

The Beauty 951

Chapter 951 Ling Tao

"We're just nobodies, you don't need to know." A middle-aged man replied.

As he spoke, more than a dozen men in suits jumped out from the escort cars in front and behind, striding quickly towards this direction.

"Friend, leave quickly, don't push us to act."

Hearing the other's persuasion, Ling Chen hesitated for a few seconds. Then, he clasped his fists to express gratitude, lightly tapped the hood of the Rolls-Royce with his toes, and his body instantly soared high, directly rushing into the alleyway by the roadside, disappearing in an instant.

Not long after, Ling Chen emerged from the other end of the alley back onto the road. Watching the departing convoy, Ling Chen frowned slightly, his eyes flickering. He didn't choose to make a move just now mainly because of those two middle-aged men.

Without even exchanging blows, they saw through his identity as a high-level martial artist on the Earthly List, indicating they were not simple. After careful consideration, he abandoned the action for safety reasons. Also, he still hadn't figured out who the owner of that car was.

As he was pondering, the ringtone on his phone sounded.

Ling Chen answered the call, only to hear Lin Guodong's voice coming from the other end: "Ling Chen, you have really disappointed me."

"You can't blame me," Ling Chen replied. "You didn't explain the situation clearly. There are experts more formidable than me in those cars; even if I forcibly acted, I couldn't possibly grab what you wanted. In the end, I might even get caught myself."

After a pause, Ling Chen asked, "Shouldn't you tell me who was in that car? Also, what's in that encrypted metal box."

"Ling Chen, don't you think you're asking too many questions?" Lin Guodong's tone carried a hint of indifference.

"Your mission today was not completed, I am very disappointed. You should know, failing a mission comes with consequences, so..."

Hearing this, Ling Chen said in a deep voice, "What do you want?"

"Very simple... Bang!"

As Lin Guodong's words fell, a gunshot was heard on the other end of the line. Then, there was a muffled groan, as if something fell to the ground.

"Ling Chen, it was your failure that led to his death. So, I advise you, the next time you take action, don't disappoint me again. Otherwise, the next to die won't be your subordinates, but your friends. Enough said, I'll give you one more day. If you can't complete the mission within a day, don't blame me for being ruthless."

The call was hung up, Ling Chen frowned, his eyes as sharp as an eagle's sweeping around.

Lin Guodong knew his every move very well, which showed he must have sent someone to monitor him secretly. However, with so many people around, it was unclear who was watching him.

At the moment, Ling Chen composed himself, then drove back to the Siheyuan.

Upon returning to the Siheyuan, seeing Ling Chen walk in with a gloomy face, Hu Fei hurried over and asked, "What's wrong?"

"Encountered a bit of trouble." Ling Chen said in a deep voice, "Fatty, help me check, see what group that convoy in the Central District belongs to today."

"Alright." Hu Fei nodded, immediately sat in front of his computer, and pulled up the surveillance footage from the Central District. Before long, Hu Fei found the license plates of those cars.

Through the license plates, Hu Fei checked the database of the vehicle management office to find the owners of those cars.

"Ling Chen."

"What, you found it?" Ling Chen leaned close to the computer screen and asked.

"I did, but the background seems a bit peculiar." Hu Fei said while typing on the keyboard, "Those cars were registered under a joint venture enterprise, whose owner is also surnamed Ling, just like you, named Ling Tao, who has been living abroad for a long time and is a Chinese-American."

"Ling Tao?" Ling Chen murmured the name, then asked, "Is he from the Ling Family?" As soon as the words came out, Ling Chen immediately felt something was off. If Ling Tao were from the Ling Family, Lin Guodong wouldn't be looking for trouble with him, which obviously doesn't make sense.

"Fatty, Lin Guodong asked me to seize an encrypted metal box. I want to know where that metal box is, also, the purpose of Ling Tao coming to East Sea City, and his itinerary these days, all of it. Lin Guodong only gave me one day, I must settle this matter quickly."

"Sure, no problem. You wait!"

Ten minutes later, Hu Fei handed over a printed document to Ling Chen, saying, "This is Ling Tao's schedule for today. Besides, I just checked his background."

"How is it?"

Hu Fei said helplessly, "Nothing at all. This man named Ling Tao is very mysterious, aside from his birth date, there's virtually no information about him. Furthermore, even his family's information is missing. Ling Chen, if you're planning to take any action against him, better be cautious, don't cause any trouble."

"I know that." After finishing, Ling Chen continued to ask, "Have you found any clue about the encrypted metal box?"

"Not yet, finding information on such personal items is probably difficult. Hey! I say, you should bring Kaelina along, she's an old hand, experienced, with her help, it might be easier."

"Okay, I'll see then."

...

Nightfall.

Ling Chen, dressed in a suit, arrived at the most luxurious Biyun Hotel in East Sea City. By his side, Kaelina stayed close. As they walked, passers-by couldn't help but cast their eyes towards them, filled with admiration and envy.

Of course, the admiration was for Kaelina, and the envy was for Ling Chen.

Tonight Kaelina was wearing a short skirt and black stockings, paired with a plaid blazer, wearing large glasses, holding a briefcase, the look of a specialized secretary.

Kaelina's looks were already above average, her golden wavy hair exuding a mature allure, a blend of charm and seduction. No man could resist Kaelina's allure.

Inside the hotel, Ling Chen, with his hands in his trousers pockets, walked straight to the front desk.

"Hello Sir! May I assist you?" The receptionist smiled politely and respectfully asked.

"We need a suite." Kaelina said.

"I'm terribly sorry, all the suites in the hotel are booked, now only standard rooms are available, thirteen hundred a night, would you like to book one room or two?"

Before the receptionist could finish, Ling Chen stared at her and said, "Do I look like someone who stays in a hotel for thirteen hundred a night? Let me tell you, don't give me that nonsense. If you can't make the decision, get your manager to talk to me."

"This... Sir, our suites are all booked, there really isn't a room for you, or else... would you consider changing hotels?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen looked at the receptionist with a half-smile and said, "You're suggesting I change hotels?"

Chapter 952 - 958: Checking In at the Hotel

"Do you know who my boss is? How dare you ask him to change hotels?" Kaelina said coldly, "It's your hotel's honor that my boss is willing to stay here."

The front desk lady panicked and hurriedly explained, "Please don't misunderstand, I didn't mean it that way, it's just..."

"Just what?" Ling Chen's voice instantly rose by eight decibels, immediately attracting the attention of those around, "Let me tell you, if I don't get a satisfactory room tonight, then this hotel might as well close down." With that, Ling Chen glanced at the expensive watch on his wrist and said, "I'll give you five minutes. If you can't resolve it within that time, then all of you can get lost."

With that, Ling Chen walked over to the sofa in the lobby by himself and took out his phone to play.

Faced with this situation, the front desk lady didn't know how to handle it and had to call the manager. Soon, a middle-aged man in a suit strode over with a friendly smile on his face and said, "Sir, I am the hotel manager, is there anything I can assist you with?"

Ling Chen replied indifferently, "You don't need to help me, you just need to give me the best suite you have."

"Sir, we apologize, it's not that we won't arrange it for you, it's just that all the suites have been reserved by a guest. How about this, I arrange a standard room for you and cut the room charge in half, how does that sound?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but sneer.

"Are you the manager of this hotel?"

"Yes."

"I have to say, regardless of who the owner of this hotel is, their choice of you as the manager only shows they lack eyesight." Ling Chen squinted at the middle-aged man and asked, "Were you insulting me just now? Or do you think I'm someone who would take advantage of small benefits, or someone who can't afford to pay?"

