

The Beauty 961

Chapter 961 Ling Kun's Sudden Appearance

"Chen Quan!" Ling Chen shouted, pouncing from behind and wrapping his arms around Chen Quan's body, trying to pull him back with all his might.

Right now, Ling Chen only thought about dragging Chen Quan out of the carriage, even if it meant sacrificing himself; he couldn't let Chen Quan harm others.

However, Ling Chen underestimated the power of a Heavenly List expert. Chen Quan's body trembled slightly, a strong force exploded out, breaking free from Ling Chen's grip. Before Ling Chen could make another move, Chen Quan spun around and locked Ling Chen's neck, lifting him off the ground.

Feeling his neck constrained, Ling Chen struggled desperately, his hands pounding relentlessly on Chen Quan's arms. Facing Ling Chen's struggle, Chen Quan raised two fingers and harshly struck Ling Chen's abdomen.

In that instant, Ling Chen's face turned pale, spitting out a mouthful of blood with a 'pfft', his expression instantly becoming haggard.

"Sixth Brother!"

"Ling Chen!"

Seeing Ling Chen suffering, everyone in the carriage panicked, ignoring whether their strength was restored, they rushed towards Chen Quan, attempting to save Ling Chen from his grasp.

"Hmph!" Chen Quan sneered, delivering a palm strike that directly sent Xu Ming and the others flying.

No matter what, a Heavenly List expert remains a Heavenly List expert. If Xu Ming and the others were at their peak strength, they might be able to join forces for a fight, but now they were merely powerless targets, posing no threat.

At this moment, Chen Quan tightened his fingers slightly, causing Ling Chen's face to contort with pain, as pale as paper, as if he could die at any moment.

"Fight with me, and I'll make sure none of you survive." Chen Quan said coldly.

Just as Ling Chen was about to give in, a sound of breaking air suddenly attacked, heading straight for Chen Quan's face. Sensing the sudden forceful wind, Chen Quan's face slightly changed, quickly releasing Ling Chen's neck and stepped back hastily.

As Chen Quan retreated two steps, a 'clang' rang out, piercing the iron plate of the carriage with a hole.

If this hit people, it would've likely turned into a bloody hole.

Seeing the remaining hole on the iron plate, Chen Quan's expression froze slightly, with a hint of shock.

To pierce the iron plate from such a distance showed the opponent's strength.

Heavenly List expert!

Chen Quan's expression sank; only a Heavenly List expert could achieve this.

Quickly thinking, Chen Quan looked around, speaking in a heavy tone, "Who's there? Show yourself if you dare, don't hide your head and tail."

"You want to see me?" a voice came, and atop the garbage truck a person appeared out of nowhere.

Everyone looked up, seeing a middle-aged man standing on the truck's roof. The man was around forty years old, exuding elegance and gentlemanly demeanor, dressed in modest attire, fluttering in the night breeze.

The middle-aged man stood with his hands behind his back, looking down at Chen Quan, speaking calmly, "Here I am, what do you want?"

Glaring at the middle-aged man before him, Chen Quan asked coldly, "Who are you?"

"That's not necessary for you to know, you just need to remember, I'm someone you can't afford to provoke. Chen Quan, before I act, you'd better disappear from my sight right away. Otherwise, I won't guarantee you'll leave alive."

"Hmph, such big words." Chen Quan sneered, "No one has dared to speak to me like that, I want to see what you can do."

"Alright, since you want to see, I'll accompany you to the end." With that, the middle-aged man lightly tapped his toes, propelled into the air, instantly springing off the roof.

"Chen Quan, if you have the guts, follow me."

"Not afraid of you." Chen Quan snorted, hesitating not at all, directly chasing the middle-aged man's footsteps.

At this moment, Chen Quan knew clearly that with the middle-aged man present, he shouldn't think about dealing with Ling Chen.

As Chen Quan and the middle-aged man departed, everyone in the carriage breathed a sigh of relief. Although they didn't know the middle-aged man's identity, he helped, proving he wasn't an enemy.

"Ling Chen."

Yuan Yun held the unconscious Ling Chen, gently patting his cheeks. Shortly, Ling Chen groggily opened his eyes, looking at everyone in front of him, weakly asking, "I... I'm not dead?"

Zhou Jun smiled and said, "Rest assured, you're not dead, everyone's okay."

Right then, Zhou Jun explained what had happened. After listening, Ling Chen couldn't help but be shocked.

Based on Zhou Jun's description, if he's correct, that person could very likely be his father, Ling Kun!

Turns out Dad has awakened.

Ling Chen felt a surge of joy. Fortunately, his father arrived in time and saved him from Chen Quan's grasp. Otherwise, he was really in danger this time.

However, amidst the excitement, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry about Ling Kun's safety. After all, Chen Quan was a Heavenly List expert, and Ling Kun lured him away, uncertain if there'd be danger.

As he pondered, the moving garbage truck gradually slowed its speed.

"We're at the hospital."

Hearing Hu Fei's voice, Ling Chen hurriedly got up, calling for everyone to carry Qiu Yong off the truck, quickly heading to the hospital.

Before long, Qiu Yong was sent to the emergency room.

Watching the emergency room's red light turn on, everyone's heart tightened. Ling Chen paced back and forth, silently praying, hoping Qiu Yong would be safe and sound.

"Sixth Brother, you were also injured earlier, do you need a check-up at the hospital?" Yuan Yun asked with concern.

Ling Chen shook his hand and said, "I'm fine, right now the most important thing is big brother, I'll wait for him to come out first."

As he spoke, a fragrance wafted from the other end of the hallway. Ling Chen looked up, seeing ten or so young men and women in white coats walking together, chatting and laughing along the way.

Seeing a woman leading the group of young men and women, Ling Chen's expression slightly froze.

It's Zhu Xiaozhu!

Unexpected to meet her here.

Ling Chen was familiar with Zhu Xiaozhu's work nature, often coming to East Sea City for business trips and medical exchanges.

However, it's already past five in the morning, why is she still at the hospital?

When Ling Chen saw Zhu Xiaozhu, she also noticed him. Their eyes met, and Zhu Xiaozhu instinctively diverted her gaze, avoiding looking directly into Ling Chen's eyes.

Adjusting her mood, Zhu Xiaozhu glanced at Ling Chen's side, seeing a group of people standing there somewhat embarrassed, all anxiously waiting for something.

Emergency room...

Seeing Ling Chen's location, Zhu Xiaozhu instantly understood, it must be a friend of theirs undergoing rescue inside, which is why everyone was so worried.

At this moment, as Zhu Xiaozhu approached, the two got closer. Upon arrival, Zhu Xiaozhu hesitated for a moment, ultimately stopped her steps, looking up at Ling Chen, saying, "Long time no see."

Ling Chen gently nodded and said, "It's been a while since we last met."

Chapter 962 Kidnapping

"Is that your friend?" Xiaozhu pointed at the emergency room and asked.

"My elder brother, he's been poisoned by a snake, it's quite dangerous, and they are rescuing him right now." Ling Chen's voice carried a hint of worry as he spoke.

Xiaozhu softly said, "You don't need to worry too much; as long as he gets treatment in time, most snake poisons won't be life-threatening."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen couldn't help but smile bitterly. He wished it were so, but those little green snakes were kept by Song Mingzhe, their venom would surely be more than ordinary.

"What are you busy with so late?" Ling Chen shifted the topic and asked.

"Just handled an emergency patient, and since the medical college students are interning here, I took them along to gain some clinical experience. And..." Xiaozhu hesitated for a moment before saying, "You go ahead with your work, I have some things to attend to, and I wish your brother a speedy recovery from danger."

"Thank you!" Ling Chen nodded.

Watching Xiaozhu leave, Ling Chen sighed helplessly. Nowadays, whenever he faced Xiaozhu, he couldn't maintain a normal heart. Moreover, even when they met, they didn't know what to say to each other.

As he pondered, the door to the emergency room was pushed open by someone wearing a white coat inside.

"Doctor!"

Ling Chen, along with Xu Ming and others, hurriedly went up, surrounding the person in the white coat, asking in a fluster: "Doctor, how is my brother's situation?"

