investigating further, and the specifics regarding casualties and the cause of the explosion have not been disclosed..."

Watching the news with that area of residential buildings now reduced to ruins, Ling Chen's face turned somewhat pale.

It exploded!

Then... what about Hu Fei and the others...

"Ling Chen." Nanrong Wanqing grasped Ling Chen's hand, her face pale. She had been to the research base several times, so she knew very well what the ruins in the news represented.

Chapter 932 A Visitor from the Upper Ranks (Part 1)

"Stop! Stop quickly!"

After a moment of blankness, Ling Chen finally reacted, hurriedly shouting for the driver to stop the car at once.

As soon as the car pulled over to the roadside, not even coming to a complete halt, Ling Chen impatiently pushed open the door and dashed towards the road. Before Nanrong Wanqing could catch up with Ling Chen's footsteps, he had already flagged down a taxi and was swiftly heading to the research base.

Sitting in the taxi, Ling Chen took out his phone, found Hu Fei's number, and dialed it. However, the other end of the line informed him that the user had their phone off. Unable to reach Hu Fei, Ling Chen continued dialing Tang Guolun, Kaelina, and Qiu Yong's numbers one after another. But without exception, every phone indicated it was turned off.

Listening to the busy signal from his phone, Ling Chen sat dazed in the backseat, his Mo Che-like pupils devoid of any brightness, his face showing a hint of pallor.

They must survive... they must survive...

Ling Chen muttered under his breath, silently praying in his heart. At this moment, he only hoped that Hu Fei and the others were safe and sound. As long as they were okay, he was willing to pay any price.

With Ling Chen's urging, it wasn't long before the taxi arrived at the research base.

Due to the explosion last night, the area around the research base was cordoned off, with over a dozen news vans parked outside the police tape, and some journalists were conducting live reports.

Ling Chen tossed aside a hundred yuan bill, skipping the change, and dashed out of the taxi, speeding towards the explosion site at the research base. Standing outside the cordon, Ling Chen scanned the scene, only to find the research base had become a scene of ruins and rubble, with debris from the explosion scattered everywhere.

In the midst of the debris, one could vaguely see the shells of destroyed equipment.

Faced with such a situation, Ling Chen couldn't hold back any longer. He quickly lifted the police tape in front of him and strode inside.

"Stop!" Noticing Ling Chen's actions, two police officers promptly rushed over, blocking his way.

"Get out; this area is under police control, and unauthorized persons are not allowed inside."

Ignoring the officers' reproach, Ling Chen squeezed through between them and moved forward.

"Hey!" Seeing Ling Chen ignoring their warnings, the two officers immediately drew their batons from their waists, ready to chase after him and forcibly drive him out.

Just as they were about to intervene, a voice suddenly called from not far away, "You two, let him through; don't worry about him."

Looking closely, Xia Mutong, dressed in a police uniform, was coming over from a temporarily erected tent.

Once those two officers backed off, Ling Chen glanced at the approaching Xia Mutong and continued to focus on the ruins, asking in a deep voice, "Have any victims been found?" As he asked this, Ling Chen's voice carried a slight tremor, and his fists were clenched tightly, fearing he wouldn't be able to handle Xia Mutong's response.

Seeing Ling Chen's tense demeanor, Xia Mutong gently patted his shoulder, comforting him, "Alright, there's no need for you to be too anxious. We began searching last night and continued until this morning without finding any bodies. We believe that before the explosion occurred, everyone here evacuated ahead of time, so there were no casualties."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen felt a wave of relief, letting out a long sigh.

"Then where are they?"

"I don't know," Xia Mutong replied. "I've checked the nearby surveillance footage; all records from last night have been erased. Though we haven't found others, I discovered three people at the explosion site: Hu Fei and two young men. I suspect they were affected by the explosion's shockwave, as they were already unconscious when I found them."

"Where are they?" Ling Chen asked urgently.

"Receiving treatment at the hospital. Don't worry, I called, and their condition is stable, not life-threatening. I'll accompany you to visit them at the hospital shortly."

As he spoke, a police officer hurried over, whispered something in Xia Mutong's ear.

Whatever was said, Xia Mutong nodded and said, "Bring him over." Shortly after, a man in a suit was led to Xia Mutong by an officer. Before Xia Mutong could speak, the man began to plead, "Officer, you must help me."

Xia Mutong frowned slightly, saying, "Speak slowly, what happened exactly?"

"I'm the manager of a café, and last night..."

After listening to the man's account, Ling Chen's heart was stirred, immediately requesting Xia Mutong to accompany him to the café.

Upon entering the café, Ling Chen immediately saw a pit over a meter wide in the center of the hall, surrounded by piled-up rubble and soil. In addition, there were a few machines for digging placed beside the pit.

Approaching the pit, Ling Chen peered down and saw several electrical cables as thick as arms at the bottom. The cables' outer coating had been stripped away, exposing the copper wires within. Moreover, a few cables had been spliced and extended outwards. Ling Chen watched the cables' direction, his

expression darkening. Judging by the position of the cables at the bottom, they seemed to lead towards the research base. If he was correct, these should be the main lines for the research base.

Ling Chen had taken over the research base from the Secret Society, so he wasn't too familiar with its construction and layout. It seemed now that the person who sabotaged the research base had likely obtained the architectural plans for it, allowing them to accurately locate the main lines.

Though Ling Chen's computer skills were not as good as Hu Fei's, he knew a bit. If the opponent had infiltrated the base through the main lines, there was no way to stop them inside. They likely used this method to breach the base's security and defense systems, allowing its defenses to be easily overcome.

"Officer Xia, let's go; we need to visit the hospital."

Ling Chen said, having a rough idea of how the research base fell. Now, he wanted to quickly find Hu Fei, ask him clearly what happened last night.

Xia Mutong understood Ling Chen's feelings well. They immediately drove in a police car straight to the hospital.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen and Xia Mutong arrived at East Sea City's First People's Hospital.

Outside the special care unit, two police officers stood guard at the door, ensuring the patient's security inside. Seeing Xia Mutong arrived, they saluted, allowing Xia Mutong and Ling Chen inside.

Entering the ward, Ling Chen instantly saw Hu Fei, Yang Chen, and Wei Jiahao lying on the hospital beds. The three lay on separate beds, their faces covered with scars, their limbs wrapped in bandages, clearly heavily injured.

Chapter 933 A Visitor from the Upper Ranks (Part 2)

Ling Chen walked to Hu Fei's bedside, looking at the still unconscious Hu Fei, he gently patted his shoulder. Under Ling Chen's touch, Hu Fei gradually woke up in a daze.

Seeing Ling Chen standing in front of him, Hu Fei immediately widened his eyes and hurriedly climbed out of bed. However, as soon as he stood up, it pulled at his wounds, causing him to grimace in pain.

"Alright!" Ling Chen held down Hu Fei's body and said, "You're hurt, just stay in bed obediently."