"No, no, no!" The manager quickly waved his hand and said, "Sir, please don't misunderstand, I absolutely did not mean that."

"Forget it!" Ling Chen stood up and said, "I'm very disappointed with your service attitude. Lin, call Nanrong Wanqing and tell her that since I can't find a suitable place to stay tonight, I'll just stay at her place for the night and have her prepare two rooms for us."

"Yes." Kaelina nodded, took out her phone from her pocket, and made a motion to make a call.

"Wait a moment!" At this time, the middle-aged man interrupted Kaelina's action and hurriedly spoke, "Sir, if you don't mind, please wait a moment while I communicate with the guest to see if they are willing to give up a suite."

"Alright, I'll give you five minutes." After saying this, Ling Chen sat back down.

With not much time, the hotel manager dared not delay and hurriedly went to communicate with the guest. If Ling Chen hadn't mentioned Nanrong Wanqing, he wouldn't care whether Ling Chen stayed or not. However, from Ling Chen's tone, it seemed like he had a very good relationship with Nanrong

Wanqing. He didn't recognize the man in front of him, but he had heard of Nanrong Wanqing's famous name. In the whole East Sea City, probably no one didn't know about Nanrong Wanqing. So, to avoid offending the esteemed guest in front of him, he had to think of a way.

Watching the hotel manager busy on the phone communicating with the guest, Ling Chen smiled slightly, a trace of cunning in his ink-like eyes.

Biyun Hotel is the most luxurious hotel in East Sea City. However, besides its luxury, it's most famous for its security and confidentiality measures. That's why many wealthy people choose Biyun Hotel as their place to stay when they visit East Sea City.

Biyun Hotel has a total of thirty-three floors, not very high, but it has a huge area, with fifty rooms on each floor. The higher the floor, the fewer the rooms, but the higher the quality.

In less than four minutes, the hotel manager hurried back to Ling Chen's side, with a smile, said, "Sir, the suite you wanted has been vacated. Would you like to check in now or...?"

"Now, take my secretary to complete the procedures."

"Okay."

After spending a few minutes completing the check-in procedures, Ling Chen and Kaelina, accompanied by the hotel manager himself, took the hotel elevator.

Inside the elevator was a hotel security personnel. This security personnel's duty was specifically to supervise whether guests were going to the correct floors. If it was a luxury suite above the thirtieth floor, not only did it require a card swipe, but also the security personnel's password to activate the elevator.

After a moment, the elevator stopped on the thirty-second floor of the hotel.

"Sir, please follow me!"

Led by the hotel manager, Ling Chen quickly arrived at his room.

The room on the thirty-second floor was several hundred square meters, with an enormous area, and outside it was a whole glass wall, offering an excellent view. The room was divided into two levels, with two living rooms, a reception room, an entertainment room, and an audio-visual room, also including a small bar and swimming pool. Any luxurious enjoyment you could think of was available here.

"Sir, would you like to arrange dinner?"

"Sure." Ling Chen nodded and said, "My people will deliver the luggage later, please arrange it."

"Rest assured, sir, we will arrange everything. If there's nothing else, I'll take my leave."

"Go ahead, I'll let you know if there's anything."

Soon after the hotel manager left, the room service arrived with dinner. Besides accommodation, the food here was also a top-notch experience. Although there were only two people, the hotel's dishes were nothing short, with a total of twelve courses, not including fruits and desserts.

Having been busy preparing for tonight's action all afternoon, Ling Chen hadn't eaten much. Seeing the hearty feast before him, he couldn't resist and immediately sat down to enjoy the meal.

After wine and food, Ling Chen rubbed his bulging belly and comfortably sat on the sofa.

About half an hour later, there was a ring at the door.

"I'm coming!"

Kaelina glanced at Ling Chen, then got up and went to the door, opening it. Instantly, Hu Fei and Wei Jiahao stood outside wearing somewhat ill-fitting suits, pushing a luggage cart.

"You finally arrived, come in." Ling Chen called out.

"Damn, I'm exhausted." Hu Fei panted and complained, "Don't ask me to do such laborious work again."

Ling Chen laughed and teased, "With your physique, you should lose some weight." After a couple of jokes, Ling Chen turned serious and asked, "Is everything here?"

Hu Fei pointed to several large boxes on the luggage cart and said, "Everything's in there, let me rest a bit first, and then I'll help you set it up."

Ling Chen checked the time, it was already past nine in the evening.

Still early!

By this time, the person probably hasn't gone to sleep yet, so it's not the right time to act.

"Fatty, you and Kaelina get the equipment ready, I'm going out to check the situation."

Chapter 953 - 959: Theft (Part 1)

Coming out of the room, Ling Chen held his phone and paced back and forth in the wide, red-carpeted corridor, observing the surroundings. From the thirtieth floor and above, Biyun Hotel consists entirely of luxury suites, each one similar to the room Ling Chen was staying in. Because the suites are so large, there are only two such suites on each floor.

After wandering for a while, Ling Chen noticed the door to the suite next door was closed and wasn't sure if someone was staying inside. He thought about checking but noticed that the corridor was filled with surveillance cameras, with one directly facing the suite's door. If he approached, the hotel's security would definitely notice him.

Furthermore, if hotel security saw him acting suspiciously, they might mistake him for something else. To avoid any issue for the upcoming operation, it was best to be cautious.

Passing through the corridor, Ling Chen reached the security passage entrance. Before coming, he had Hu Fei investigate the building's structure. Since those who could afford these large suites were either wealthy or powerful, ordinary wealthy families couldn't afford such rooms. To ensure the safety of the guests, the security passages from the thirtieth to thirty-third floors are isolated and do not connect with the lower floors. Moreover, there are security personnel stationed at each floor's passageway, making it almost impossible for outsiders to pass through.

Given the hotel's rigorous security system, Ling Chen had abandoned the idea of sneaking into the hotel and decided to check in directly. This decision undoubtedly made the operation more convenient.

At the security passage, Ling Chen did not push the door open but stood at the entrance, listening carefully to any sounds from behind the door. As expected, he could hear breathing and faint footsteps from behind.

There is indeed someone standing guard!

After familiarizing himself with the surroundings, Ling Chen returned directly to the hotel room. As soon as he entered, his phone rang immediately.

Taking out the phone, Ling Chen walked to the window and answered.

"It's so late, why aren't you resting? How come you have time to call me?"

"The owner of the Biyun Hotel called me earlier, indirectly asking if one of my friends was staying at their hotel. I replied following your instructions. Hey, why are you at Biyun Hotel? It's not like you don't have anywhere to stay."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "Don't worry about it, I have my reasons." Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen continued, "It's getting late, get some rest. I have some things to handle. If I have time tomorrow, I'll come and keep you company."

"No worries, you go handle your business. The company has an important meeting tomorrow, so I might not have time to accompany you even if you came."

"Alright, I'll get in touch when I have free time then."

After hanging up, Ling Chen turned to look at Hu Fei and Kaelina, who were busy, and asked, "How's it going? Is everything ready?"

Hu Fei booted up the computer, noticed a series of green lights shining on the equipment, and made an 'OK' gesture to Ling Chen.

"How about you, Eighth?"

"Brother Ling Cheng, don't worry, everything's set."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Fatty, now it's up to you, don't let me down." Saying this, Ling Chen picked up a backpack from beside the sofa and placed it by the glass window.

He then unzipped the bag, took out a glass suction cup, and attached it to the glass surface. Once the glass was securely suctioned, Ling Chen picked up a glass cutter and, using the suction cup as the center, cut out the entire pane of glass.