"Everyone, please be quiet." The doctor pressed his hands down, signaling everyone to be silent.

"Who among you is the patient's family?"

"We all are."

"Since you are all family, I'll be straightforward, the patient's condition is not very favorable. Moreover, it is not a regular snake poison, but a mixed one, and currently, the hospital doesn't have the right serum to neutralize it. What we can do now is at most inhibit the spread of the toxin, but the antibodies we inject won't last for long. If we can't find another solution within a day, his life could be at risk. So, I hope you prepare psychologically."

Upon hearing the doctor's words, everyone's mood sank instantly.

"Sixth brother." Yuan Yun spoke up: "Aren't you skilled in medicine? Since these quacks aren't working, you go, we can't let anything happen to brother."

Ling Chen touched his nose, smiling bitterly inwardly. It's true he understood medicine, but the issue is, he could at best treat minor injuries and illnesses, he'd never encountered snake poison like this before, and had no experience at all. If he were to treat Qiu Yong instead, Qiu Yong might be in even more danger.

"Alright!" At this time, Xu Ming took over the conversation: "Third brother, don't make things difficult for sixth brother. If sixth brother had the ability to cure our elder brother, he wouldn't be standing here." He paused and glanced at those present, saying: "I know everyone is very worried about brother's safety, but such things can't be rushed. Didn't the doctor also say, we still have a day's time, everyone mustn't lose hope."

Xiaozhu!

Ling Chen's mind moved as he immediately thought of Xiaozhu who just left. He was aware of Xiaozhu's medical skills; she was certainly much more skilled in this area than he, the layperson, was. Perhaps she had a way to cure the snake poison in Qiu Yong.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen immediately ran toward the stairway.

Reaching the hospital lobby, he only saw the group of young interns gathered together, but Xiaozhu was nowhere to be seen.

Seeing this, Ling Chen quickly approached the group and inquired about Xiaozhu's whereabouts.

"Are you looking for Sister Zhu? Sister Zhu said earlier that she was going back to the dormitory to fetch something; perhaps you can try finding her in her dormitory." A warm-hearted female intern said.

"Thanks!" Ling Chen, after finding out the location of Xiaozhu's dormitory, rushed over directly.

Arriving at the downstairs of the dormitory building, Ling Chen looked up at the five-story dormitory building, calling Xiaozhu's name loudly. As long as Xiaozhu was still in the dormitory, she would certainly hear his voice.

However, even after calling out seven or eight times, there was no response from inside the dormitory building.

Strange!

The intern just now clearly said, Xiaozhu resides on the second floor of the dormitory building, it shouldn't be possible that she couldn't hear. Could it be she left? But he didn't encounter Xiaozhu on his way here.

At that moment, Ling Chen went straight to the second floor of the dormitory building, finding the dormitory where Xiaozhu lived.

Seeing the ajar door, Ling Chen gently knocked on it, calling out: "Xiaozhu, it's me."

Still, no one from inside the room responded.

The door's open, no way no one's home. Ling Chen thought secretly. After hesitating for a moment, he simply pushed the door open and walked directly into the dormitory.

The dormitory was a one-bedroom, one-bathroom layout, the lights were still on in the room, and the bathroom door was open, but there wasn't anyone there.

Ling Chen frowned slightly, seeing a few pieces of clothing scattered messily on the floor by the bed, and a knocked-over glass cup, with water all over the floor.

Seeing such a situation, from Ling Chen's many years of experience, he instantly had a bad premonition.

Could something have happened?

Thinking of this possibility, Ling Chen hurriedly ran out the door. Calculating the time, if something happened to Xiaozhu, he would have encountered her while on his way, but he hadn't run into Xiaozhu or anyone else. From which it could be seen, Xiaozhu must have left the dormitory building by another route.

Standing on the balcony outside the dormitory, Ling Chen looked around, discovering another staircase not far away, built along the outer wall of the dormitory building.

Ling Chen quickly arrived at the staircase, leaning out to look downward, seeing that the stairs led to the back of the dormitory building. At that moment, a van was parked behind the dormitory. Due to the darkness, Ling Chen couldn't see the van's license plate clearly, he only saw two men pushing something into the van. Then, the two quickly entered the vehicle, closing the door.

Seeing the van driving away, Ling Chen didn't think much, quickly jumping down from the stairs, chasing after the van at full speed.

A hunch told Ling Chen, Xiaozhu must be in that van.

At this moment, sitting in the van, the two men saw Ling Chen following the vehicle behind them, their expressions changed. They exchanged a glance, then immediately took out a cellphone from their pockets, dialing a number.

Soon, the call connected, and a man's voice came from the other end: "How's it going, have you got it done?"

"Boss, we caught the person, but we ran into trouble."

"What kind of trouble?"

"Ling Chen seems to know that Xiaozhu got caught, he's following behind the car. Boss, what should we do now, should we think of a way to shake him off?"

After hesitating for a moment, the other party said, "Forget it! You guys are no match for him, release the person, don't take risks, I don't want to be found out by him."

"Yes, boss, I know what to do."

Hanging up the phone, the two men patted the driver's seat. The latter understood immediately, stopping the van at once. At the same time, two men opened the car door, directly pushing Xiaozhu out.

Chapter 963 Shi Family (Part 1)

When Zhu Xiaozhu landed on the ground, the driver floored it, and the van's nose shot out instantly, disappearing around the corner of the street.

Watching the van go away, Ling Chen didn't continue to chase but stopped and helped Zhu Xiaozhu up from the ground.

"Xiaozhu, are you okay? Is everything alright?" Ling Chen asked concernedly.

Zhu Xiaozhu rubbed her slightly sore shoulder and replied softly, "I'm fine."

"Who were those people just now?" Ling Chen inquired, "Why did they want to kidnap you?"

"I don't know. When I was returning to my dormitory, they suddenly barged in, forcibly dragging me outside. I'm not strong enough to fight them off, and they covered my mouth, so I couldn't even scream," Zhu Xiaozhu appeared helpless, with a hint of confusion in her gentle eyes. Even she found it strange; she had never made enemies with outsiders, so why would someone want to kidnap her?

After thinking for a moment, Zhu Xiaozhu looked at Ling Chen in front of her, curiously asking, "You... why are you here?" As she asked this, a faint blush appeared on Zhu Xiaozhu's slightly pale cheeks.

When she was kidnapped, the first person to come to mind was none other than Ling Chen. She thought to herself, if Ling Chen were here, he would definitely save her. Unexpectedly, her wish had actually come true.

Could it be what they call 'telepathic connection'?

Amidst her wild thoughts, Ling Chen spoke, "The hospital can't cure my brother's snake venom and has issued a critical notice. If no miracle occurs, my brother has at most one day left. Xiaozhu, I know your medical skills are impressive, so I wanted to ask for your help."

"One day?" Zhu Xiaozhu was shocked and said in amazement, "What kind of snake venom is so potent?" Saying this, she quickly freed herself from Ling Chen's hands and said, "Let's go, I'll go with you to take a look."

Not long after, the two arrived at the hospital's emergency room.

Upon learning that Zhu Xiaozhu was going to take over the patient's treatment, several attending doctors immediately stepped aside without saying a word, acting as her assistants.

After more than ten minutes, Zhu Xiaozhu, holding the freshly obtained blood test report, looked somewhat grave.

"Xiaozhu, how's my brother's condition?"

"What those attending doctors said earlier is correct; your brother's situation is extremely dangerous. Because the venom in your brother is a mixture of snake venoms, the components are difficult to grasp. If the proportions are wrong when preparing the antidote, your brother's life will be in jeopardy." After pausing, Zhu Xiaozhu continued, "In any case, any doctor would be at a loss facing such a situation."

Hearing this, Ling Chen worriedly asked, "Is there really no way?"

"It's not that there's no way, just that we lack time," Zhu Xiaozhu said, "I can use medical equipment to slowly separate the mixed venom, figure out the components and proportions, and then prepare the antidote. However, this process would take at least two to three days. The toxins in your brother's body are rapidly spreading, in at most a day, they will permeate his entire body. By then, even if the antidote is prepared, it will be to no avail unless we find a solution within a day."