"You're finally back." Hu Fei rubbed his flesh covered in wounds, speaking painfully, "If it weren't for my good luck, I would've been finished."

"I already know what happened at the base. Fatty, tell me, what's going on?"

"Last night, the base's system was attacked, all security defense systems failed. Moreover, the opposing party took control of our system, opened all the entrances and exits of the base, and let the enemy in. I initially wanted to take Lin Guodong and Lin Qiqi through the escape passage, but Boss Tang and the others were captured by Ji Gang."

Ji Gang?

Ling Chen's face slightly changed. So Ji Gang was involved, no wonder Qiu Yong and the others couldn't withstand the enemy's offensive.

"Elder Qiu listened to Ji Gang's suggestion and took Lin Guodong and the others for hostage exchange. Yang Chen and I escaped first, planning to meet outside. But when we escaped, we saw Elder Qiu and the others were captured. Oh right!" Saying this, Hu Fei seemed to recall something and added, "Last night when Elder Qiu and the others were taken away, I seemed to see Zhu Hong."

"Zhu Hong? Are you sure?"

Hu Fei nodded and said, "I probably didn't see wrong, Zhu Hong was wearing a silver mask."

So even they were involved. Ling Chen thought silently. He originally thought it was only people from the God Organization, but unexpectedly Zhu Hong and others were involved too. Mentioning Zhu Hong, Ling Chen immediately thought of Chen Quan. He remembered Zhu Hong had said that he had already cooperated with the God Organization. If Chen Quan also took action, then Qiu Yong and the others would stand no chance.

Two Heavenly List experts, too terrifying.

"Ling Chen, what should we do now?" Hu Fei asked Ling Chen, who was deep in thought, "The base is already destroyed, people have been captured, we have very limited resources to use now. More critically, we don't know where the God Organization took the people."

"Alright, don't worry about this matter, just focus on healing, I'll figure out a way to find them."

After comforting Hu Fei for a few sentences, Ling Chen also checked on Yang Chen and Wei Jiahao. The two were not in life-threatening condition, only lightly injured, a few days of rest and they'd be fine.

Leaving the hospital, Ling Chen sat in the passenger seat, his eyes fixed on the traffic ahead, his brows slightly furrowed, unsure of what he was thinking.

"Ling Chen."

Hearing Xia Mutong's voice coming from beside him, Ling Chen turned his head and asked, "What's wrong?"

"I know this incident has greatly affected you, but I hope you don't act rashly. It's best to cooperate with our police in the operation?"

"Cooperate with the police?" Ling Chen forced a smile and said, "You're well aware of their skills, how to cooperate? You should know in your heart, if the police get involved, it will only cause casualties for you."

"Then let me help you." Xia Mutong said decisively, not allowing refusal, "With my ability now, are you afraid I'll slow you down?"

"Not really." Ling Chen thought for a moment and said, "How about this, you first help me find out if we can locate their whereabouts. As for other matters, we'll discuss later."

"Alright."

After dropping Ling Chen off at Wealthy Manor, Xia Mutong drove back to the research base.

Returning home, he saw Yang Qingling and Yang Yan sitting in the living room, Nanrong Wanqing accompanying them chatting. Seeing Ling Chen come in from outside, Nanrong Wanqing quickly greeted him and asked with concern, "How is it? Is everyone alright?"

Ling Chen forced a smile, not knowing what to say. No one died, but were captured by people from the God Organization, their fates uncertain.

"Ling Chen, what's wrong?" Yang Qingling noticed Ling Chen's poor complexion and asked.

"It's nothing. Mom, you guys continue chatting, I have some things to deal with." With that, before Yang Qingling said anything more, Ling Chen had already gone back to the bedroom alone.

"This child ... not finishing his words." Yang Qingling said displeased.

"Auntie, don't blame Ling Chen." Nanrong Wanqing said, "Some things happened yesterday, Ling Chen must be feeling bad inside, you should let him be alone for a while."

In the bedroom, Ling Chen stood alone by the window, looking at the street view outside, his brows slightly furrowed.

Besides Hu Fei and the three, everyone else was captured, with very few people available to use on hand. If he couldn't find enough people to help, even if he knows Qiu Yong's whereabouts, he can't rescue them.

Allies!

Ling Chen squinted his eyes, pondering deeply. After thinking it over, it seemed those were the only allies he could find.

Sigh!

Ling Chen sighed helplessly. It seemed he needed to make a trip to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion. With Ji Gang and Chen Quan joined forces, to deal with these two Heavenly List experts, only other Heavenly List experts could help. His master was Su He, and Su He was the former Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion Master, the most reputable elder in the Yangxin Pavilion. With this identity, the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion was likely to help him once.

Thinking, Ling Chen took out his phone and dialed a number.

With the call connected, Ling Chen spoke, "Hey! Old Tang."

"Tang Yuan, it's been a while since our last contact, what have you been busy with lately?"

"Never mind me. Let me ask you, did you receive all those things I sent you last time?"

"You mean the evidence related to the Ling Family? Received it, is there a problem?"

"Nonsense! It's been so long, yet there's no sign of any action from you, isn't that evidence enough for you to act?"

"It's not that." On the other end, Tang Yuan said, "The evidence is sufficient, but we found the situation wasn't as simple as we imagined. When you sent me those pieces of evidence, I showed them to Colonel Pang. As per his suggestion, we submitted all the documentation to the higher-ups. But it's been so long, and there's still no response from above. Colonel Pang has submitted several reports, hoping the higher-ups approve action. However, the leaders up there keep telling us to stand by, saying some matters need further investigation and asking us to remain calm."

Tang Yuan couldn't help but curse, "Damn it! The evidence clearly shows the Ling Family as the mastermind behind the God Organization, and I just can't understand why they won't give the order. For this matter, even the old General went to negotiate with the higher-ups, but still got no result."

Chapter 934 VIP Visitor (Part 3)

"Hey! Tang Yuan, do you think... the people above might be connected with the Ling Family, so they..."

"Old Tang." Before Tang Yuan could finish speaking, Ling Chen had already stopped him, saying, "You can eat recklessly, but you can't speak recklessly, especially when it comes to things without evidence. Besides, no matter how wealthy and powerful the Ling Family may be, it's impossible for them to interfere with the government leadership. I think the reason why the authorities haven't made a decision yet is that they have their considerations. Don't be too anxious, I believe they'll make the right decision. Alright, I have matters to attend to, so I won't chat with you now. Let's get in touch later."

After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked at his phone, his gaze somewhat helpless. He originally thought that the government would take immediate action to bring the Ling Family to justice, but little did he expect that so much time would pass without a single movement.

Just as he was pondering, the phone suddenly rang. Glancing at the unknown number displayed, Ling Chen answered the call and asked, "Who is this?"

"Mr. Ling?"

"It's me. Who are you?"