Setting aside the glass, Ling Chen looked down from the opening, feeling the cool and refreshing night breeze.

"Fatty, it's good on my end."

Without looking back, Hu Fei replied, "Remember, it's the twenty-seventh floor."

"Got it." Ling Chen responded, taking the rope Wei Jiahao handed him, and jumped straight out of the glass frame. Under the guidance of the rope, Ling Chen's body descended vertically, rapidly.

The twenty-seventh floor!

As he was about to reach the floor, Ling Chen gripped the rope tightly with both hands, significantly slowing his previously rapid descent.

Since it was night, combined with the high-floor setting, Ling Chen's dark attire rendered him unnoticed. Soon, Ling Chen reached the outer ledge of the twenty-seventh floor smoothly.

Clinging to the thick glass surface, Ling Chen held the rope with one hand to steady himself, while the other hand took out a sharp knife, drawing a half-meter diameter circle on the glass. Once the knife line was sufficiently deep, Ling Chen put away the knife and kicked the pane. With a crash, the entire circular piece of glass shattered.

Climbing through the glass opening, a row of shimmering lights immediately appeared before Ling Chen's eyes. He glanced around and pressed his earpiece. "Fatty, I'm in the server room."

"Copy. Insert what I gave you into their mainframe, and after I deploy the software, we'll be able to synchronize control over the hotel's surveillance and parts of the security system."

"Understood!" Ling Chen replied and, aided by the dim light, quickly maneuvered among the rows of equipment to locate the mainframe. Soon, Ling Chen found the mainframe controlling the entire hotel in the center of the server room.

Plugging in Hu Fei's USB drive, after waiting for about three minutes, he heard Hu Fei's "OK" over the earpiece.

"Alright, I'm out of here."

Immediately, Ling Chen retraced his steps back to the glass window. Holding onto the rope, he gave a light tug, and receiving the signal, Kaelina and Wei Jiahao pulled the rope up swiftly. Before long, Ling Chen returned safely to the luxury suite on the thirty-second floor.

Without a moment's rest, Ling Chen strode over to Hu Fei, asking while looking at the computer screen, "How's it, did you receive the signal?"

Hu Fei smiled confidently, "Don't worry, when have I ever let you down?" Saying this, Hu Fei tapped the keyboard, and a surveillance screen immediately appeared on the computer screen.

"Look, this is the top floor surveillance."

Glancing briefly, Ling Chen's brows furrowed slightly. On the surveillance screen, the top floor corridor had more than a dozen security personnel in suits, not counting those inside the rooms. With such rigorous defense, even infiltration alone would be troublesome. Moreover, Ling Chen was most concerned about the two middle-aged men he encountered during the day.

His instincts told him those two middle-aged men were definitely not simple.

"Where are you planning to enter from?"

Upon Hu Fei's inquiry, Ling Chen touched his nose, falling into deep thought.

"How about I attack from the front, to distract them for you?" Kaelina suggested.

"No need." Ling Chen replied, "That won't be of any help. Let's wait a bit; after midnight, I'll go up first. If there's a chance, I'll take action directly."

Chapter 954 - 960: Theft (2)

Ling Chen's plan this time was very clear, stealthily obtain the metal briefcase and then slip away quietly.

When he was a spy before, he had done this type of thing many times. Having not done it for a long time, he wondered if he would be rusty.

Unknowingly, it was already midnight. Ling Chen stood in front of the glass window, waiting quietly. At about one o'clock in the morning, Kaelina came over from the side and said, "It's about time, the lights upstairs are all out except for a few security personnel in the corridor."

Ling Chen nodded, walked into the bedroom alone, and changed into black clothes to better disguise his identity.

With everything prepared, Ling Chen took the crossbow handed to him by Wei Jiahao and climbed out of the window. Pressing against the outer glass, Ling Chen raised his head to inspect the environment above, then lifted the crossbow in his hand, aimed at the target, and gently pressed the trigger.

Whoosh!

The sound of something cutting through the air was heard, and an arrow carrying a rope shot out directly, hooking onto the railing at the edge of the rooftop.

He pulled the rope to ensure it was securely fixed before Ling Chen held the rope with both hands and slowly climbed upward. Before long, he reached the outer window of the thirty-third floor.

At this moment, the entire thirty-third floor was completely unlit, pitch black, unable to see anything.

Ling Chen put on the night vision goggles he prepared beforehand, looked through the glass window, and upon seeing no one behind it, steadied himself and began to dismantle the glass.

High-altitude work is very strenuous, and Ling Chen exerted quite a bit of effort to remove the entire glass without leaving a trace.

After finally dismantling the glass, Ling Chen cautiously entered the room and checked its surroundings. Seeing no one living in the room, he relaxed a bit.

This wasn't just a matter of luck. Luxury suites have the same layout, and after checking into his room, Ling Chen made detailed observations of each room and entertainment area. Thus, he specifically chose to enter through the suite's bar, as it should be unoccupied at such a late hour.

Wearing night vision goggles, Ling Chen gently opened the bar's sliding door and cautiously looked outside. The bar was connected to the main living room, which was about one hundred square meters, very spacious. At this moment, several security personnel were sleeping on the living room sofa.

Judging by their snores, they had all fallen asleep.

Avoiding the sleeping security personnel, Ling Chen went straight to the suite's master bedroom. The metal briefcase would definitely be in the hands of the owner. Moreover, as far as he knew, the master bedroom had a safe designed for storing guests' valuables.

If he were carrying a metal briefcase, it would definitely be placed there.

Soon enough, Ling Chen arrived silently at the entrance of the master bedroom. Standing outside the door, he listened attentively. Then, he grasped the doorknob, gently twisted it, and slowly pushed the door open.

With the night vision goggles on, Ling Chen could see clearly even in the pitch-dark room.

There was a person lying on the bed in the master bedroom, but due to the blanket covering them, their appearance was not visible.

Seeing no signs of the person waking up, Ling Chen quickly moved to where the safe was located in the master bedroom. The safe's combination had been reset; however, this posed no problem for Ling Chen. During his time with the Ghosts, he had opened numerous safes.

In less than two minutes, with a light 'click', Ling Chen easily unlocked the safe.

Looking at the metal briefcase stored inside the safe, Ling Chen's eyes lit up, and his lips curled up involuntarily.

His guess was correct; the metal briefcase was indeed kept in the safe. Without a moment's hesitation, Ling Chen quickly pulled the metal briefcase out of the safe.

Afterward, he quietly closed the safe and carefully retreated from the master bedroom. Throughout the process, the person lying on the bed remained unresponsive.

Too easy!

Feeling the weight of the metal briefcase in his arms, Ling Chen secretly rejoiced. He thought it would take much longer to accomplish, but it was completed much quicker than expected.

Returning along the original path to the bar, Ling Chen stood before the dismantled glass, preparing to secure the briefcase with a rope for Kaelina to catch from below.

As Ling Chen was busy securing the metal briefcase, an unsettling feeling suddenly crept over him, as if he was being watched, giving him a chill down his spine.

Always intuitive, Ling Chen quickly turned around, but before he could see what was behind him, a blinding light suddenly blocked his view. Instantly, Ling Chen raised his arm to shield his eyes. Following that, he removed the night vision goggles from his head.

Once he removed the goggles, his vision quickly returned. Lights in the bar turned on brightly, revealing two familiar middle-aged men standing on either side of him, those seen earlier in the day.

Under their gaze, Ling Chen awkwardly touched his nose and sighed inwardly. He had hoped to complete the mission easily but ended up being caught red-handed.

"We meet again," Ling Chen greeted proactively. As he spoke, his eyes occasionally darted around, looking for an escape route.