Ling Chen anxiously said, "Xiaozhu, no matter what, you have to help me."

Zhu Xiaozhu gently nodded, looking at Qiu Yong lying on the hospital bed, lost in thought.

After pondering for a moment, Zhu Xiaozhu said, "Ordinary methods can't treat your brother in time; the only option now is to seek help from others."

"Who?" Ling Chen hurriedly asked.

"My master." As soon as the words were out, Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help but glance at Ling Chen. She knew the enmity between Ling Chen and her master. Ling Chen's actions at the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony had caused Shi Su a great loss of face and even involved the Shi Family's reputation.

From top to bottom, the Shi Family hated Ling Chen.

Upon hearing Zhu Xiaozhu's words, Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, his brows unconsciously furrowing.

If seeking Shi Su could save Qiu Yong, Ling Chen would go to him without hesitation. However, because of what happened at the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony, he and Shi Su already had a feud, so how would the other party help him?

Seeing Ling Chen silent, Zhu Xiaozhu chimed in, "You don't need to worry too much. I'll go to my master later; you don't need to follow. I'm the disciple; if I speak up, my master won't refuse."

"Thank you!" Ling Chen breathed a silent sigh of relief. If he had to communicate personally, he really wouldn't know what to do.

"Xiaozhu, where is your master?"

"The Shi Family. The city where the Shi Family resides isn't far from East Sea City, just a two-hour drive."

"Alright, I'll drive you over," Ling Chen said. Two hours felt too long; he wanted to cut it short. If he drove, it would take at most an hour and a half.

It was still dark at the time. Ling Chen greeted Xu Ming and the others, instructing them to take good care of Qiu Yong.

Leaving the hospital, Ling Chen drove the Audi car that Nanrong Hao had just arranged for delivery and headed directly for the highway entrance.

All the way, Ling Chen carefully drove the Audi, maintaining a speed of around one hundred sixty kilometers per hour.

In less than an hour and a half, the Audi drove off the highway and entered a nearby small town.

According to Zhu Xiaozhu's introduction, this town is called Yunchuan Town, where the Shi Family mansion is located.

The Shi Family is not only a family of medical heritage but also a renowned family with a history spanning many years. This is evident from the Shi Family's old mansion, which has a history of several hundred years and still retains the charm of ancient architecture. It is said that someone once offered three hundred million to buy the Shi Family's old mansion, but the Shi Family refused.

A joke, this old mansion is considered a historical relic. Besides, the Shi Family is never short of money.

After wandering in the town for a while, Ling Chen took Zhu Xiaozhu for breakfast and then drove her to the Shi Family's doorstep.

To avoid unpleasant situations, Ling Chen did not follow Zhu Xiaozhu inside but stayed in the car, quietly waiting for her to come out.

Half an hour passed, Ling Chen checked the time several times but still didn't see Zhu Xiaozhu.

Why is it taking so long?

Ling Chen wondered. Just as Zhu Xiaozhu left, she said it would only take about ten minutes; now, more than half an hour had passed without a sign of her.

Ling Chen took out his phone and sent a text message to Zhu Xiaozhu's phone, asking how much longer she would be.

However, after a few minutes, the sent text message still received no reply.

After waiting for another fifteen minutes or so, Ling Chen saw that Zhu Xiaozhu still hadn't come out, so he decided to call.

Dialing the number, he heard the beep sound on the other end very soon. Shortly afterward, the call connected, and Zhu Xiaozhu's voice came through from the other end.

Chapter 964 - 971: Shi Family (Part 2)

"Hello!" Zhu Xiaozhu's voice was very soft, as if afraid of being heard.

"How much longer will you be? I haven't seen you come out for a while, and I'm a bit worried, so I'm calling to check."

"Hold on a bit longer, I still have some matters here." Zhu Xiaozhu sounded a bit hurried and hung up the phone before Ling Chen could ask anything else.

There was no choice, Ling Chen had to wait patiently outside. Before he knew it, another hour had passed, and there was still no news from Zhu Xiaozhu. Seeing this situation, Ling Chen was getting restless. If Zhu Xiaozhu was busy, she could easily send him a message or make a phone call to let him know, rather than leaving him waiting outside.

However, in Ling Chen's view, with Zhu Xiaozhu's considerate nature, she would never neglect such a thing. So, it must be some important matter that was holding her up.

Thinking it over, Ling Chen decided to wait another hour. If Zhu Xiaozhu still didn't show up, he would have no choice but to risk sneaking into the Shi Family to check.

...

9:30 in the morning.

Ling Chen turned his head to look out the car window, seeing the Shi Family gate closed and no one going in or out.

At that moment, Ling Chen started his Audi and slowly drove to the left side of the Shi Family mansion. After parking, he opened the car door and scanned the surroundings. Seeing no one nearby, he quickly approached the Shi Family mansion's wall and leapt onto the top of the wall.

Jumping over the wall, Ling Chen landed steadily in the mansion's courtyard.

Glancing around, he saw that the spacious courtyard was empty. However, from the northern hall in the courtyard, there were frequent bursts of laughter.

Ling Chen hesitated for a moment, and then carefully walked towards the hall. Outside the hall, he leaned against the wall and cautiously peered inside. Instantly, he saw Shi Su and another middle-aged man sitting in the main seats of the hall. Below them sat Zhu Xiaozhu and an unfamiliar young man.

The young man seemed to be in his twenties, not much different in age from Ling Chen. He had handsome features, was charming, had a slender build, and could be considered quite a fine-looking man.

At that moment, the four of them in the hall were chatting and laughing. However, Zhu Xiaozhu's smile was somewhat forced and stiff. The observant Ling Chen noticed that the young man's gaze kept sweeping towards Zhu Xiaozhu, glancing at her several times a minute.

"Senior Brother, your apprentice is outstanding, and his medical skills are superb. In every way, he and Xiaozhu are a perfect match," said Shi Su, turning to Zhu Xiaozhu and smiling. "Xiaozhu, Liu Xi is a very excellent young man, you should seize the opportunity. The Master can only introduce you, but the rest will require your own efforts."

The middle-aged man sitting beside him laughed heartily. "Junior Sister, Xiaozhu and Liu Xi are no longer young, they know how to mingle, so you, the Master, shouldn't worry unnecessarily."

Shi Su said helplessly, "Don't I know my disciple's personality? She is too passive and never takes initiative. Liu Xi, you must be proactive in this matter."

"Yes, I understand," responded the young man named Liu Xi obediently.

"Alright! Senior Brother, we've said enough. Whether it works out depends on how they get along. Xiaozhu, why don't you take Liu Xi to the back garden for a stroll, to get to know each other better? I have some things to discuss with your uncle."

Upon hearing this, Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't help but speak up, "Master, I don't have much time; there's a patient waiting for me to save."

"I know," Shi Su replied indifferently. "You already told me earlier. It's alright, that patient has another day, so it's still early. It's fine to go later."

"But..."

Before Zhu Xiaozhu could finish, Shi Su impatiently interrupted her, frowning, "Xiaozhu, are you going to disobey your Master now?"

"No, it's not that, I just..."

"Enough! This is a matter of your lifelong happiness. Other people's life and death can't compare to it. Go on, you're half a host here; don't keep Liu Xi waiting."

Seeing Shi Su's strong attitude, Zhu Xiaozhu opened her mouth and wanted to argue, but after hesitating for a moment, she chose to give up. Her Master's stance was clear, and it was unlikely to change for a while.

Thinking of this, Zhu Xiaozhu sighed in resignation. She promised Ling Chen she'd be back in ten minutes, but it had been hours, and Ling Chen was likely becoming impatient.

No, she must find an opportunity to call Ling Chen and tell him about her situation, to avoid any misunderstanding.

At this time, Ling Chen, hiding outside the hall and watching Zhu Xiaozhu inside, couldn't help but smile wryly. Turns out Zhu Xiaozhu was dragged by her Master to a matchmaking session.

It wasn't Zhu Xiaozhu's fault; she probably couldn't leave even if she wanted to.