"Mr. Ling, I was wondering if you're available now. If possible, I'd like to have a face-to-face meeting with you."

Ling Chen chuckled lightly, "You didn't even tell me who you are, why should I trust you? From my experience, anyone unwilling to reveal their name usually brings trouble."

"Mr. Ling, please don't misunderstand, I mean no harm, just want to discuss some matters related to the Ling Family with you. As far as I know, haven't you always wanted to deal with the Ling Family? Perhaps I can offer some help."

"The Ling Family?" Ling Chen's heart stirred as he speculated about the caller's identity. The caller seemed well-informed about his affairs, suggesting their significance.

After careful consideration, Ling Chen asked, "Where are you now?"

"I'm just outside the Wealthy Manor; if you're interested, you can come over now."

"Alright, wait for me."

Hanging up, Ling Chen left the bedroom, greeted Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling, then quickly headed towards the outside of Wealthy Manor.

Outside the Wealthy Manor, Ling Chen looked around. Shortly, a BMW sedan slowly approached and stopped in front of him.

The car door opened, and without hesitation, Ling Chen glanced at the person inside and quickly got in. Once in the car, Ling Chen sat by the window, sizing up the middle-aged man beside him. The man had a stout figure, a square face, and exuded a very upright demeanor, giving an impression of competence. Moreover, Ling Chen felt from the man's presence that he was someone who often worked in an office.

Military!

With keen intuition, Ling Chen immediately deduced the man's background.

A military man was seeking him out; it was likely no simple matter. With this in mind, Ling Chen took the initiative to ask, "Isn't it time you told me your identity?"

The middle-aged man smiled, saying, "Mr. Ling, you're a very capable person; even if I don't say, I believe you've already guessed where I come from. What I can tell you is my identity isn't false. As for my name... I'm very sorry, due to safety and secrecy concerns, I can't disclose my name for now. However, you can call me Mr. Zhang."

"Mr. Zhang?" Ling Chen smirked, "Since when did people from the military become so cautious, keeping even their names secret? Whatever, since you won't say, I won't bother asking further. Just speak directly, what matter do you want me for?"

"As I mentioned on the phone earlier, my purpose in finding you is regarding the Ling Family. Frankly speaking, we've reviewed the information you've submitted. Honestly, I'm shocked; such a large family as the Ling Family, controlling substantial funds, secretly funding the God Organization and assisting in malevolence, harming so many people, truly incites anger."

"Since you also believe that the Ling Family deserves punishment, why doesn't the government take immediate action to wipe them out and eradicate this tumor?"

"Mr. Ling, if possible, of course, we'd want to eliminate this tumor. But the problem is, from our perspective, things aren't that straightforward. You've only thought about eradicating the Ling Family, but we have to consider the aftermath. If the Ling Family falls, what consequences will arise? That's the most critical issue." Saying this, Mr. Zhang took a document from his briefcase and handed it to Ling Chen, "Mr. Ling, this document is a top-secret file; in the entire Huaxia, fewer than ten people are qualified to see it. The contents of this document are the results of extensive manpower and resource expenditure in recent times, and the data within is all true and valid."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but open the document in hand and examine it carefully.

Spending around ten minutes, Ling Chen reviewed the document contents thoroughly, his eyes suddenly showing a trace of shock.

This document contained detailed information on all of the Ling Family's assets. At this moment, Ling Chen had to acknowledge that after reading this document, the only feeling he had was astonishment. All along, he thought he knew the Ling Family well enough. However, through this document, he realized he had only touched the tip of the iceberg regarding the Ling Family.

Over the years, the Ling Family had amassed a large amount of funding through the God Organization, and all these funds were invested domestically. The Ling Family's assets had reached a truly terrifying scale.

Seeing Ling Chen's shocked expression, Mr. Zhang spoke, "Now you should understand why we haven't taken action against the Ling Family. Destroying the Ling Family might be easy, but the subsequent impact is what's enormous. Truth be told, we still haven't found a suitable way to handle the aftermath because the scope is too wide. Moreover, the core members of the Ling Family protect themselves well, knowing the domestic dangers, they've always hidden abroad, making it hard to locate them. Our current biggest concern is that if we take action against the Ling Family, they may retaliate against us."

You've seen the document; if Ling Family does retaliate against us, honestly speaking, we're not psychologically prepared to withstand it."

"So?" Ling Chen asked, "You've specially sought me out, presumably you already have a countermeasure."

"This matter cannot be handled publicly by the government. Simply put, we can only act secretly, providing you with enough resources to help you deal with the Ling Family. We're aware of the research base situation; I imagine you're eager to rescue your companions now. As long as you agree to cooperate, I can offer assistance to help you rescue your friends."

"You're aware of the research base situation?" Ling Chen appeared somewhat surprised.

Mr. Zhang smiled slightly, "Ling Chen, you wouldn't naively think the government knows nothing, would you?"

Chapter 935 Ren Qing (1)

Ling Chen squinted at Mr. Zhang and asked, "When did you start paying attention to me?"

"Mr. Ling, you are an elite of the Ghosts, and although you have left the Ghosts, you have never really left, always fighting on the front lines to resist the invasion of the God Organization. Back then, whether it was Qiao Zhen or Pang Jiulin, they mentioned you in their submitted reports, indicating that you were the source of the intelligence. From that time on, we began to keep an eye on you, including the research base you established, as well as other matters, which we are fully aware of. However, we have always remained in an observational state, never revealing ourselves so as not to cause unnecessary misunderstandings."

Mr. Zhang paused, then continued, "Do you remember Yang He?"

Ling Chen nodded. How could he forget Yang He? That old guy collaborated with the God Organization, secretly funding them. Last time, Ling Chen kidnapped him and obtained evidence of his collusion with the God Organization. Yet, the authorities did not pursue Yang He, and instead released him. Ling Chen was very angry about this.

Mr. Zhang smiled and said, "Regarding Yang He's situation, I believe you have grievances about how we handled it. However, we released Yang He not out of compromise. The true purpose of releasing Yang He was to not alert the snakes. Besides, we wanted to convey a message to the Ling Family, indicating that the government had not interfered in their matters nor suspected them. In fact, shortly after releasing Yang He, we started a secret investigation of the Ling Family. To gain in-depth understanding, we established a special team specifically responsible for Ling Family affairs. This special team is directly led from above, and fewer than ten people know they exist, not even the Lonely Wolf. It's not that I don't trust Lonely Wolf's people; it's just safer if fewer people know."

"Now you're telling me all this, do you really trust me?" Ling Chen asked.

"It's not about trusting or not trusting. To be honest, I know very little about you, nowhere near enough to say I trust you. But I've read your files, and you are an elite cultivated by the country, serving the nation for many years. As a soldier, I believe you're someone willing to contribute to the country. Additionally, there's an important reason, which is that now you are a thorn in the God Organization's side. With deep animosity on both sides, even if I didn't appear, you'd still fight them to the death. Given this, I might as well invest in you, hoping for a substantial return. Mr. Ling, as far as I'm aware, your friends have all been captured by the God Organization. If you want to rescue them, you'd better decide quickly. If you're willing to cooperate with us, I believe you won't be disappointed."