"I warned you not to target us, so why didn't you listen?" one middle-aged man said.

Ling Chen shrugged and said helplessly, "Sorry, I have my own reasons. If possible, I don't want to oppose you."

"Put it down, and I might give you another chance at life."

Looking at the metal briefcase in his arms, Ling Chen hesitated. After pondering for a moment, Ling Chen replied with a bitter smile, "I'm sorry, gentlemen, I can't hand it over to you because it's tied to several lives; I must take it with me."

"So you are forcing us to take action? Ling Chen, don't say I didn't warn you, you are not our match. Once we strike, you will surely fail, so I advise you to think clearly."

Upon hearing his name being called directly, Ling Chen's expression subtly changed. He asked in surprise, "You know me?"

"Yes." The middle-aged man nodded lightly.

"Who exactly are you?" Ling Chen was curious. He had never met them, yet they knew him—was he that famous?

"I told you, you don't need to know who we are. You only need to know we are not people you can provoke. Now, put it down." As one spoke, the two middle-aged men stepped forward.

Seeing their actions, Ling Chen glanced around and swiftly reached back with his right hand. Suddenly, an object appeared in his palm.

"Gentlemen, my apologies!"

As his words fell, Ling Chen bit the flashbang's pin and hurled it towards the ground.

Chapter 955 - 961: Mysterious Relative

Bang!

Smoke filled the air, and a blinding light burst forth, enveloping all three of them. Taking this opportunity, Ling Chen shut his eyes, turned around, and charged toward the glass window behind him. The rope was right outside, and as long as he grabbed it, he could escape to the room on the thirty-second floor. Kaelina and Wei Jiahao would be there to assist in a quick retreat.

However, despite Ling Chen's good intentions, reality was not so accommodating. Before he could reach the glass window, he felt a gust of wind approach. Moreover, the gust came from the front, blocking his path.

There was no other option; to avoid injury, Ling Chen had to change his steps and evade the attack. Immediately after, his foot slipped, and the Nine Yang Qiankun Step was executed in an instant, allowing him to swiftly move and continue rushing toward the window.

Just then, out of nowhere, a hand suddenly reached out and landed on Ling Chen's shoulder. Before Ling Chen could react, the hand yanked him backward forcefully, sending his forward-charging body flying backward, crashing heavily onto a table and chairs.

Bang!

The table and chairs shattered into pieces.

Clutching his aching waist and back, before Ling Chen could get up, he saw two middle-aged men standing in front of him, looking down at him condescendingly.

"Alright, I give up!" Ling Chen raised both hands in surrender, sitting up from the ground helplessly.

These guys were too formidable; even after using the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, they could still catch him. It was clear that these two were far superior, making any comparison pointless.

Standing up, Ling Chen complied and handed over the metallic combination box. At this point, he could only accept his fate.

However, as he handed over the metallic combination box, Ling Chen subtly pressed his earpiece a few times. This was the arrangement between him and Hu Fei—if he encountered trouble, he would signal through the static noise of the earpiece, urging them to leave the hotel quickly to avoid being implicated. He certainly did not want them to be caught because of him.

"Come with me." One of the middle-aged men pointed at Ling Chen and turned to walk out of the bar.

Ling Chen sighed, said nothing, and obediently followed behind him.

In the living room, he saw that the security personnel had already awoken and were standing on either side.

"Have a seat!"

Hearing the middle-aged man's words, Ling Chen doubted his ears. He's a thief, yet he was being offered a seat—was this preferential treatment for a captive?

"Have a seat, no need to be formal here." The middle-aged man reiterated, his tone very kind, showing no intent to treat Ling Chen as a criminal.

Ling Chen, not one to be pretentious, plopped himself down on the soft sofa, put his feet up, grabbed some fruit from the table, and started eating. Seeing his actions, the two middle-aged men smiled slightly, said nothing, and quietly stood by as if waiting for something.

A few minutes later, a person descended the stairs next to the living room. The person was very young, appearing only in his twenties, dressed in a loose robe, hair somewhat disheveled, as if he'd just woken up.

When the young man drew closer, Ling Chen studied him carefully. A handsome face, some locks of hair hanging over his forehead, with thick eyebrows and large eyes. At the corners of his mouth, there was a faint smile. Especially his deep eyes, which showed a hint of amusement, as if seeing Ling Chen was truly delightful.

"You should know who I am, right?" the young man asked. "I assume you did some research before your action."

Ling Chen nodded, "Your name is Ling Tao."

"Correct." Ling Tao smiled and said, "Honestly, you're very rude. People are sleeping in their rooms, and you just barge in without so much as a greeting, and you even take my belongings. Didn't your dad teach you any manners?"

Hearing this, Ling Chen felt a bit irritated. Not for any particular reason, but because the other's tone was reminiscent of an elder. Being lectured face-to-face by someone about his age inevitably made him feel upset.

Ling Tao seemed to see through Ling Chen's thoughts and said, "No need to feel upset. It's only right for me to teach you. Although I may look about your age, I'm actually much older than I appear."

"Really?" Ling Chen eyed him skeptically, full of disbelief.

"In this world, nothing is impossible. The God Organization can research age-retarding serums, so why can't there be ways to stay young? Ling Chen, your perspective is too narrow. But then again, I can't blame you because your exposure is limited."

"Who exactly are you?" Ling Chen asked out of curiosity.

"Me?" Ling Tao chuckled and said, "You can think of me as family."

"Family?" Ling Chen was taken aback and immediately became wary.

"Are you from the Ling Family?"

"No, no!" Ling Tao waved his hand and said, "Don't worry, I have no connection with the Ling Family I've been telling you about. However, I can firmly tell you, we share a blood relation. As for my identity, it's not time for you to know yet. Just remember that I won't harm you."

Pausing, Ling Tao continued, "Actually, I've always wanted to meet you, but the time wasn't right, so I've held back from disturbing your life. If you hadn't come looking for trouble today, we wouldn't have met so soon."

"You seem to know a lot about me."

"More or less." Ling Tao smiled and said, "I have some idea about Nanrong Wanqing, Leng Feifei, Liu Xiyao, the policewoman, and the porridge girl."

Hearing Ling Tao reel off so many women's names, Ling Chen blushed slightly and defended, "They're all my friends."

"I know, I know." Ling Tao said with an understanding tone, "No need to explain so much. A good man will always have a few close female friends. It showcases your charm; there's nothing to be embarrassed about. In my youth, I've had way more romantic encounters than you."

"Um..." Ling Chen didn't want to dwell on this topic, so he steered the conversation, "You've mentioned there are many things you can't tell me. What can you tell me?"

"There isn't much I can tell you right now. At the very least, I completely understand the things you're currently dealing with. If I'm not mistaken, it's the God Organization that threatened you to steal that metallic combination box, right?"

"Yes, it's Lin Guodong."

"Lin Guodong?" Ling Tao thought for a moment and nodded, "I remember, there is indeed such a person. However, he's just a minor figure, nothing in my eyes. If I wanted to eliminate him, it would be a matter of minutes."

Chapter 956 - 962: Bragging

Every minute?

Ling Chen looked at Ling Tao with skepticism. This guy talks too big, claiming he can eliminate Lin Guodong in minutes.

"If you're really that capable, then help me take Lin Guodong out."

Ling Tao smiled and said, "Well..."

"Hey!" Ling Chen interrupted Ling Tao and said, "Didn't you just say we're family? If we're truly family, can't you even fulfill this small request for me?"