"What to do?" Ling Chen thought to himself. Zhu Xiaozhu is now stuck at the Shi Family mansion, forced into this matchmaking meeting; if he doesn't think of a way to get Zhu Xiaozhu out, who knows how long it'll drag on.

Meanwhile, each passing minute put Qiu Yong's situation at greater risk.

Just then, a loud shout suddenly sounded in Ling Chen's ear, "Who's there?"

Upon hearing a voice behind him, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, and he turned around quickly to see two people appear in the courtyard out of nowhere.

Seeing the two heading towards him, Ling Chen dared not linger and sprinted towards the wall.

If those from the Shi Family caught him, who knows what the outcome would be.

At this moment, Shi Su, Zhu Xiaozhu, and others came out of the hall due to the commotion. But since Ling Chen escaped quickly, they only caught a glimpse of a figure flashing by, unable to clearly see Ling Chen's identity.

However, out of the four people, Zhu Xiaozhu couldn't suppress her worry. While others didn't know, she was aware that the person must be Ling Chen. Because she hadn't come out for so long, Ling Chen was surely concerned, hence he sneaked into the Shi Family.

"Stop! Don't run!"

Two men from the Shi Family quickly followed behind Ling Chen, attempting to intercept him as he ran. However, their speed was nowhere near Ling Chen's. In no time, Ling Chen reached the wall.

Before anyone could catch up, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes and, with the help of his hands, quickly climbed to the top of the wall.

Yet, just as Ling Chen was about to leap over, a fierce wind suddenly attacked from the side, rapidly closing in.

Sensing the approaching gust, Ling Chen's eyes shifted, seeing only a blur pass before him. Then, a strong force abruptly struck, blocking his path.

Helplessly, Ling Chen had no choice but to retreat and jumped back down to the courtyard. At the same time, an elder appeared atop the wall.

The elder folded his hands behind his back, his face rosy, looking youthful, and coldly staring at Ling Chen with a hint of sternness.

Chapter 965 - 972: Shi Family (Part 3)

"Young man, do you think the Shi Family is a place you can come and go as you please? You underestimate our Shi Family too much," the old man said coldly.

Ling Chen thought to himself that this was not good, having provoked a master from the Shi Family. The strength of the old man before him, if not overwhelmingly high, was at least of an Earthly List level. What should he do now?

As he pondered, Shi Su and others had already rushed over from the great hall. Seeing Ling Chen standing at the base of the wall, Shi Su's expression changed at once, and a cold, chilling intent showed in her eyes.

"Xiaozhu!" Shi Su shouted coldly, asking, "Did you bring him here?"

Zhu Xiaozhu glanced at Ling Chen, lowered her head, lightly bit her lip, and said, "Master, I..."

"I asked you, did you or did you not?" Shi Su interrupted Zhu Xiaozhu coldly, reprimanding her.

Faced with her master's questioning, Zhu Xiaozhu hesitated for a moment, unwillingly nodded.

Slap!

Immediately, Shi Su raised her arm and gave Zhu Xiaozhu a harsh slap.

"Hmph!" Shi Su looked at Zhu Xiaozhu coldly and said, "I thought I had taken in a promising disciple, but I didn't expect you'd dare to betray from within, helping outsiders. Xiaozhu, let me ask you, don't you know this man is your master's enemy?"

Covering her reddened cheek, Zhu Xiaozhu said softly, "Master, saving a life is more meritorious than building a seven-story pagoda, and a healer's heart is like a parent's, these are all things you taught me before. Ling Chen's elder brother is poisoned by a snake, in imminent danger, with only a day left to live. Even if he's not my friend, even if it were a stranger, I would do my utmost to save them. Master, isn't learning medicine about treating illnesses and saving people?"

Upon hearing this, Shi Su's expression became even more unsightly. She looked coldly at Ling Chen, then shifted her gaze to her disciple, saying coldly, "Treating illnesses and saving people is right, but you cannot save your master's enemy. Xiaozhu, after all the effort I put into training you as a doctor, imparting all my knowledge, didn't you consider your master's feelings? Or do you think this man is more important than your master?"

"No, it's not like that." Zhu Xiaozhu quickly said, "Master, I didn't mean that, I just..."

"Enough!" Shi Su impatiently waved her hand and said, "I don't want to hear your explanations. In short, I won't give you the antidote you want. Also, listen clearly, from today onwards, our Shi Family will not help anyone related to Ling Chen, including you, understand? If you can't do this, then I, Shi Su, have no disciple like you."

Seeing Shi Su speaking so definitively, Zhu Xiaozhu became anxious and hurriedly said, "Master..."

"Xiaozhu." On the side, Liu Xi advised, "Your master is angry right now, it's better to say less." With that, Liu Xi looked over at Ling Chen and asked, "What is he to you? A friend?"

Zhu Xiaozhu gently nodded.

"So he's a friend." Liu Xi murmured to himself, his expression relaxing considerably.

"Ling Chen." Shi Su looked at Ling Chen with venomous eyes, gritting her teeth she said, "The matters that happened at the Heavenly Mechanism Great Ceremony have yet to be settled with you, and now you dare to come to the Shi Family's domain and act wildly. Hmph! I see you're exceptionally bold."

"Ms. Shi, that incident was so long ago, why hold on to it? Besides, it was your fault in the first place, do you intend to blame me? If it weren't for your greed for credit, colluding with others to frame us, how would it have come to this? You not only refused to reflect on yourself but also blamed others. Honestly, I doubt your character, not knowing how you managed to teach Xiaozhu to be such a kind girl."

"Enough nonsense." Shi Su said coldly, "Since you've come here willingly today, don't blame me for being rude. Uncle, help me disable him."

Hearing the master's command, the old man standing at the wall's top nodded, jumped directly from the top, and landed in front of Ling Chen.

"Young man, because of you, our Shi Family's reputation has been greatly damaged, as a member of the Shi Family, I must seek justice."

"Justice?" Ling Chen sneered, derisively saying, "You still have the face to speak of justice, all right then, spare the high-sounding excuses, if you want to make a move, then make a move, do you think I'm afraid of the Shi Family? Your Shi Family is large and established, but I, Ling Chen, am not someone to mess with. If I lose a single hair today in your Shi Family, I can guarantee that the Shi Family will be erased from the Martial Arts world."

"Hmph! Such big talk." Shi Su sneered and said, "I must see whose support you have."

"Say no more, just one Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is enough to make your Shi Family tremble."

"Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion?"

Upon hearing Ling Chen mention the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, both Shi Su and the elder couldn't help but laugh.

"Ling Chen, are you truly unaware or pretending to be? Our Shi Family has had generations of good relations with the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, and the Pavilion Master is my friend. If you intend to use the pavilion's name to scare me, you are gravely mistaken."

"Is that so?" Ling Chen smiled meaningfully and said, "Ms. Shi, what you said was all in the past, why don't you give Su Mei a call now and ask what my position is in the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

"Shi Su, stop wasting words with him, he's just trying to buy time to escape," the old man said.

"Uncle, you're right, almost fell for this kid's trick."

Ling Chen shrugged and said, "Whether you believe it or not is your business. In any case, I've already warned you, don't come begging for mercy later on."

"Boy, come on, show me what you've got." The old man gestured with his hand, indicating Ling Chen to make a move.

"Since the elder wishes to learn my skills, then I shall oblige." As the words fell, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes, and his body suddenly leaned forward. In an instant, his body seemed like a swift wind, suddenly disappearing from the original spot.

At the same time, the old man only felt his vision blur, a fierce gust of wind rushing towards him, rapidly closing in.

As an Earthly List master, the old man's reaction was exceptionally quick. Seeing Ling Chen's attack approaching, he moved as swiftly as lightning, instantly sealing off his center, preventing Ling Chen's offensive from advancing further.

So strong!

Ling Chen was taken aback in his heart, quickly retreating to find another opportunity to attack.

Ling Chen's own strength ranked at most ninth or tenth on the Earthly List, whereas the elderly man's strength should be at seventh on the list. Who knows what kind of martial arts this elder practiced, to stabilize his defense to such an extreme; Ling Chen's attack couldn't break through at all.

"What, is this all you've got?" the old man coldly mocked.