After hearing Mr. Zhang's proposal, Ling Chen couldn't help but fall into deep thought. There's no denying he indeed lacks manpower and resources at the moment. Although Xia Mutong has promised to help him find the whereabouts of Qiu Yong and others, the police have limited resources, and he doesn't hold much hope.

After pondering, it seems that currently, besides cooperating with Mr. Zhang, there doesn't appear to be any other way forward.

Qiu Yong and the others' fate is uncertain, and if delayed too long, who knows what could happen to them.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen looked at Mr. Zhang and said, "Cooperation is possible, but I want complete autonomy and won't be commanded by you. If you can't accept this condition, then there's no need for us to waste words."

"Haha!" Mr. Zhang laughed and said, "Mr. Ling, you are indeed straightforward. Rest assured, I will absolutely not interfere with your work. Whenever you need something, I will do my best to cooperate."

After speaking, Mr. Zhang instructed the driver, "Let's go!"

"Where to?"

Mr. Zhang smiled and said, "Your research base was destroyed, wasn't it? Now you're short of manpower and don't have a suitable place, so I arranged everything for you in advance."

Amid their conversation, the car drove for over twenty minutes and finally arrived at a residential area.

Ling Chen followed him out of the car, looked around, and saw that the surroundings were full of single-story houses without any tall buildings. Judging by the area, it seemed to be an older residential district.

With Mr. Zhang leading the way, Ling Chen passed through several alleys and arrived at a residential house.

Walking through the front door, Ling Chen was taken aback by the surprise. He initially thought this place was small, but unexpectedly the interiors of these houses connected together, forming a spacious workspace covering more than three hundred square meters.

At the moment, dozens of staff members were busy at their computers, and several rows of machinery and equipment were placed along the walls.

It appeared that this workspace was established some time ago.

"Mr. Ling, this is the temporary command center, and starting today, you'll be fully in charge of this place." Saying this, Mr. Zhang waved to a woman busy working, who promptly ran over with a folder.

"Mr. Zhang," the woman greeted politely.

Ling Chen examined the woman in front of him, in her twenties, with a delicate appearance, could be considered pretty. In simple professional attire, her smooth hair fell to her shoulders, and her bright eyes conveyed a capable aura.

While Ling Chen was looking at her, the woman was also observing Ling Chen. However, she only shot a couple of glances before quickly retracting her gaze, quietly standing in front of Mr. Zhang, waiting for instructions.

"Qing, let me introduce you." Mr. Zhang pointed at Ling Chen and said with a smile, "This gentleman is Ling Chen, whom I've mentioned to you. From today onwards, the temporary command center needs to fully cooperate with Mr. Ling's work; by no means should there be any slack. Do you understand?"

"Rest assured, Mr. Zhang, we will certainly strive to do our jobs well."

"Excellent." Mr. Zhang nodded with satisfaction, looking at Ling Chen and said, "Mr. Ling, this is Ren Qing, the chief manager of this temporary command center. Despite her young age, she is, like you, selected from many elite candidates with very strong work capabilities. You're new here, and there are many things you may not understand, so I've assigned Ren Qing to your side as your capable assistant. If you have anything unclear, feel free to ask her. I hope the two of you will cooperate well and complete the task swiftly."

Ling Chen smiled slightly, stretched out his hand, and said, "Miss Ren, I'll be counting on you from now on."

"Mr. Ling, you're too kind. We'll need to rely on you more in the future. Mr. Zhang says your abilities are very strong and can help us dismantle the God Organization's power; I hope you're truly as capable as he said."

Hearing this, Ling Chen's lips slightly curled, and a glimmer flashed in his eyes.

From this girl's tone, one could discern a clear sense of antagonism.

Chapter 936 Ren Qing (2)

Thinking about it, Ren Qing, the little chick, was originally in charge of this temporary command center. Now suddenly Ling Chen has been parachuted in to take over the entire center, which essentially strips Ren Qing of her power. In such a situation, anyone would feel displeased.

However, Ling Chen didn't really mind. The more this was the case, the more it showed that this chick was indeed, as Mr. Zhang said, a capable woman.

"Alright!" Mr. Zhang said with a smile: "You two are now acquainted, and I'll leave the rest to you. Mr. Ling, if you need anything, just ask Qing. If she can't do it, then contact me so I can figure something out."

"I will."

"I have to catch a flight back to Beijing soon, so you two get to know each other. I won't be accompanying you."

"Mr. Zhang, I'll see you out."

Seeing Ren Qing follow Mr. Zhang out the door, Ling Chen wisely didn't follow them but instead started wandering around the command center.

Because this command center had special permissions, all government resources could be used freely, which certainly made things convenient.

After looking around, Ling Chen stopped behind a staff member, his eyes fixed on the person's computer screen.

At this moment, the screen was displaying a segment of surveillance footage. Ling Chen was not unfamiliar with the place shown on the screen; it was the road near the research base.

The staff member was gripping the mouse, checking the surveillance footage frame by frame.

"This is the road section around the base. We've investigated it, and several surveillance cameras near the base were deliberately destroyed, leaving only the street cameras that are operational. I believe those people, after driving out of the base, must have passed by the surrounding roads. I've asked the traffic police to retrieve all surveillance footage within a five-kilometer radius, so we should be able to find their whereabouts."

Hearing a voice from behind, Ling Chen turned to look at Ren Qing and smiled slightly: "Miss Ren's efficiency is quite impressive."

Ignoring Ling Chen's compliment, Ren Qing said to herself: "According to our intelligence, after the God Organization invaded the base, they didn't immediately withdraw from East Sea City. So, I am certain they are still in East Sea City, but I don't know where they are hiding. East Sea City has a total of five districts, each equivalent in size to a second-tier city, so searching can be time-consuming. Mr. Ling, why don't you go back first, and we'll notify you once we've made progress here."

Hearing this, Ling Chen chuckled inwardly. This chick was really something, already starting to edge him out. How could he not understand Ren Qing's intentions? This chick clearly wanted him out of the way, so he wouldn't be a hindrance.

"Miss Ren, you should still remember Mr. Zhang's words. Please remember, it is you who are here to cooperate with my work, not me cooperating with yours. So, the one giving orders here should be me. You don't have the authority to give commands, you can only provide suggestions. As for whether to take your suggestions, that's my business and you have no right to interfere."

Pausing, Ling Chen ignored Ren Qing's death glare and continued: "There's no need to check these surveillance footages. Since the God Organization dared to openly attack the base, they must have been fully prepared and wouldn't leave any clues for you. Instead of wasting time on this, it would be better to try other methods."