"I know you don't believe me, but I'm not bragging. To me, Lin Guodong isn't on the same level. If I wanted to deal with him, it would only take some time. But the problem is, I don't have the time to meddle in your affairs right now. Also, there's a reason I won't help you. In the future, your stage won't be limited to East Sea City. If you can't handle Lin Guodong, you'll lose the eligibility to step onto a bigger stage. So this is not just a test for you, but also a way to cultivate and hone your abilities. You should cherish this opportunity and work hard; don't let us down."

Ling Chen noticed the 'us' Ling Tao mentioned, and his heart skipped a beat. He asked, "So, do you have a group behind you?"

Ling Tao didn't directly answer Ling Chen's question but said thoughtfully, "Ling Chen, those in the event may not see clearly, those from outside can. Remember, this prolonged battle has always been an internal war within the Ling Family. The Ling Family's view is broad, with the whole world as its stage, while you are still behind the scenes, not yet out on the formal stage."

Ling Chen waved his hand and said, "I'm not interested in this big stage you're talking about. I don't have great ambitions, I just want to care for my own patch of land. Besides, I'm tired of fighting; what's the point of constant struggle? It's better to be at home with my wife."

Hearing this, Ling Tao couldn't help but laugh and pointed at Ling Chen, "Out of all the Ling Family's descendants, you're the one who's most mischievous. But you have luck on your side, your talent is decent, starting martial arts in your twenties, and you're constantly encountering fortune, surpassing many who trained for over ten years. Honestly, I'm curious to see how far you can go."

Saying this, Ling Tao waved to a middle-aged man beside him, who immediately handed over a metal coded suitcase.

Taking the suitcase, Ling Tao turned to Ling Chen and asked, "Lin Guodong wants you to take this thing away?"

Ling Chen nodded, "That's right." He then curiously asked, "What's inside?"

Ling Tao didn't explain much but opened the metal coded suitcase and pointed the opening at Ling Chen. Inside was a sealed severed hand, surrounded by ice cubes, emitting coldness.

Seeing the item in the suitcase, Ling Chen's expression slightly changed, and he asked in surprise, "This thing..."

Ling Tao faintly smiled, then closed the metal coded suitcase securely.

"I can't tell you the owner of this hand now, but I can say it's very important and mustn't fall into the other's hands. Otherwise, it will bring a great crisis. So, I'm sorry to inform you that no matter how Lin Guodong threatens you, I can't give it to you. You have to find a solution yourself."

"What solution can I find?" Ling Chen said helplessly, "He's threatening my friend's life, do you expect me to ignore it?"

"That's your problem to solve, not mine. Don't call me cold-hearted for not helping. If this hand falls into the wrong hands, it's not just dozens of people who might die. Do you want to exchange other lives to save your friend?"

Faced with Ling Tao's questioning, Ling Chen opened his mouth, unsure how to counter it. Indeed, with his personality, he couldn't bring himself to do such a thing.

Seeing Ling Chen's troubled expression, Ling Tao placed the metal coded suitcase down and said, "No need to rush. Though I can't help you, I can offer some clues."

"What clues?" Ling Chen asked eagerly.

Ling Tao reached into his pocket and pulled out a piece of paper, handing it to Ling Chen, "Call this person, he'll provide the information you need. Hey! Consider this as you owing me a favor, you'll need to repay it someday."

"No problem," agreed Ling Chen readily, "As long as my friends are safe, owing one favor, even ten, isn't an issue."

"Good, I'm relieved to hear that." Ling Tao checked the time and said, "It's late, do what you need to do quickly, don't miss the opportunity."

"Thanks!" Ling Chen nodded, thanked him, and walked out.

"Wait!"

Ling Chen turned back and asked, "Anything else?"

"You removed the hotel's window. Aren't you planning to put it back? I don't want to pay the compensation."

Hearing this, Ling Chen glanced at Ling Tao disdainfully. Living in such an expensive hotel room, yet can't afford the compensation? So petty.

Having no choice, Ling Chen reinstalled the window and retraced his steps.

Returning to the thirty-second floor suite, Ling Chen had just loosened the rope on his body when he saw Kaelina and Wei Jiahao fully armed, ready to head out.

"Hey! Where are you going?"

Kaelina turned suddenly and, seeing Ling Chen coming in through the window, was taken aback.

"Didn't you say you were captured? How did you come back?"

"It's a long story, I'll explain later. Hey, what are you up to?"

"Sixth brother, we were going to save you." Wei Jiahao joined in, "Hu was going to lead us out of the hotel, but Kaelina and I insisted on rescuing you."

"Nonsense!" Hu Fei glared at Wei Jiahao, displeased, "When did I say I was going to escape?"

"Alright, alright!" Ling Chen knew well Hu Fei's character. When danger approached, he was the fastest to flee.

"Fatty, stop babbling, pack up, we have lots to do."

Not long after, the four of them tidied up and took the elevator to the hotel's underground parking lot. On the way, hearing Ling Chen recount his experience, Hu Fei and the others were stunned.

"He's your family? Are you sure?" Hu Fei was incredulous.

Ling Chen shrugged, "It does seem implausible, but with so many proficient people around him, if he wanted to harm me, he could have done it directly; there's no need for deceit in this matter."

Kaelina reminded from the side, "It's always wise to remain cautious."

"I know. Alright, let's not discuss him anymore. I need to contact someone to inquire about big brother and the others' whereabouts."

Chapter 957 - 963: Danger Is Safety

Dialing the number provided by Ling Tao, it wasn't long before the call was connected. Before Ling Chen could speak, a magnetic voice came through from the other end: "Is it Mr. Ling? Hello, I know everything about your situation, and I will do my best to help you."

"Thank you!" Ling Chen asked, "Do you know how to find those people abducted by Lin Guodong?"

"Those people Lin Guodong captured are detained near the research base. As long as you're careful enough, you are sure to discover their hideout. However, I advise you to proceed cautiously, make sure they don't notice you. Otherwise, I can't guarantee they won't harm your friends."

"Understood, I..."

"I've said all I need to say, Mr. Ling, take care." Before Ling Chen could finish, the other party jumped in and abruptly hung up the call.

Setting down the cell phone, recollecting the man's words, Ling Chen's lips curled upwards, his eyes gleaming with insight. No wonder he couldn't find Lin Guodong's whereabouts—turns out the guy was hiding around the research base.

As the saying goes, the most dangerous place is the safest location; no one would expect that after destroying the research base, Lin Guodong didn't go far but quietly hid nearby.

"Fatty, let's go, to the research base."

Half an hour later, the car pulled up alongside the street across from the research base. It was already three in the morning, the night deep and quiet, the streets deserted, not a soul in sight.

Ling Chen sat in the passenger seat, his eyes scanning the surrounding buildings, searching for suspicious targets.

However, the surroundings were all storefronts, and few office buildings. He couldn't tell where Lin Guodong and his men might be hiding.

At this moment, Hu Fei took out a notebook, connected to the internet, and his fingers flew across the keyboard. Watching Hu Fei's actions, Wei Jiahao curiously asked, "Hu, what are you doing?"

Hu Fei opened one document after another, browsing the information as he replied, "This area was under urban planning, and each building had structural diagrams before they were constructed. By regulation, these building structure diagrams are archived. I only have to access the main server of the

government construction bureau to retrieve these documents and find the structure diagrams of the nearby area."

After a pause, Hu Fei continued, "To imprison so many people, Lin Guodong must need a fairly large space. This street area is mostly storefronts, it's impossible to hide so many people here. But because they are storefronts, some of the larger ones have their own goods warehouses. These warehouses are generally behind the storefronts. Based on the size of these warehouses, we can filter out those that might hold prisoners."