"This is just the beginning, what's the rush," saying that, Ling Chen's foot slipped, his body swayed, and he once again disappeared from the old man's vision.

Chapter 966 - 973: Shi Family (Part 4)

Watching the disappearing Ling Chen, the elderly man's eyes scanned around, searching for Ling Chen's position. However, Ling Chen was too fast, and his location was unpredictable, making it difficult to guess from which side he would launch an attack.

So fast!

The observing Shi Su and others were surprised as they watched Ling Chen, not expecting that he indeed had some skill.

At this moment, leveraging the power of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen moved swiftly around the elderly man, constantly changing positions. After more than ten seconds, Ling Chen suddenly stopped in his rapid motion, leaning forward and launching straight at the elderly man's back.

At the moment of attack, Ling Chen's single palm transformed into a steel fist, with Hua Realm energy converging and bursting out suddenly, forming a formidable force.

The characteristic of the Hua Realm is its ability to injure from a distance, with an effective range of about one meter. With the aid of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, Ling Chen's move achieved a surprising effect. Before that elderly man could react, the force from the steel fist had already struck his back.

Instantly, impacted by the force, the elderly man's body immediately lost balance, his steps stumbling forward, managing to steady himself just in time to prevent falling to the ground.

With a successful hit, Ling Chen's confidence soared. He had thought the elderly man was formidable, but it turned out that this was the extent of it.

Actually, this was an oversight on Ling Chen's part. The Shi Family is in truth a medical family, not an orthodox martial arts family, so their achievements in the martial arts lineage are not as glorious as other martial arts families. As a medical family, having an expert on the Earthly List is already quite an accomplishment.

Moreover, the true strength of the Shi Family does not lie in how many experts they have, but in their influence.

It's important to know that over the years, countless martial arts experts have received treatment from the Shi Family. Therefore, those who owe the Shi Family a debt of gratitude are numerous. And that is where the Shi Family's true prowess lies. If the Shi Family were to face trouble, a rallying call would certainly see a large number of experts coming to assist.

At this moment, after being taken advantage of by Ling Chen, the elderly man's previously flushed complexion appeared a bit pale. He turned his head, glaring coldly at Ling Chen across from him, and gritted his teeth to take the initiative to launch an attack.

The elderly man's offensive was extremely fierce, with each move emphasizing strength, like a tiger's might, filled with power.

Facing the elderly man's attack, Ling Chen repeated his tactics, relying on the power of the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, constantly changing positions to dodge the elderly man's blows.

Against an opponent stronger than himself, Ling Chen's strategy was very simple, which was to drag it out. After all, he was at the peak of his youth, whereas the opponent was an elderly man, who surely couldn't match his stamina. As long as he could prolong the fight, once the opponent's stamina waned, he could easily end the battle.

The elderly man seemed to have guessed Ling Chen's intention, but guessing was one thing; dealing with Ling Chen was another.

The Nine Yang Qiankun Step is Su He's unique technique, and in the Martial Arts world, it is ranked as a top-tier movement technique. The Shi Family, being a medical family, had no such advanced martial arts to counter it. Therefore, the elderly man could only watch helplessly as Ling Chen moved around, unable to stop him.

After a round of aggressive attacks, the elderly man hadn't even touched the corner of Ling Chen's clothes, and having expended so much energy, he found himself breathless.

Seeing his elder suffer, Shi Su couldn't help but frown. Meanwhile, Liu Xi, standing nearby, quietly slipped his hand into his pocket, his eyes fixated on the moving Ling Chen.

Suddenly, Liu Xi's wrist flicked, and several gleams of cold light shot through the air, heading straight for Ling Chen's position.

Seeing the flashes of cold light by his side, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly. He immediately halted and rushed forward to avoid the stealth attack from the cold light. However, as Liu Xi made his move, the elderly man had already adjusted, closing straight on Ling Chen and blocking his retreat.

Seeing this situation, Ling Chen had no time to change positions and was forced to confront the attack head-on.

Bam!

The two fists collided, followed by a muffled groan, and Ling Chen staggered back four or five steps. Looking again at that elderly man, he had only taken two steps back; in the contest of Hua Realm power, the elderly man was clearly superior.

Despicable!

Ling Chen cursed silently, ignoring the turbulent energy within, and quickly began to perform the Nine Yang Qiankun Step again.

However, during the earlier clash with the elderly man, Ling Chen had already suffered an internal injury. At this moment, his movement speed gradually slowed down.

Such a good opportunity naturally wouldn't be missed by the elderly man.

With fists dancing, the elderly man took a deep breath, gathered all his strength, and quickly caught up with Ling Chen's pace. At this time, Ling Chen not only had to deal with the elderly man's fierce offensives but also guard against Liu Xi's occasional flying needles.

In an instant, Ling Chen was somewhat in a sorry state, his movements no longer as fluid as before.

"Liu Xi!"

At this moment, Zhu Xiaozhu, who had been watching the battle from the side, finally noticed Liu Xi's stealthy attack and couldn't help but shout angrily, "What are you doing?"

Liu Xi smiled sheepishly, "Just lending a hand."

"You despicable!" Zhu Xiaozhu scolded unceremoniously, "They are fighting fairly, who allowed you to break the rules."

Hearing Zhu Xiaozhu's words, Shi Su said coldly, "Which side are you on anyway? As long as Ling Chen is dealt with, I don't care about the means. Liu Xi, don't mind what Xiaozhu said. As long as you can resolve Ling Chen, I will owe you a big favor."

With Shi Su's backing, Liu Xi's eyes immediately brightened. He slightly raised the corners of his mouth, taking out more than ten flying needles, all clamped between his fingers, ready to find an opportune moment to strike.

Seeing Liu Xi's actions, Zhu Xiaozhu bit her thin lip, quickly rushed to Liu Xi's side, and tried to grab the flying needles in his hand. However, Shi Su noticed all of Zhu Xiaozhu's movements, and before she could snatch them, Shi Su had already pulled her aside by force, holding her tightly.

"Xiaozhu, if you still consider me your master, just stand still. If you dare to move again, don't blame me for disregarding our master-disciple relationship." Shi Su scolded coldly.

Mid-conversation, a sudden scream echoed.

Shi Su and Zhu Xiaozhu looked over, only to see that Ling Chen had somehow abandoned the elderly man and dashed straight towards Liu Xi.

Nobody expected Ling Chen's sudden action.

Due to his medical background, Liu Xi at best could use a few flying needle techniques, but he was clueless about martial arts. Seeing Ling Chen rush towards him, he stood bewildered, at a loss.

It wasn't until Ling Chen's steel fist reached him that Liu Xi let out a couple of screams.

With one punch, Ling Chen raised his steel fist and initially wanted to punch a few more times, but saw that after just one punch, Liu Xi fell directly to the ground, motionless and unconscious.

Tch! Ling Chen sneered. This guy is really fragile, knocked out with just one punch.

Having dealt with Liu Xi, Ling Chen shifted his gaze back onto the elderly man. Feeling Ling Chen's sharp gaze, for some reason, a shiver of unease crept into the elderly man's heart.

Chapter 967 - 974: Shi Family (Part 5)

Just now, thanks to Liu Xi's secret assistance, he barely managed to reverse the situation and suppress Ling Chen. Now, Liu Xi has already fainted, and there's no one to help him restrain Ling Chen.

"Old geezer, ganging up on someone is quite enjoyable, isn't it?" Ling Chen said coldly.

If it were a fair fight, Ling Chen would willingly accept the outcome. However, this old geezer doesn't follow the rules at all, making him very angry.

Without waiting for the old man to reply, Ling Chen lightly tapped his toes, instantly increasing his speed, fully unleashing the Nine Yang Qiankun Step.

In a flash, Ling Chen's body seemed like an afterimage, swiftly moving around the old man.

"Old geezer, I'm over here."

The voice came, and the old man hurriedly turned his gaze to his left. But just as he completed the head-turning motion, he felt a sharp pain in his right arm.

He was tricked!

The thought just rose in the old man's mind when he heard Ling Chen's voice again: "Old geezer, I'm behind you."

The old man turned his head, but before he could react, he was hit by a sharp pain again. This time, it was his abdomen that got hurt, and there was even a shoe print on his clothes.