Ren Qing said unhappily: "Well, if you think it's useless, then suggest something useful."

"This..." Ling Chen touched his nose, not knowing what to do.

Seeing Ling Chen speechless, Ren Qing said coldly: "If you can't propose any constructive suggestions, then just shut up and don't hinder us professionals from doing our work."

Faced with Ren Qing's sarcasm, Ling Chen chuckled: "Professionals? From what you're saying, am I an amateur?"

"You know it yourself," Ren Qing said coolly: "Mr. Ling, let me be frank. I've been in charge of this temporary command center from the start, and I don't understand why Mr. Zhang assigned you here and asked me to cooperate with you. At least for now, I can't see what role you have to play. My goal is clear, to find out where the God Organization is hiding in East Sea City and eliminate them completely. If you can't do that or can't offer help, then just quietly watch from the sidelines. Don't speak out of turn, don't interfere with our work. Once I finish the task, I'll say a few good things for you in front of Mr. Zhang, giving you some credit."

Ren Qing's words left Ling Chen quite speechless. This woman completely wanted to treat him as a figurehead. He had expected that this woman wouldn't obediently listen, but he hadn't expected her to be so unyielding, leaving no room for face.

Too arrogant!

Ling Chen thought secretly. What kind of force is the God Organization? When he was with the Ghosts, he had dealt with the God Organization for a few years. Whether it's the Ghosts or the Lonely Wolf now, which isn't a gathering of elites? These two organizations spent decades and still couldn't bring down the God Organization. This chick thinks she can single-handedly destroy the God Organization; she's really overestimating herself.

Ling Chen wasn't looking down on this woman's abilities, it's just that she overestimated herself and underestimated him. He came with the intent to cooperate, but was met with this kind of treatment, which surely didn't sit well with him.

"Miss Ren, since you don't want me involved in your work, then I'm not bothered to ask. How about this, arrange an office for me, and we'll each do our own thing. I promise not to interfere with your work. But likewise, I also don't want to be disturbed by you. Is there a problem?"

"That's for the best." With that, Ren Qing immediately called in a subordinate and had him arrange an office for Ling Chen.

Watching Ling Chen's retreating back, Ren Qing drew back her gaze disdainfully, and continued discussing the next arrangements with the staff.

With the office prepared, Ling Chen sat alone in the office chair, casually opened the computer, and browsed the news online. After a while, he pulled out his phone and made a call to Hu Fei.

"Fatty, can you still move? I need your help here... Okay, I'll have medical facilities prepared for you, just come over here directly."

After hanging up, Ling Chen called a few people in from outside to help move some medical equipment in.

As for what Ling Chen intended to do, Ren Qing observed from the sidelines, saying nothing extra. In her view, as long as Ling Chen didn't interfere with her work, she didn't care about what he did.

Two hours passed, and a bed was set up in Ling Chen's office, along with an IV stand and other medical equipment.

"OK! All done."

Ling Chen smiled slightly and walked straight out of the temporary command center. After a short while, Ling Chen returned. However, this time he wasn't alone; Hu Fei was with him. Having just been discharged from the hospital, Hu Fei was still wearing patient attire, holding an IV stand high, and slowly walking with Ling Chen's help.

Chapter 937 Ren Qing (3)

Seeing the two of them approaching, Ren Qing's face changed involuntarily. She quickly walked over and said coldly, "Ling Chen, what are you doing? Don't you know you're not allowed to bring outsiders in here?"

Ling Chen replied indifferently, "I know, but Miss Ren, I'm the one in charge here now. I can bring whoever I want. If you have any objections, feel free to complain to Mr. Zhang." With that, Ling Chen couldn't be bothered to engage further, and he directly supported Hu Fei into the office.

Watching the office door close, Ren Qing felt a surge of anger. She gritted her teeth, pulled out her phone from her pocket, and dialed Mr. Zhang's number.

However, after saying just a few words, Ren Qing threw the phone on the ground in frustration and stomped on it a couple of times to vent her dissatisfaction.

Inside the office, Ling Chen was oblivious to what had happened outside. He helped Hu Fei sit on the bed comfortably and then moved the computer onto the bed for Hu Fei to work.

"Buddy, I can't find anyone else to help right now, so I'll have to trouble you for a bit."

"No big deal, it's fine. Just make sure there's good food and accommodation," Hu Fei said as he opened the computer and asked, "Hey! What's with that woman outside? She seemed quite unhappy with you."

"You mean that chick? Ignore her, she's just a self-righteous woman. I wanted to work with her, but she looked down on me, refused to cooperate. There's nothing I can do; I don't know much about computers, so I had to bring you in."

"You too. If she doesn't want to work with you, why stay here?"

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "Do you think I want to? I have no choice. The base was destroyed, people were captured, we have almost no manpower or resources. Staying here at least gives us enough resources to use."

At this point, Ling Chen's tone became serious, "Buddy, no joking now, let's be serious. During last night's explosion, only you and Yang Chen were there. You must know more about the situation than others. I've made a secret agreement with the government; they'll provide us with all the resources we need to find Boss Tang's whereabouts. But right now, it's just the two of us, so you gather intelligence and clues while I handle the actions. The sooner we find them, the sooner we can be at ease."

"Alright! Just wait, I'll start working right away." With that, Hu Fei focused intently on the computer screen, diving into his work.

As Ling Chen walked out of the office, planning to make some tea, he saw Ren Qing approaching, blocking his path.

"Ling Chen."

"Miss Ren, you need something from me?"

"The person you brought just now, is his name Hu Fei?" Ren Qing questioned, "I checked the records, and Hu Fei was at the scene during the explosion at the base last night. He was later discovered by the local police and sent to the hospital for rescue. As an eyewitness, I need to talk to him to understand the situation at that time."

"Miss Ren, I've asked him everything I needed. He was knocked unconscious by the blast and doesn't know what happened on the scene, so you'll get nothing from him. There's no need to waste your time on him."

Upon hearing this, Ren Qing frowned and said, "You couldn't get anything because you're incapable. Ling Chen, this is a serious matter, and you better cooperate with my work."

"Cooperate?" Ling Chen looked at Ren Qing with a half-smile, "Miss Ren, who's cooperating with whom here? I sincerely wanted to work with you, but you keep pushing me out. So why should I cooperate with you?" With that, Ling Chen disinterestedly moved towards the break room.

"Ling Chen!" Ren Qing said angrily, "If you refuse to cooperate with my work, don't blame me for being impolite. Guards!"

As soon as she finished speaking, several men in suits responsible for command center security rushed over immediately.

"Miss Ren, what do you need?"

"Take the person inside the office out, I want to interrogate him thoroughly."

"Yes."

The men in suits responded and prepared to enter. Seeing their move, Ling Chen coldly shouted, "Stop right there!"