Hearing Hu Fei's explanation, Wei Jiahao couldn't help but praise, "Hu, you are really amazing."

"Stop flattering him, this kind of person can't stand praise," Ling Chen unceremoniously retorted.

Hu Fei replied grumpily, "What's wrong with Jiahao admiring me? Aren't you being too much?"

Listening to the trio's bickering, Kaelina rubbed her brows, reluctantly interjected, "Enough with the noise, quiet down, do you even remember why we're here? Do you still want to save people?"

After Kaelina reprimanded them, the three men in the car immediately shut their mouths and obediently sat in their seats, leaving only the ongoing clatter of keyboard tapping. Roughly four minutes later, Hu Fei brightened at the screen and said, "Found it."

Immediately, Ling Chen and the others leaned their heads in closer.

"There are four warehouses that meet the criteria, all within two hundred meters nearby."

"Alright, send me the locations, I'll go check them out first." With that, Ling Chen instructed worriedly, "Kaelina, ensure their safety."

"Don't worry, with me here, they'll be fine."

Stepping out of the car, Ling Chen followed the location provided by Hu Fei, swiftly heading towards the southern street. Before long, a warehouse located behind a storefront appeared in Ling Chen's view.

Gazing at the nearby warehouse, Ling Chen stealthily approached, his sharp eyes sweeping the surroundings to prevent the presence of Dark Posts. If Lin Guodong was truly hiding here, he surely would have deployed layers of defense outside.

Lost in thought, a faint sound suddenly reached Ling Chen's ears. Instantly, Ling Chen halted, scanning the vicinity. Several seconds passed, that faint sound appeared again. This time, Ling Chen finally confirmed the source of the sound. Based on his experience, it seemed to be the sound of breathing.

It seemed like his assumptions were correct; there was indeed a Dark Post nearby.

Since entering, it was unclear if that Dark Post had discovered him yet. Lost in his thoughts, Ling Chen moved slowly, leaning against the wall, creeping towards the direction of the breathing sound.

Before long, Ling Chen gradually moved beside a pile of sundries. At this point, the sound of breathing became even clearer.

Without hesitation, Ling Chen lightly tapped the ground with his toes and leaped directly over the stack of sundries. In the moment of ascent, Ling Chen glanced down, only to see a person crouched behind the pile.

Noticing Ling Chen's presence above him, the person immediately stood up, ready to call for help with a walkie-talkie. However, Ling Chen's reaction was faster. Before the person could utter a sound, Ling Chen flicked his wrist, and a stone he had just picked up from the ground shot out like electricity, accurately hitting the man's brow.

Then, there was a dull groan as the man slumped lifelessly to the ground.

Approaching the man, Ling Chen examined him, uncovering a dagger, a signal gun, and a wireless walkie-talkie.

Picking up the fallen walkie-talkie, Ling Chen opened the channel and slammed it hard against the wall. Instantly, the sound of static rang out continuously not far away.

One... Three... Six!

Ling Chen silently counted, his lips curling into a cold smile.

Six Dark Posts remaining.

Now aware of the positions of those six Dark Posts, the subsequent task for Ling Chen became undoubtedly easy. Within two minutes, all six Dark Posts were silently eliminated by Ling Chen.

Given that so many Dark Posts were stationed here, it's certain that the people Lin Guodong captured are detained in this warehouse.

The warehouse is massive, covering several hundred square meters. Its exterior walls are quite tall, roughly four meters high, with windows at the top, about three meters high.

Ling Chen gazed up at the windows, seeing only darkness with not a hint of light.

Strange!

Had everyone inside left already? Why weren't there any lights on?

With uncertainty, Ling Chen used both hands and feet to swiftly climb up the smooth wall.

Chapter 958 - 964: How to Escape

At the top of the wall, Ling Chen held onto the beam with one hand and reached for the window with the other, trying to get a clearer look.

When his fingers touched the window's surface, Ling Chen was surprised to discover that the windows were covered with special cloth that blocked all the light inside, making the warehouse appear pitch black from the outside, as if no one was there.

They were really cautious.

Ling Chen thought silently, slowly tearing a corner of the cloth on the window. Instantly, bright light streamed through that corner. Ling Chen leaned in, looking through the window, and saw that the warehouse was filled with dozens of people, sitting or lying down in groups, all members of God Organization.

However, besides the God Organization members, Ling Chen didn't see the captured Qiu Yong and others.

Strange... Could it be that they're not held here?

As he pondered, Ling Chen suddenly saw someone appear in the warehouse.

Chu Huaiyang!

He was here too. Ling Chen frowned slightly. Chu Huaiyang being here likely meant Zhu Hong was here as well. Of course, his biggest concern was Chen Quan. If that old fellow was here, he wouldn't have any chance at all.

Jumping down from the top of the wall, Ling Chen didn't leave but went to the other side of the warehouse. There were windows on all four sides of the warehouse. Since he didn't see Qiu Yong and others from the previous spot, maybe he could find them from another angle.

Switching to the north side of the warehouse, Ling Chen climbed the wall again. Peering through the window, a few people immediately caught his attention.

Zhou Qi, Zhou Jun, Yuan Yun, Qiu Yong, Xu Ming, Zhang Zhongfeng, Qin Genglong, these few were all bound with ropes, and their hands and feet were secured with reinforced chains. They were all well-

trained in martial arts and quite powerful. They probably restricted them like this to prevent any escape attempt.

Watching the captives, Ling Chen quietly calculated. If he could save Qiu Yong and the others, with their help, things should become a lot easier. Even if Chen Quan was present, it wouldn't be too worrisome. After all, with Xu Ming there, although Xu Ming wasn't a Heavenly List expert, he could barely hold his own against one for a few moves. As long as he could hold Chen Quan, they could rescue the others, then together take on Chen Quan.

With that thought, Ling Chen quietly pushed the window open and picked up a small stone, throwing it through the window bars.

Suddenly, the small stone flew through the window, landing between Qiu Yong and Zhang Zhongfeng with a light 'pop' sound.

Upon hearing the sound, Qiu Yong and the others simultaneously turned their gaze towards the window at the top of the warehouse.

Seeing them look over, Ling Chen immediately waved his hand, signaling his presence.

Seeing Ling Chen outside the window, Qiu Yong and his companions' eyes immediately brightened. However, perhaps due to nearby guards, they didn't dare speak but exchanged a few glances with Ling Chen, conveying their intentions.

Being clever, Ling Chen could largely understand their meaning from their gestures.

Then, Ling Chen extended both hands, grasping the center bar of the window, using force to bend it outwards. Under the strength of his arms, the rusty bar gradually bent and deformed, revealing a not too large circular hole.

Ling Chen judged the size of the opening, then pushed his head through. He then gradually wormed his body through bit by bit. It took him about two minutes to finally get through the hole.

Once inside the warehouse, Ling Chen didn't head directly to Qiu Yong and others but took a more secluded route.

Reaching a pile of wooden crates, Ling Chen leaned against a crate, sneaking a peek, seeing only a few men in suits sitting there, drinking beer and chatting crudely.

Earlier, when exchanging glances with Qiu Yong, the latter had alerted him, so Ling Chen knew there were guards here. If he didn't deal with these guys, once he revealed himself, his cover would be blown instantly.

While the men drank happily, Ling Chen, with a tap of his toes, quickly deployed the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, charging at them.

In the blink of an eye, Ling Chen had knocked the men to the ground without making a sound. Moreover, before the beer bottles hit the floor, Ling Chen had caught them with his hands, making no noise at all.

After dealing with the guards, Ling Chen quickly made his way to Qiu Yong and the others, helping unlock the chains binding them.