Being kicked, the old man bent over unconsciously, pressing his hands against his abdomen, sweat streaming down his forehead, extremely painful.

"Ling Chen, you... you're shameless!"

"Shameless?" Ling Chen slowly lowered his speed, looked at the old man in front of him, and said, "Am I as shameless as you guys? Two against one, what, bullying me because I'm outnumbered?" As he finished speaking, Ling Chen shifted his gaze, looking at Shi Su not far away, and said, "Does the Shi Family have anyone else? Bring them out, save me time."

Hearing these words, Shi Su gritted his teeth and coldly shouted, "Ling Chen, don't be arrogant with me."

"You're the arrogant one. You think just because this is your territory, you can do whatever you want? Alright, enough talk, hand over the antidote."

"In your dreams."

"Refuse?" Ling Chen curled his lips, showing a sly and charming smile, and said, "Alright, then don't regret it later."

Saying this, Ling Chen tapped his toes and rushed to Liu Xi's side in a few steps, snatching more than ten flying needles from his hand. Then, Ling Chen grabbed Liu Xi's collar, lifting him high in the air.

"Ling Chen, what are you doing?" Shi Su frowned and asked.

Grinning, Ling Chen replied, "Nothing, I've heard that the Shi Family is a family of medicine, with exceptional medical skills, so I want to learn a bit. Oh, I forgot to tell you, I've also studied medicine for a few days, but it's all informal learning, don't know if it can be shown, why not Ms. Shi you give me some guidance."

As he spoke, Ling Chen took the flying needle in his hand and directly stabbed it into Liu Xi's body.

Immediately, the pain woke Liu Xi up from his coma. Seeing Ling Chen holding the flying needle, Liu Xi's face turned pale, and he shouted loudly, "You..."

"This has nothing to do with you, go back to sleep for a while." Before Liu Xi finished speaking, Ling Chen punched him in the face, knocking him out again.

"Alright!" Ling Chen fiddled with the flying needles in his hand, pointed at Liu Xi's neck, and asked, "Ms. Shi, I'd like to know, is this part a vital point? If a needle were jabbed into it, what would happen?"

Upon hearing this, Shi Su's face changed slightly.

"Ling Chen, don't you dare."

Ling Chen shrugged, half-smiling and said, "I've dared to come to your Shi Family; you're saying there's anything I wouldn't dare to do. Alright, since you won't teach me, I'll try it myself." Saying this, Ling Chen raised the flying needle in his hand, poised to stab it into Liu Xi's neck.

"Stop... stop!"

Seeing Ling Chen's actions, Shi Su finally panicked and quickly spoke to stop him, "Ling Chen, that's enough. Let him go, I'll give you the antidote you want."

Ling Chen laughed and said, "Ms. Shi, it would've been better if you handed over the antidote earlier, instead of forcing me to hurt others. My time is limited, you'd better hurry, if you waste my time, I can't guarantee whether this needle will go in or not."

Faced with Ling Chen's threat, Shi Su bit his lip, muttering 'You wait', then turned and walked into the room.

A few minutes later, Shi Su returned from the room again. Seeing the medicine bottle in her hand, Ling Chen pointed at Zhu Xiaozhu and said, "Give the medicine to your disciple first. I trust her but not you."

Pausing, Ling Chen looked at Zhu Xiaozhu and said, "Xiaozhu, test it for me to see if it's really the antidote."

Shi Su snorted coldly and handed the medicine directly to Zhu Xiaozhu.

Opening the cap, Zhu Xiaozhu sniffed the scent of the medicine inside the bottle, a trace of unusual color flashed in her eyes.

"Xiaozhu, you must examine it carefully, don't make mistakes, lest others say I deceived him." Shi Su said coldly. While saying this, she kept staring at Zhu Xiaozhu, with a cold look on her face.

"Xiaozhu, how is it, is that antidote real?" Ling Chen asked.

Hearing Ling Chen's inquiry, Zhu Xiaozhu looked at her master, hesitatingly, beautiful eyes showing a trace of struggle.

After a while, Zhu Xiaozhu took a deep breath, as if she had made some decision, and whispered, "Master, why do you have to do this, just hand over the real antidote."

"You..." Shi Su became instantly furious.

"Master, I have no other intentions, just... if Ling Chen gives this antidote to his brother, it'll only accelerate his death, achieving no effect. The Shi Family is a medical family, saving lives for generations, I don't want Master to carry a death on her back."

"Good, good, hahaha!" Shi Su laughed angrily and said, "I truly trained a good disciple."

"Ms. Shi, I already said, I don't trust you." Ling Chen said blandly, "My patience is limited, you'd better not play any more tricks. Otherwise, I can't be sure what I'll do."

"Ling Chen!" Shi Su gritted her teeth and said, "I'll give you the antidote, but remember what you've done in my Shi Family today, someday I'll repay you a hundredfold."

Ling Chen shrugged indifferently and said, "No problem, just come at me with whatever you got, I'll handle it. But don't blame me for not reminding you, I'm someone who always avenges his grievances; if you dare provoke me, I absolutely won't show mercy."

"Fine, we'll see each other!" Having said this, Shi Su took a medicine bottle out of her pocket and threw it into Zhu Xiaozhu's hand, coldly saying, "You, and you, get out of my Shi Family's territory immediately, I don't want to see you again."

Seeing Shi Su point at herself, Zhu Xiaozhu was slightly stunned, her expression suddenly quite sorrowful.

"Master..."

"Shut up!" Shi Su shouted harshly, "I don't have a disciple like you. Get out, disappear from my sight immediately."

"Xiaozhu, let's go, such a master isn't worth acknowledging." Saying this, Ling Chen grabbed Zhu Xiaozhu's arm and pulled her out of the Shi Family.

After leaving the Shi Family, Ling Chen took Zhu Xiaozhu to sit in the Audi and immediately set off to East Sea City. Having wasted so much time at the Shi Family, he must rush back quickly to avoid delaying the treatment.

Chapter 968 - 975: Father and Son Reunited (1)

On the way back, looking at Zhu Xiaozhu's silent demeanor, Ling Chen couldn't help but say, "Xiaozhu, I'm sorry. If it weren't for me, you and your Master..."

"This is not your fault." Zhu Xiaozhu interrupted Ling Chen, responding, "The fault lies with my Master, and it has nothing to do with you. The essence of studying medicine is to save lives, but my Master has been blinded by fame and hatred, forgetting the original purpose of medicine. On this point, I don't agree with her approach. As a doctor, I only stand on my ground and make the right choice."

"Then what about your Master?"

"I don't know." Zhu Xiaozhu sighed lightly, looking a little desolate.

Shi Su was not only her Master but also the one who raised her from a young age, both a Master and a family member. In her heart, her Master held as important a position as her own mother, indispensable. Now, this Master, who occupied an important place in her heart, was going to turn against her and cut off the relationship. Anyone would feel uncomfortable in such a situation.

Master... Zhu Xiaozhu turned her head to look out the car window, her beautiful eyes glistening with a hint of sorrow.

Feeling Zhu Xiaozhu's heavy mood, Ling Chen wanted to speak several times but didn't know what to say. In this matter, saying more wouldn't help. The key was Zhu Xiaozhu herself, to see if she could figure it out.

From Ling Chen's perspective, he hoped Zhu Xiaozhu would draw a clear line with Shi Su and reduce contact in the future. This was not out of selfishness but because of Shi Su's poor character. If Zhu Xiaozhu stayed with her for a long time, she would inevitably be affected by her.

With Zhu Xiaozhu's pure nature, Ling Chen didn't wish for her to be polluted by the outside world.

Around twelve noon, Ling Chen and Zhu Xiaozhu finally drove back to East Sea City's hospital.

Upon getting out of the car, Ling Chen immediately led Zhu Xiaozhu to rush to the ward without rest.

Seeing Ling Chen return, Xu Ming and others quickly approached, eagerly asking, "Sixth Brother, how is it? Have you found a solution?"

"Second Brother, Third Brother, don't worry. Xiaozhu and I have found the antidote." With that, Ling Chen turned to look at Zhu Xiaozhu and said, "Xiaozhu, could you do it?"