As he spoke, Ling Chen dashed forward and stood in front of the office door, coldly eying the men in suits. From their demeanor and bearing, it was clear they were not ordinary security personnel, but rather troops trained in special operations.

"Sir, please cooperate with our work," one of the suits spoke.

Ling Chen pretended not to hear, keeping his hands in his pockets, and said, "This office is my territory. Without my permission, no one is allowed in." While saying this, Ling Chen fixed his gaze on Ren Qing, with a hint of coldness.

"Your territory?" Ren Qing sneered and said, "Fine, then I'll show you whose territory this really is. Take him down!"

Upon Ren Qing's order, without hesitation, one of the suits moved with a capture technique straight for Ling Chen's shoulder, intending to slam him to the ground. But before his hand even touched Ling Chen, he felt a force fiercely approaching.

In an instant, he felt light, his feet left the ground, and he flew back, landing on a desk behind him.

Bang!

With a loud crash, the solid wood desk shattered into pieces, and the computer and documents on it scattered everywhere.

Seeing Ling Chen easily take down one of their colleagues, the others immediately stopped, each looking at Ling Chen with grave expressions.

"That was just a warning. Anyone else who dares to make a move on me won't be treated kindly."

"Get him!" Ren Qing said coldly, "There are so many of you; are you really afraid of just one person?"

Being soldiers, execution of orders is paramount. As soon as Ren Qing finished speaking, the men in suits charged all together at Ling Chen.

Bam! Bam! Bam!

Before the suits could reach him, everyone saw shadows flitting before them. Immediately after, a series of loud crashes echoed. When they focused, they saw the men in suits all flew back, crashing heavily onto office desks.

Having dealt with the minor hassle, Ling Chen swept his gaze over the surprised crowd, and said casually, "Anyone else want to give it a shot?"

After he spoke, seeing no response from the crowd, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said to Ren Qing, "Miss Ren, you're so capable, why don't you give it a go? See if I have the authority to decide on your territory."

"You..." Ren Qing's face flushed with anger.

"Shut up!" Before Ren Qing could finish, Ling Chen's playful smile disappeared, and he said coldly, "I warn you, this office is my territory, and I'm the only one in charge here. If you're looking for trouble, try stepping inside."

Chapter 938 Ren Qing (4)

Throwing out a harsh remark, Ling Chen turned and walked into the office.

Staring at the closed door, everyone present was left dumbfounded, their eyes simultaneously focused on Ren Qing. At this moment, Ren Qing's face was extremely unsightly, her hand holding the folder trembled slightly, her thin lips biting lightly, and fury erupted from her bright eyes, everyone could almost feel the anger inside her.

However, seeing the security personnel lying on the ground, faces full of pain, everyone grew more apprehensive of Ling Chen.

These weren't ordinary security personnel; they were all ex-military special forces, capable of handling ten men alone without issue. Yet, several of them couldn't handle even one Ling Chen, which showed how formidable the latter was.

Compared to everyone's shock, Ren Qing was the most frustrated. She originally thought with these security personnel backing her, she could teach Ling Chen a harsh lesson and make him behave. Who knew they'd end up being taught a lesson instead.

As the person in charge of this temporary command center, being scolded by Ling Chen in public completely stripped her of her dignity. Furthermore, the most critical point was, after witnessing Ling Chen's capabilities, she really didn't have the courage to barge into that office now.

Thinking of this, Ren Qing felt very aggrieved, especially with all the gazes around her, making her feel extremely uncomfortable.

Taking a deep breath, Ren Qing wore a stern face and coldly scolded: "What are you all looking at, don't you have work to do?"

Hearing the boss's words, no one dared to remain idle and quickly lowered their heads to work on their tasks.

Inside the office, Ling Chen sat on the office chair, legs crossed, casually chatting with Hu Fei.

"You're really something." Hu Fei grinned and said, "In front of so many people, you didn't leave her any face. I bet she hates you to death now."

Ling Chen curled his lips, unconcerned, and said, "So what. Face is earned by oneself. If she doesn't cherish her dignity, why should I care that much? Hmph! This kind of woman, if you don't teach her a lesson, she'll really think she's so impressive."

Saying this, Ling Chen shifted the subject and asked, "So, did you find any clues?"

"Your decision this time was right." Hu Fei began, "As expected of a special department organized by the government, with many channels and resources. As long as it's a government-affiliated department, I can freely use their resources." After a brief pause, Hu Fei continued, "Before the explosion last night, the God Organization prepared several Mercedes business cars to move everyone from the base. I noted one of the license plates, but when I checked the vehicle management system just now, it turns out that car was using a fake plate, so it can't be tracked."

"What to do then? According to you, isn't it like there's no clue at all."

"Don't worry." Hu Fei chuckled with pride and said, "Those outside definitely can't find it, but I have other ways. Didn't you just tell me they pulled surveillance footage within a five-kilometer radius of the base to find the traces of the God Organization? You are right; there's no way to find anything that way. The God Organization members aren't brainless; why would they leave such a clue for you to track."

"However, their thinking isn't wrong; it's just the method is flawed." Saying this, Hu Fei beckoned Ling Chen over to the computer and pointed to the surveillance footage on the screen, "More than forty people were captured last night; God Organization couldn't possibly use small cars for transport. I've carefully estimated that the God Organization deployed forty to fifty people last night, plus our people, which was nearly a hundred people. With so many people, even ten business cars wouldn't suffice. So they must have used buses or trucks to transport these people."

"If I were the leader of the God Organization, after last night's action, I'd drive the cars to a secluded place first, then switch to larger capacity vehicles. This way, it's convenient for transferring and avoiding being tracked. I checked the buildings near the base; there are about six places where cars could be hidden. You might want to send someone to take a look; maybe something will be gained."

"Alright." Ling Chen nodded. After figuring out the locations, he picked up the phone, called Nanrong Hao, and asked him to send a few guys over to check.

"By the way! Fatty, I never asked you about Jiang Hao's side. What happened there?"

Mentioning Jiang Hao, Hu Fei regrettably said, "What else can happen? That guy is too straightforward, and as a result, he fell into Zhao Zhengxiong's trap and got caught red-handed by the police, ended up

directly locked up. I asked a lawyer before, for the crime Jiang Hao committed, he's looking at at least three to four years. Previously, Boss Tang took quite a bit of money from me to help make arrangements for Jiang Hao, but before anything could be done, our lair got taken out."

After hearing Hu Fei's account, Ling Chen realized what happened. A while ago, when Jiang Hao clashed with Zhao Zhengxiong, the latter used underhanded tactics and planted a package of drugs in Jiang Hao's house, then lured the police there for a search.

Possession of drugs is a serious crime, and the drugs found from Jiang Hao's house were enough to get him sentenced to several years. Currently, Jiang Hao is detained at the police station, awaiting trial. If it were in the past, they could have someone take the fall, but now it's not possible. The drugs were found in Jiang Hao's home, with no one else involved; you can't even take the fall for it.