"Sixth Brother, you finally came!" Yuan Yun said excitedly, giving Ling Chen a pat on the shoulder. "If you hadn't come, I'm not sure how much longer I could have held on."

"Third Brother, don't get too happy yet. Even with Sixth Brother here, it's not certain we can get out unharmed."

Hearing Qiu Yong's words, Ling Chen asked in confusion, "Big Brother, what's wrong?"

"We've all been drugged," Zhou Qi said in a deep voice from the side. "Zhu Hong knows we're a threat and injected us with a drug to prevent any trouble."

Zhang Zhongfeng chimed in, "We can only exert about 20% of our strength now."

Twenty percent strength?

Ling Chen's heart sank. This was bad. He was counting on Qiu Yong and the others to help rescue the rest, but now, it seemed they couldn't even ensure their own safety.

What to do now!

Thinking it over, Ling Chen asked, "Big Brother, besides you all, where are the others held?"

"I don't know for sure. They were here at dawn, but later Zhu Hong took them away, and I don't know where. What I do know is they're not in this warehouse because a truck left from here at the time."

Ling Chen ruffled his hair. They were taken away!

He had planned to rescue everyone at once, but now it seemed he could only lead Qiu Yong and the others out.

With a quick decision, Ling Chen didn't hesitate. "Big Brother, I'll escort you all out first."

"Through there?" Qiu Yong pointed at the window Ling Chen had just entered through and waved his hand, "No, my body is larger than yours, and I can't fit through. Besides, Qin Genglong is even bigger. Even if you remove the bars, he likely wouldn't fit."

Hearing this, Ling Chen glanced at Qin Genglong's massive frame and couldn't help but smile wryly.

Indeed, Qin Genglong's physique was too large to fit through.

"Ling Chen, there are too many of us. Climbing out the window will take too long. We'll be discovered eventually. I suggest we think of another way," Zhou Qi suggested.

As he was speaking, a sharp cry suddenly came from above.

Everyone looked up, only to see an eagle soaring over their heads. Seeing the eagle, Ling Chen's face changed drastically.

Damn!

The eagle was Song Mingzhe's pet. Its presence here meant they had already been discovered.

Chapter 959 - 966: Qiu Yong Poisoned (1)

At this moment, rapid footsteps echoed from all directions, and in the blink of an eye, dozens of members of the God Organization arrived quickly, surrounding everyone.

At the same time, the crowd split in the middle, revealing a narrow passage. With Zhu Hong wearing a silver mask, flanked by Chu Huaiyang, Song Mingzhe, and others, he strode to the front of the crowd, coldly staring at Ling Chen and the others.

"Hmph! Ling Chen, I really underestimated you. I didn't expect you to find your way here. But unfortunately, even if you found us, what can you do? Do you think you have the ability to lead them out?"

"Without even trying, how do you know I can't?" Ling Chen calmly replied, reaching into his pocket while his gaze scanned the crowd, searching for Chen Quan's figure. However, Chen Quan seemed to have not appeared.

"Zhu Hong, without your Master as your backing, do you think these rabble can keep us here?"

"You want to see my Master?" Zhu Hong sneered and said, "To be honest, you're not qualified enough for my Master to intervene. These people around me are more than enough to handle you." As his words fell, Zhu Hong gestured to the crowd behind him.

Instantly, under the lead of Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe, the group swiftly charged towards Ling Chen and the others.

Seeing the enemy approaching, Ling Chen said nothing and directly went forward to face them, targeting Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe amid the crowd.

These two were undoubtedly the greatest threats.

At this moment, Qiu Yong and his team had their abilities greatly reduced due to the injection of a drug, rendering them powerless to fight against skilled opponents. Hence, the responsibility of dealing with Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe fell solely on Ling Chen's shoulders.

Ling Chen had exchanged blows with Chu Huaiyang once or twice before, making him somewhat familiar. However, he had never faced Song Mingzhe before. Moreover, according to Xu Ming, Song Mingzhe was most skilled in beast taming, carrying many toxic creatures with him. Engaging in battle with Song Mingzhe required utmost caution.

Recalling Xu Ming's warning, Ling Chen dared not be careless; leveraging the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, he shifted positions back and forth between Chu Huaiyang and Song Mingzhe, entangling their legs to prevent them from troubling Qiu Yong and the others.

With Qiu Yong and his team's current capabilities, they could still handle some minor opponents. However, if faced with Earthly List or Dragon List experts, they would definitely struggle.

Chu Huaiyang originally intended to deal with Qiu Yong's team but was incessantly harassed by Ling Chen, causing him considerable annoyance.

"Let's settle Ling Chen first!"

Upon hearing Chu Huaiyang's words, Song Mingzhe immediately understood, shifting his focus onto Ling Chen.

However, with the speed of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen's figure was like a shadow swiftly moving around, changing positions, making it impossible for anyone to determine his exact direction or anticipate where he might launch a stealthy attack.

Seeing this, Song Mingzhe reached into his coat and threw something into the air. Instantly, a cloud of powder dispersed in the air. The powder was colorless and odorless, akin to flour.

At that moment, Ling Chen happened to move near Song Mingzhe and before he could dodge, the powder had already landed on him.

What the hell?

Ling Chen was startled internally and hurriedly waved his arms, brushing off his clothes. Who knew if it was toxic powder? He had to be cautious.

However, after the powder settled on him, Ling Chen did not feel any discomfort.

Was he just being paranoid?

As he pondered, Song Mingzhe retrieved several small green snakes from somewhere and released them onto the ground.

The moment those small green snakes hit the ground, they seemed invigorated, swiftly slithering towards Ling Chen's location with impressive speed, quickly closing in on him.

Without time to think further, Ling Chen immediately utilized the Nine Yang Qiankun Step to keep moving. But, the small green snakes seemed to follow him seamlessly, no matter where he shifted, they continued to stay close and could accurately pinpoint his location every time.

At this moment, Ling Chen finally understood the purpose of the powder.

It must be due to the powder that allowed the small green snakes to locate him accurately.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen instinctively reached down, grabbed a few items, and hurled them at the small green snakes. With his skill, he was confident in his accuracy.

However, the capabilities of those small green snakes far exceeded Ling Chen's expectations.

Sensing danger approaching, the small green snakes immediately shifted positions, moving sideways to avoid. Instantly, all the thrown objects fell to the ground, missing their targets.

Witnessing this, Ling Chen was momentarily stunned.

Such speed!

Ling Chen was secretly startled. Had these little green snakes attained some form of intelligence to dodge his attacks?

Just then, a whistle sounded. Following it, the small green snakes on the ground suddenly sprang up, like arrows, swiftly launching towards Ling Chen's face.

Although he was unsure of these snakes' species, being trained poisonous creatures under Song Mingzhe, their venom must be potent. If bitten, who knows what fate would await?

As the small green snakes closed in, Ling Chen quickly slid his foot back to retreat.

Just as Ling Chen dodged the assault, a strong sense of danger suddenly surged within him.

Shifting his gaze, Ling Chen only saw a figure quickly maneuvering to his rear.

Chu Huaiyang!

Before Ling Chen could react, Qiu Yong's voice sounded from behind: "Sixth Brother, watch out!"

Unfortunately, even with Qiu Yong's warning, Ling Chen's reaction was a fraction too slow.

In an instant, he felt a pain in his back, followed by a powerful force crashing onto him. Under the impact of that force, Ling Chen's body tilted forward, right into the path of the small green snakes.

Damn!

Seeing the small green snakes spring forward again, Ling Chen's expression changed.

"Sixth Brother!"