Zhu Xiaozhu nodded, took the antidote, and walked into the ward while everyone else waited quietly outside.

A moment later, Zhu Xiaozhu came out of the ward, saying, "Your big brother has already taken the antidote. His condition is basically stable. As long as there are no unexpected events, he will wake up within twenty-four hours."

"Thank you, Xiaozhu," Ling Chen said gratefully.

"You're welcome. It's my duty. If there's nothing else, I'll go rest first."

"Alright, you've been running around for so long. Get some rest early."

Zhu Xiaozhu forced a smile and walked towards the hospital exit. As she was about to return to the dormitory, she saw Ling Chen hurriedly catching up from behind.

"Xiaozhu, wait!"

Zhu Xiaozhu turned back to look at the approaching Ling Chen and asked, "What's up?"

"Well... you'd better tell the hospital director to help you change your dormitory, and make sure the security of the dormitory is strengthened. I don't want what happened in the morning to happen again." Ling Chen referred to the kidnapping of Zhu Xiaozhu. If he hadn't arrived in time, Zhu Xiaozhu would have already been taken away by the kidnappers.

"For safety, I suggest you report to the police, just in case those people come to trouble you again."

"I understand, thank you for your concern."

Watching Zhu Xiaozhu's figure disappear at the corner of the street, Ling Chen let out a soft breath, turned around, and walked towards the ward. However, after only a few steps, Ling Chen heard a familiar yet strange voice coming from behind: "Ling Chen."

Turning around, Ling Chen scanned with his eyes and immediately locked onto a middle-aged man with an elegant face.

Seeing the visitor, Ling Chen was suddenly stunned, standing in place, his expression dazed, not coming to his senses for a long time.

"What, so many years without seeing me, have you forgotten me?" The middle-aged man walked up to Ling Chen with a smile.

"Dad!" Ling Chen opened his mouth and finally uttered that long-missed address.

"Good, my good son!" Ling Kun patted Ling Chen's shoulder with a bright smile, "Do you have time to walk around with me a bit?"

With his father's request, how could Ling Chen refuse? He quickly nodded.

Immediately, the father and son walked in the hospital garden, chatting as they went. Having not seen each other for years, Ling Chen had a lot to say and many doubts, but when it came time to meet, he didn't know where to start.

"Dad, why didn't you directly tell me your identity when you came to Wealthy Manor to see me last time?"

"My situation was quite dangerous at that time, so I didn't want to involve you. Son, I suppose you already know, I am the leader of the Secret Society. Unfortunately, the Secret Society has been heavily suppressed by the God Organization, leading to a significant reduction in power, and the resources we can mobilize are very limited now. Luckily, I have my precious disciple."

"Are you talking about the porridge girl?" Ling Chen responded, "I haven't seen her for a while."

"She is busy integrating the Secret Society's resources. Without her efforts everywhere, we would not have preserved the foundation of the Secret Society. Although its current power is not as strong as before, as long as the foundation remains, it will not take long to grow strong again." Ling Kun paused and then changed the subject, "Ling Chen, the reason I came to see you this time is to explain a few things to you."

"What things?"

"I heard you met Ling Tao before."

"Yes," Ling Chen asked curiously, "Dad, who exactly is Ling Tao? Could it be true what he said, that we are family?"

Ling Kun nodded, "He's right; we are indeed family. But the generational relationships between us are quite complicated, so you don't need to ask much about that for now. I originally didn't want to involve you since this is a deep and treacherous pool that could be life-threatening with any carelessness. However, no one expected that eventually, you'd still get involved in this struggle. I think this might be the fate of our Ling Family, from which no one can escape."

"Ling Chen, don't think too much right now. For the time being, the main task for you and me is to deal with the God Organization and uproot their hold as soon as possible. Only by completely destroying the God Organization can we take the initiative and facilitate future actions. Currently, the God Organization has concentrated its forces domestically, especially in East Sea City. Recently, they have secretly dispatched many personnel into East Sea City to gain firm control and establish a headquarters responsible for all domestic operations."

Chapter 969 - 976: Father and Son Reunited (Part 2)

"The main base?" Ling Chen said in surprise, "Does the God Organization want to make East Sea City their headquarters?"

"Exactly." Ling Kun replied, "East Sea City is a resource-rich city, and it is a coastal city. Even if a crisis occurs, the God Organization can immediately escape to other countries via water, avoiding government pursuit. Besides, there is a very important reason for moving the headquarters domestically."

"What reason?"

Ling Kun said meaningfully, "Because 'it' is in the country."

"It?" Ling Chen asked, puzzled, "Dad, what do you mean by 'it'?"

"It's the key to everything. For now, you don't need to know so much. When the time is right, I'll naturally tell you." After a pause, Ling Kun changed the subject, "Last night I had a confrontation with Chen Quan. The man's strength is not to be underestimated. Although I forced him to retreat, I couldn't capture him. You need to be more careful in the future. I can't be there to protect you all the time. Also, you need to find time to rescue your group of friends."

"I'd like to, but the problem is I still don't know their whereabouts."

"Don't worry. There will be news by tonight at the latest. When I came to East Sea City, I had my apprentice secretly transfer the resources of the Secret Society to East Sea City. She is currently investigating the whereabouts of your friends. If there is any news, she will contact you immediately."

Upon hearing this, Ling Chen asked, "Dad, are you leaving?"

Ling Kun nodded and said, "I've been in a coma for so long, and there are many things to deal with. I can't stay in East Sea City all the time. But rest assured, I'll come back to help you once things are settled. Oh, I almost forgot, your master... Su He, he asked me to pass a message to you. When you have time, go visit him. He has something to discuss with you."

"Dad, Elder Su isn't really my master, you shouldn't call him that in front of him..."

"What do you mean he's not your master?" Ling Kun reprimanded, "Elder Su has taught you all his Absolute Skills. Even without the title of master and apprentice, you already have the essence of that relationship. For someone who practices martial arts, you should treat him like your master and not show any disrespect. Do you understand?"

Scolded by his father, Ling Chen touched his nose and nodded slightly, "Got it, Dad."

"Alright, I've said what needs to be said, I have things to attend to, so I'm leaving first."

"Dad, be careful out there."

"Don't worry, I don't need you to worry about me." With that, Ling Kun waved his hand and walked straight out of the hospital.

Watching Ling Kun's figure fade into the distance, a wave of warmth surged in Ling Chen's heart. After so many years, he finally felt his father's care. If Mom and Dad were both together, their family would be complete.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen's expression changed slightly, and he couldn't help but pat his forehead.

He had forgotten to tell his dad about Mom when they met just now. Sigh, it's his fault for being too busy with Qiu Yong's affairs and forgetting such an important matter.

It shouldn't have happened, it really shouldn't have happened.

Oh well! Dad has probably gone far. I'll tell him about Mom next time we meet.

Returning to the hospital, Ling Chen went alone to the ward, where he saw Xu Ming and others gathered around the bedside, waiting for Qiu Yong to wake up.

"Second Brother, everyone is really tired. There's no need for so many people to stay in the hospital. In my opinion, just leave one or two, and let the others go back to rest," Ling Chen suggested, "Although you were rescued, some people are still missing, and we need to conserve our energy and find a way to rescue them too."

"You're right," Xu Ming agreed, "Let's all go back and rest, and leave Fifth Sister and Eighth Brother to look after Eldest Brother."

"Alright."

After the decision was made, Ling Chen left Xia Yue and Wei Jiahao in the hospital, and took Xu Ming and others back to the Siheyuan.

Night fell.

Seeing that there was nothing urgent, Ling Chen took the opportunity to return to Wealthy Manor. After meeting his dad today, he had to inform Yang Qingling to put her at ease.

Halfway through the drive, Ling Chen suddenly received a call from an unknown number.

When the call connected, a familiar voice immediately came through, "Ling Chen, congratulations."

Hearing the voice, Ling Chen's eyes narrowed sharply, and he replied, "Lin Guodong, what do you want?"