"Zhao Zhengxiong that bastard is really insidious." Hu Fei cursed angrily, "We treated him like a brother back then, and now he treats us like this, even secretly colluding with the God Organization. Hmph! Don't let me see him, otherwise, I'd surely beat him up."

"Alright!" Ling Chen said, "What's happened has happened; what's the use of saying this. Don't worry about Jiang Hao for now; I'll go to the police station to see him then, and try to get him out."

While speaking, Ling Chen's phone suddenly rang.

Seeing it was a call from Nanrong Hao, Ling Chen quickly answered, asking, "Haozi, how is it, did you find anything?"

"Chen, you wouldn't believe it, but my guys found a few Mercedes business cars under an abandoned bridge."

"Good, have them stay there, I'm coming over right now." After hanging up the phone, Ling Chen looked at Hu Fei and said, "You guessed right, they switched vehicles. I'm heading there to check it out, keep in touch."

Exiting the office, Ling Chen glanced at Ren Qing, whose face was expressionless, too lazy to pay her any attention, and walked straight out.

Since he came in Mr. Zhang's car, Ling Chen didn't have a vehicle, so he had to hail a taxi by the roadside and headed straight toward the bridge.

However, not far into the drive, the observant Ling Chen noticed two cars following him at different distances.

Hmph!

It was obvious, even with a casual guess, that Ren Qing had sent people to tail him.

Chapter 939 The Old Man's Wish

This woman really doesn't know what's good for her. I have no desire to provoke her, yet she constantly opposes me.

At that moment, Ling Chen instructed the taxi driver to stop by the roadside.

After getting out of the car, Ling Chen quickened his pace and merged into the crowd in the blink of an eye, disappearing without a trace. By the time the people behind caught up, Ling Chen was long gone.

"Miss Ren, I'm sorry, he got away."

Hearing the helpless tone on the phone, Ren Qing, sitting in the temporary command post, almost smashed her phone on the ground in frustration.

"Miss Ren." At this time, someone beside Ren Qing nudged her arm, pointed to the office opposite, and said, "That Ling isn't here now, why don't we..." The sentence was unfinished, but the intention was clear.

The suggestion was tempting to Ren Qing. In her opinion, Hu Fei, being an eyewitness, surely knew some information unknown to them. Ling Chen sneaking away might mean he had already grasped crucial clues.

No way!

Under no circumstances could Ling Chen get a step ahead. If Ling Chen's rash actions startled the target and ruined everything, their work would only become more difficult.

While pondering, a staff member walked over to Ren Qing, handed a document to her, and said, "Miss Ren, here are the documents you requested."

Ren Qing eagerly flipped through a few pages and frowned involuntarily. She asked, "Is this it?"

The staff member nodded, "I checked Ling Chen's records in the Ministry of Public Security's archives, and this is all there is. Some files are classified, and I do not have authorization to view them."

Classified files?

These four words piqued a hint of interest in Ren Qing's eyes.

"Keep investigating. Also, help me verify the content of these documents. Hmph! No matter his background, I must uncover his identity."

"Miss Ren, since he was introduced by Mr. Zhang, why not directly ask Mr. Zhang?"

"I've already asked, but he refuses to say anything. Okay, enough questions, go and take care of your errands."

At this moment, inside an abandoned bridge tunnel, Ling Chen met a few henchmen sent by Nanrong Hao. Just as Nanrong Hao said, there were several Mercedes-Benz vans parked in the tunnel, and the keys were still in the cars. Moreover, one of these Mercedes-Benz vans was the one Hu Fei saw last night.

After getting into the car, Ling Chen carefully examined it. Some ropes and pieces of torn cloth were scattered inside the vehicle, likely used to restrain captives.

After checking several cars, Ling Chen didn't find any valuable clues. Jumping out of the vehicle, Ling Chen's attention was immediately drawn to a tire mark remaining on the ground.

Finally found something useful.

With a quick thought, Ling Chen pulled out his phone and took a photo of the tire mark, then sent it to Hu Fei at the command post.

To avoid missing other clues, Ling Chen rechecked once more. Only after confirming nothing was missed did he set off to return to Wealthy Manor.

Although a clue was found, it wouldn't yield immediate results. After all, Ling Chen couldn't help much by staying with Hu Fei. Instead of wasting time there, it was better to go back. He worked hard to find his family and couldn't ignore them. Furthermore, Yang Qingling was a wise woman, and he didn't want her to worry.

He returned to the Nanrong Family just in time for dinner.

To welcome Yang Qingling's family, Nanrong Wanqing specifically prepared a lavish supper, inviting both Nanrong Yong and Nanrong Hao.

During the meal, Nanrong Yong raised his glass with a smile and said to Ling Chen, "Ling Chen, congratulations on reuniting with your family."

Ling Chen quickly replied, "Thank you, sir!"

After a drink, Nanrong Yong said with some emotion, "Life is always about the struggle for career and living. Actually, only when you're old do you realize money and status are all just passing clouds, and family is the real thing. I've created many glories in my lifetime, single-handedly turning the Hongyu Group into the leading business giant in East Sea City. But for the sake of my career, I've sacrificed so much, and what pains me the most is my family. Every time I think of this, I feel like I've let Wanqing and Nanrong Hao down for not being able to give them a complete family and forcing them to bear the family's pressure at such a young age."

At this point, Nanrong Yong's voice choked with emotion, and tears streamed down.

"Grandpa!" Nanrong Wanqing gently stroked Nanrong Yong's back and softly said, "My brother and I never blamed you, and besides, what happened with Mom and Dad wasn't your fault. You don't need to feel too guilty. Actually, just having you with us is enough for us."

Nanrong Yong sighed and said wistfully, "I'm already so old, living a day as it comes. If there's one unfulfilled wish left in my life, it's about your parents. I have no other desires, just hoping for a family reunion at a meal."

"Grandpa, rest assured, I will definitely make sure your wish comes true," Nanrong Wanqing said resolutely.

Saying this, Nanrong Wanqing nudged Nanrong Hao beside him, hoping he could help persuade Nanrong Yong. But the latter sat there dazed, head down, eyes empty, lost in thought.

Seeing Nanrong Hao's expression, Ling Chen understood what was on his mind. Nanrong Yuan was dead, something Nanrong Hao was aware of. So, he knew that Nanrong Yong's wish could never be fulfilled.

The originally joyful dinner ended with everyone feeling uncomfortable because of Nanrong Yong's words.

After dinner, Nanrong Hao quickly excused himself and left. As he was leaving, Ling Chen noticed Nanrong Hao's gloomy expression and, after informing Nanrong Wanqing, quickly caught up with Nanrong Hao's steps.

Outside the villa, Ling Chen called out to Nanrong Hao and put his hand on his shoulder, "What's wrong? You seem to be in a bad mood, is it because of what your Grandpa said?"