At this moment, Qiu Yong shouted, rushing over from the side and colliding with Ling Chen.

Immediately, Ling Chen lost his balance, falling heavily to the ground. Though Ling Chen was saved, Qiu Yong instead became the target of the small green snakes.

Seeing Qiu Yong's arm bitten by the small green snakes, Ling Chen was startled and quickly jumped up, grabbing the small snakes and flinging them away.

"Big Brother, Big Brother!"

Watching Qiu Yong's pale face, Ling Chen became anxious and loudly called Qiu Yong's name.

"Six... Six..." Qiu Yong opened his mouth, attempting to say something, but no matter how hard he tried, not a single complete sentence emerged. Moreover, his eyes blinked rapidly, seemingly about to close at any moment.

"Big Brother!"

Ling Chen forcefully patted Qiu Yong's cheeks, urgently saying, "Don't sleep, don't sleep, wake up!"

Despite Ling Chen's calls, Qiu Yong ultimately couldn't hold on and passed out directly.

Chapter 960 - 967: Qiu Yong Poisoned (2)

"Big Brother!"

At this moment, Xu Ming and the others also noticed Qiu Yong's condition and hurried over.

Looking at the unconscious Qiu Yong, Ling Chen asked worriedly, "Second Brother, what do we do? Big Brother, he..."

"Don't panic," Xu Ming said in a deep voice. "Panicking won't help now. We should first figure out a way to escape."

"Ling Chen, I think you should just surrender obediently. You can't escape from the palm of my hand," Zhu Hong stood nearby with his hands behind his back, his eyes filled with arrogance as he said coldly.

Ling Chen, holding the unconscious Qiu Yong, retreated slowly to the warehouse wall under the protection of Xu Ming and the others. At this moment, they were cornered.

Faced with the encirclement of dozens of people, Ling Chen frowned, his mind racing for a solution.

Right now, with Qiu Yong poisoned and unconscious, the others' combat abilities were nearly nonexistent. Only he could hold out for a while. However, he himself was also injured, not a match for Song Mingzhe and Chu Huaiyang.

"What, still refusing to surrender?" Zhu Hong looked at Ling Chen and the others coldly, speaking up, "At this point, do you still think you can struggle to the death?"

As he spoke, a phone suddenly rang among the crowd.

Ling Chen fumbled in his pocket, pulling out his phone. Seeing the caller ID, he immediately answered the call, yelling, "Fatty, if you don't help us now, we're all dead."

"Go!"

Seeing Ling Chen answer the phone, Zhu Hong immediately issued the order.

As the crowd rushed over, Ling Chen quickly put down the phone, holding Qiu Yong's body and shouted, "Everyone, move aside!"

Upon hearing this, even though they didn't understand why, Xu Ming and the others followed Ling Chen's lead and quickly moved away from the wall.

Bam!

Just as they stepped away, a loud crash was heard, and the wall where Ling Chen had been standing was suddenly smashed. At the same time, the front of a garbage truck emerged from the scattered stones.

"Get in!"

From the car window, Hu Fei stuck his head out and yelled at them.

Seeing the garbage truck, Zhu Hong's face turned grim, shouting coldly, "Stop them, don't let them escape."

Upon hearing Zhu Hong's command, Song Mingzhe and Chu Huaiyang led their group to intercept the garbage truck.

At this moment, Kaelina suddenly appeared on top of the garbage truck.

In her hand, Kaelina held a steel pipe, the end covered with thick cloth. Not only that, but the steel pipe was also attached to a rubber hose.

Seeing the enemies rushing at the front of the truck, Kaelina took out a lighter from her pocket and ignited it against the steel pipe.

In an instant, a fiery serpent spewed from the pipe's mouth, engulfing the group charging ahead.

"Hahahaha!" Seeing the enemies suppressed by the flames, Hu Fei, sitting inside the truck, couldn't help but laugh triumphantly, saying, "How's it taste, my makeshift flamethrower?"

Watching this, Zhu Hong's gaze turned icy.

"Chu Huaiyang, what are you standing around for? Deal with that woman on top," Zhu Hong ordered.

Chu Huaiyang felt helpless at Zhu Hong's command. He wanted to handle Kaelina, but as soon as he got near the truck's head, the roaring flames would spray towards him.

Even though he was an expert on the Earthly List, he couldn't withstand the fire unless he had an iron body.

Meanwhile, Ling Chen and the others had already climbed into the garbage truck's compartment.

"Fatty, let's go!" Ling Chen patted the truck's roof and shouted.

Hu Fei's truck had never turned off, and upon hearing Ling Chen, he immediately shifted gears, driving the garbage truck backward. In a short time, the garbage truck retreated from the rubble.

"Chase them!"

Watching the garbage truck move away, Zhu Hong urgently ordered his men to pursue.

"A bunch of useless idiots, can't even hold them back,"

At this moment, a cold voice came from behind. Zhu Hong turned to look, his expression changing slightly, and lowered his head, "Master!"

"Hmph! Zhu Hong, you've disappointed me," Chen Quan coldly said, "Stay here, I'll handle those people." With that, Chen Quan's toes lightly tapped, his body like a gust of wind, vanishing from Zhu Hong's sight in an instant.

At this moment, Hu Fei had already driven the garbage truck back onto the road. Inside the truck's compartment, Ling Chen held the unconscious Qiu Yong, checking his pulse and examining his condition.

"Sixth Brother, how's Big Brother?" Yuan Yun squatted beside, anxiously asking.

Ling Chen said in a deep voice, "Not very optimistic. The snakes' venom is potent, fortunately, Big Brother's inner strength is profound, temporarily delaying the venom's spread. But if not treated in time, once the toxin reaches his organs, even gods couldn't save him."

Saying this, Ling Chen stood up and shouted towards the driver's cabin, "Fatty, head to the hospital immediately."

"Got it!"

Bam!

Just as Hu Fei spoke, a loud sound came from the back of the garbage truck.

Ling Chen quickly rushed to the rear of the truck, looking down to see a bicycle on the road. Due to the collision, the bicycle was deformed.

In front of the bicycle, a figure was rapidly closing in.

Seeing clearly who it was, Ling Chen's heart sank.

Chen Quan!

"Fatty, speed up!" Ling Chen urged.

However, given the size of the garbage truck and the number of people inside, coupled with the frequent turns on the road, it was difficult to gain speed.

In comparison, Chen Quan's speed was significantly faster than the garbage truck. In a short time, Chen Quan was less than twenty meters away from the garbage truck.

"Fourth Brother!"

Ling Chen turned to Zhang Zhongfeng, ready to ask for help, but quickly recognized that Zhang Zhongfeng was unarmed. They fled too hastily and left their weapons behind.

If Zhang Zhongfeng had his bow and arrows, he could surely fend off the pursuing Chen Quan.

Twenty meters... ten meters...

Seeing Chen Quan getting closer, Ling Chen grew anxious, uncertain of what to do.

At this moment, Chen Quan tapped his toes, using the force to propel his whole body like a missile, shooting into the air, flying directly toward the truck's compartment.

"Get down!"

Ling Chen shouted, thrusting a fist powerfully, intending to fend off Chen Quan.

But, a Heavenly List expert is still a Heavenly List expert. In response to Ling Chen's attack, Chen Quan's body spun slightly in the air, effortlessly dodging Ling Chen's fist, landing steadily inside the truck compartment.

Seeing Chen Quan catch up, the people inside the compartment were shocked, quickly getting up and retreating.

There was no choice. At this moment, besides Ling Chen having some fighting capability, the others couldn't exhibit their strength, being no match for Chen Quan.