"Nothing much, just calling to congratulate you on rescuing your friends from Chen Quan's grasp. I heard that a master from the Heavenly List helped you escape last night. If you don't mind, could you reveal your helper's identity?"

"Lin Guodong, do you think that's possible?"

"Ling Chen, if you still care about your other friends' safety, you'd better share some information. Don't forget, even though you've rescued some, I still have over thirty people. Do you want to receive their corpses?"

"Are you threatening me?" Ling Chen frowned and said in a deep voice, "Lin Guodong, you better not harm them, otherwise, I won't let you get away with it."

"Rest assured, even if you let me go, I won't let you off. Anyway, time's up, my task is complete. Ling Chen, take care of yourself."

Listening to the busy tone on the other end, Ling Chen suspiciously put down the phone, filled with confusion.

Strange!

Lin Guodong called out of the blue, was it just to waste time with me?

Bam!

Just as he was thinking this, Ling Chen suddenly heard a loud noise, and simultaneously, the car shook violently as the rear window shattered instantly.

The sudden change shocked Ling Chen, who was in the driver's seat. Looking at the left rearview mirror, he frowned, only to see a Land Rover SUV tailing the Audi. The crash just now had deformed the Audi's rear end.

Damn!

Ling Chen cursed under his breath. At this moment, he finally understood Lin Guodong's intention in calling. It was undoubtedly to track his location through mobile phone positioning.

Without time to think, Ling Chen floored the accelerator, and the Audi surged forward like an arrow. In no time, the Land Rover was left behind by the speeding Audi.

Fortunately, Nanrong Hao's Audi had excellent performance, with rapid acceleration that the Land Rover couldn't match.

Speeding all the way, the Land Rover gradually shrank in the rearview mirror, growing further and further away.

Although he had shaken off the Land Rover, Ling Chen didn't relax at all. He knew well that Lin Guodong wouldn't stop at this to do him harm.

As he pondered, two Mercedes-Benz sedans suddenly rushed out of the intersection ahead, blocking Ling Chen's path.

Seeing this, Ling Chen turned the steering wheel, eyes fixed straight ahead, trying to pass through the gap between the two cars.

Chapter 970 - 977: Who Is the Target

However, the two cars in front seemed to have sensed Ling Chen's intentions and immediately closed in to block his path.

There was no choice, Ling Chen had to slow down, waiting for an opportunity to break through. As long as he reached the next intersection, he could shake off the pursuit of these two Mercedes sedans.

Ling Chen's idea was good, but the reality was not as favorable as he imagined.

A roar of engines echoed, and two more Mercedes sedans rushed from behind, surrounding Ling Chen, leaving him unable to advance or retreat.

Damn it!

Ling Chen squinted his eyes, a hint of fierceness flashing within his sharp gaze.

Suddenly, the Audi's speed surged, rapidly accelerating from seventy mph to one hundred twenty in just a few seconds.

Bam!

A loud crash. The Audi's front end slammed hard into the rear of one of the Mercedes.

Under the Audi's impact, the Mercedes immediately lost control, swerving sharply to the side, directly smashing into the adjacent Mercedes.

In an instant, both out-of-control Mercedes crashed onto the roadside, smashing into the walls, their fronts utterly wrecked. As for the people inside, their fate was most likely grim.

Having dealt with two Mercedes, Ling Chen didn't emerge unscathed. Despite the Audi's solid build, such impact couldn't leave it undamaged.

Due to the deformation and damage at the front, its power was indirectly affected, and the speed gradually slowed down.

At that moment, the two trailing Mercedes immediately sped up, aiming to flank Ling Chen from both sides. Seeing them closing in in the rearview mirror, Ling Chen didn't hesitate; he pushed open the door and jumped directly off the moving car.

With a roll, Ling Chen landed steadily on the roadside, unscathed.

Sighting the two approaching Mercedes, Ling Chen leaped over the roadside fence, sprinting towards an alley. The alley was only 1.5 meters wide, making it difficult for the cars to enter.

After navigating the narrow alley, Ling Chen emerged onto the street's opposite side. Spotting the bustling crowd, Ling Chen secretly sighed in relief. In a crowded place, they wouldn't dare chase him. Even if they did, he could easily blend into the crowd and escape.

Just as he thought about it, Ling Chen's vision was suddenly filled with over ten suited men.

Moreover, each held an electric baton, with protectors on their hands and feet.

Ha!

Ling Chen couldn't help but chuckle, these guys were really persistent, having come this far and still unwilling to let him go. Did they truly think he was a paper tiger?

Thinking of this, Ling Chen was done running and simply faced them, ready to teach them a good lesson, show them his prowess.

"Go!"

With a soft shout, over ten suited men raised their electric batons and charged at Ling Chen.

The passing pedestrians, witnessing this scene, dared not linger, hastily retreating, fearing to get caught in the chaos.

"Good timing!"

Ling Chen huffed lightly, sliding his feet, using the Nine Yang Qiankun Step's speed, before the suited men could react, he'd evaded to their rear.

Steel fists flew, and in the blink of an eye, four or five suited men lay on the ground, unable to get up.

In less than three minutes, Ling Chen had defeated all the suited men, leaving them sprawled on the ground. Looking at the fallen men, Ling Chen casually clapped his hands and prepared to leave.

After taking two or three steps, Ling Chen suddenly halted, turned around, looking at the suited men, a frown on his brow.

Something seemed off. Knowing Lin Guodong was aware of his power, why send small fry to deal with him? It seemed uncharacteristic. If Lin Guodong truly wanted to deal with him, he should have dispatched experts.

Thinking of this, Ling Chen grew increasingly uneasy; there had to be something wrong here.

Right away, Ling Chen walked to one suited man, pulled him up from the ground, and asked, "Tell me, what instructions did Lin Guodong give you?"

"Delay... delay time."

"Delay time?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback, not quite understanding the man's meaning.

Why on earth would Lin Guodong want to delay time? Or, was Lin Guodong's goal to hold him off?

His initial plan was to rush back to Wealthy Manor, Lin Guodong, at this moment, called him, locked his position, and then sent people to chase, delay time, could it be to prevent him from reaching Wealthy Manor?

With a quick mental calculation, Ling Chen sensed something amiss, hurriedly pulling out his phone, trying to call Nanrong Wanqing.

But, a prompt indicated the call couldn't go through. Unable to reach Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen tried Nanrong Hao's number, but the result was the same.

Whether Liu Kun or anyone else at Wealthy Manor, all connections were lost, including his mother.

Bad news!

That bastard Lin Guodong wouldn't possibly intend to harm Nanrong Wanqing and his family?

Back when abroad, the God Organization had sent people everywhere to corner Yang Qingling, trying to capture her. At the time, Lin Guodong and Lin Qiqi were held at the research base. The God Organization likely wanted to exchange Yang Qingling for Lin Guodong and Lin Qiqi, but Ling Chen disrupted the plan.

However, Lin Guodong and the others had long escaped, so why was he after Yang Qingling? Or perhaps, his target wasn't Yang Qingling but Nanrong Wanqing.

With that thought, Ling Chen dared not waste more time, hurriedly flagging a taxi to rush towards Wealthy Manor.

Meanwhile, at Wealthy Manor.

The brightly lit Nanrong Family was deserted, every room empty, not a soul in sight.

Minutes passed, over ten shadows gathered from all directions, converging in Nanrong Hao's living room.

"Found anything?"

"Didn't see anyone, could they have gone out?"

"Impossible, the information indicates they're home, surely we've overlooked something."

"Alright, let's stop discussing and keep searching. We just received orders that Ling Chen has shaken off pursuit and is heading here; we better act quickly. Once Ling Chen arrives, we can't do anything."

As they talked, a light 'bang' sound echoed from the second floor.

Upon hearing the sound, the people downstairs immediately heightened their alertness, quickly making their way to the second floor.

"Spread out!"

A man gestured for his companions to disperse.

Over ten men formed into groups of three, quietly searching different rooms.

Nanrong Family's villa was vast, merely bedrooms numbered in the dozens, more than half were empty, searching room after room like this was undeniably time-consuming.

Bam!

At that moment, the light sound echoed again, clearer than before. Several men exchanged glances, immediately pinpointing the source of the sound.