Nanrong Hao glanced at the villa's entrance to ensure no one followed, then whispered, "Chen, my dad's matter... you know it too, I... I don't know how to bring it up. I'm afraid my grandpa will be devastated if he learns the truth."

Ling Chen patted Nanrong Hao's shoulder and said, "Alright, don't think too much. When the boat arrives at the bridge, it will straighten itself out. I'm also saddened by your dad's situation. But, since it has already happened, nothing can change it."

Ling Chen paused and looked at Nanrong Hao apologetically, "Actually, I've always owed you siblings an 'I'm sorry'. I'm partly responsible for your dad's murder. If it weren't for my insistence on bringing him to East Sea City, none of this would have happened."

"Chen, do you know who killed my dad?"

"This..." Ling Chen hesitated, unsure whether to reveal the truth to Nanrong Hao.

Seeing Ling Chen hesitate, Nanrong Hao urged, "Chen, as a son, not being able to fulfill filial duties is already wrong. Now that my dad is gone, aren't you even going to give me a chance for revenge?"

Chapter 940 Releasing Jiang Hao

"I'm not refusing you, it's just... Haozi, I understand how you feel. There's nothing wrong with revenge, but I don't want hatred to blind you."

"Chen, don't worry, I'm not a kid anymore. I know what can and can't be done. Please, just tell me."

Facing Nanrong Hao's persistent pleading, Ling Chen sighed helplessly and said, "Actually, you know the person who killed your father."

"Who?"

"Zhu Hong!"

"Him?" Nanrong Hao was taken aback and quickly asked, "Chen, are you sure it's him?"

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Absolutely sure, I have no reason to lie to you. Haozi, Zhu Hong is not the same as before. He's completely changed and will stop at nothing to achieve his goals. If you go seeking

revenge now, you'll only put yourself in danger. So, stay away from this for now. I'll help you get your revenge when the time is right."

Nanrong Hao pondered for a moment and replied, "Chen, you know I've always trusted you and listened to you. Don't worry, I won't do anything reckless."

"That's for the best." Ling Chen paused before continuing, "About your father's matter, don't tell your sister for now. You know her temperament. If she finds out about this, who knows what uncontrollable actions she might take."

"Don't worry, Chen, I won't tell Sister."

"By the way," Ling Chen said, "I've arranged for someone to properly care for your father's remains. After we settle things here, I'll take you to bury your father."

"Thank you!"

Ling Chen patted Nanrong Hao on the shoulder with a slight smile, "No need for thanks between us, as long as you're not upset with me. Alright, go rest for a bit, then come with me to the police station."

"To see Hao?"

Ling Chen nodded, "We'll bring him back as well."

"Bring him back?" Nanrong Hao was puzzled, "Hao was framed by Zhao Zhengxiong. He should be serving years. Chen, did you pull some strings?" With that, Nanrong Hao's eyes lit up, "Was it Officer Xia? No, Officer Xia is always fair and never biased. How did you persuade him? Could it be..."

Nanrong Hao looked at Ling Chen with a meaningful expression.

Ling Chen quickly explained, "Don't overthink it. It's not what you're imagining. I did get help, but not from Officer Xia. Also, there's nothing between me and Officer Xia so don't get any wrong ideas. If your sister hears such rumors, I'll be in trouble."

"Chen, rest assured, I'll keep your secret."

"That's more like it..." Ling Chen immediately realized something was off and said in a mock annoyed tone, "I think you deserve a beating."

Nanrong Hao laughed heartily and quickly ran towards his villa.

Watching Nanrong Hao's retreating figure, Ling Chen smiled slightly and turned back into the villa.

At night, Ling Chen and Nanrong Hao headed straight for the police station.

In the visitor's room, they hadn't waited long before Xia Mutong pushed the door open and entered.

"Officer Xia." Ling Chen waved with a smile as a greeting.

Xia Mutong's demeanor was somewhat cold. She snorted lightly, sat down, and looked at Ling Chen, "Alright, tell me, who did you get to back you up this time?"

Ling Chen awkwardly scratched his nose, "Officer Xia, you know Jiang Hao was framed. Those drugs had nothing to do with him."

"It's not up to you to decide." Xia Mutong snapped, "I'm a cop, I rely on evidence, not personal ties. Even if he was framed, you need to provide evidence. If everyone were like you, what use would there be for the police in society?"

"Officer Xia, I understand you're upset, but this is a special case. I had no choice. As you've seen, I'm in quite a bit of trouble right now, and I have no one to rely on. So, please help me out and make an

exception. Let Jiang Hao out to help me first. Once I'm done, I'll find evidence to prove his innocence, how about it?"

Xia Mutong replied irritably, "What's the point of saying that now? Orders from above have already come down, telling me to release Jiang Hao immediately. With your strong backing, why do you even need my help?" Having said that, she stood up and left the visitor's room without a further word.

Ling Chen could only smile wryly. He knew Xia Mutong's character and that she wouldn't be pleased when he used his connections to get Jiang Hao released.

However, he didn't have the luxury to worry about it now. With Jiang Hao by his side, things would be much easier.

Moments later, two officers brought Jiang Hao into the visitor's room. Seeing Jiang Hao's rosy face, Nanrong Hao couldn't help but laugh.

"Hao, I thought you'd been suffering in there. Who would've thought you'd gain weight? Seems like the food in there wasn't bad."

"All thanks to Officer Xia looking after me. Hey Chen, make sure you thank Officer Xia properly for me later."

Ling Chen shrugged. If he went to see Xia Mutong now, she'd refuse to meet him.

"Alright, let's go. We don't have time to waste here."

After leaving the police station, the three of them got into Nanrong Hao's Audi.

As the car started, Jiang Hao looked at Ling Chen and asked, "Chen, was it Officer Xia who got me out?"

Ling Chen impatiently waved his hand, "You've all asked this question a few times already. Can you stop asking? I don't know why you have so much chatter."

This time, getting Jiang Hao out was mainly thanks to Mr. Zhang. Ling Chen called him to explain Jiang Hao's situation and indirectly hinted at how helpful Jiang Hao was to him. Because of this, Mr. Zhang made an exception and got Jiang Hao released.

"Chen, Hu called." Nanrong Hao handed the phone to Ling Chen.

"Hey! Fatty, did you find anything?"

"I analyzed that tire tread you gave me thoroughly. After repeated comparisons, it should belong to a large Luyang-brand truck. Those kinds of trucks have huge trailers, easily fitting forty to fifty people," Hu Fei continued, "I just checked the surveillance near the bridge tunnel. There were two trucks of the same model appearing at dawn yesterday. I traced both trucks and ruled out one, leaving the other as suspicious."

"Alright, send me the address. I'll go take a look."

"Okay, I'll text it to you later. Hey! Just a word of caution, be careful."

"Don't worry, I know what to do."

Hanging up, Ling Chen looked at the address on his phone and said, "Haozi, head to North City District."