

The Beauty 981

Chapter 981: Expanding the Faction (2)

Because of the arrival of Secret Society members, the originally desolate base suddenly became overcrowded.

Hu Fei previously estimated that this base could accommodate a maximum of four hundred people. Including Ling Chen's own personnel, there were a hundred more people than that. To temporarily settle them, Ling Chen had no choice but to add more beds, increasing the occupancy of rooms that originally housed four people to six. Fortunately, the rooms were quite spacious, so even with six people, it wouldn't feel cramped.

However, while the accommodation issue was resolved, Ling Chen still faced an even greater problem, which was food.

Previously, at the research base, the total number of people didn't even reach a hundred; at most, around seventy or eighty people, and special individuals would usually go out to buy takeout. But now, with a sudden increase of hundreds of people, this became a big problem. You can't possibly have someone go out to buy takeout for every meal, right? Ordering takeout for four to five hundred people is a terrifying thought. Moreover, in this way, the daily expenses for meals alone would be substantial.

By then, Hu Fei, who was in charge of managing funds, would probably complain to Ling Chen every day.

"Headache!"

Ling Chen sat alone in the base's dining room, holding his head in his hands, thinking of a solution. Previously, he was just an agent for Ghost and only needed to execute orders, without worrying about anything else. Later, he had a research base and some subordinates. However, thanks to the help of Hu Fei and the others, Ling Chen didn't need to worry too much.

But things were different now. As the head of the family and the overall manager of the base, he could no longer shirk his responsibilities.

"What are you thinking about?"

At this moment, the porridge girl walked over from behind, placing her hands on Ling Chen's shoulders and gently kneading them.

Ling Chen smiled wryly: "Honestly, I haven't adapted to this role yet. Suddenly managing the food and livelihood of so many people, I really don't know what to do."

"No one is born a leader; it's all about accumulating experience gradually. Besides, with everyone's help, you don't have to worry too much. Here, this is the Secret Society's list, take a look first."

Taking the document the porridge girl handed over, Ling Chen glanced at it, his eyes instantly revealing a hint of surprise.

"Didn't the Secret Society send only more than four hundred people? How come there are more than eight hundred names on this list? Does that mean half of the people haven't arrived yet?"

"Don't worry, the other four hundred people are all intelligence agents from the Secret Society. They are spread across various cities in Huaxia, specializing in intelligence gathering and won't be stationed at the base. The Secret Society is famous mainly because of its intelligence network. Currently, the God Organization has concentrated its forces in Huaxia, so I've kept only the Huaxia intelligence network, reducing the overseas network to a tenth of its former size."

"Oh, by the way!" The porridge girl suddenly said, "Over the years, the Secret Society has accumulated considerable funds. Master told me that the money is in the bank, and he's already given me the passwords. If you need funds, you can ask me for them."

"How much money is there?" Ling Chen asked.

"I'm not sure of the exact amount, but it should be several billion."

"Several billion?" Ling Chen was slightly taken aback. Truly worthy of the Secret Society, the foundation is indeed substantial.

"Master said, in addition to the money in the bank, there are also some shares. Over the years, Master used that money to invest in numerous enterprises, with an annual profit of around five billion. As long as those shares remain untouched, there will be a steady income every year. Before the Secret Society was weakened, the annual expenses were about twenty billion, but now that the Secret Society's numbers have significantly decreased, we shouldn't need that much. Just be a bit frugal and don't squander it all at once."

Hearing this, Ling Chen laughed and said, "Don't worry, the money matters are entrusted to Hu Fei. That guy guards money with his life, so it'll be safe with him."

With a huge fund as a backup, Ling Chen felt much more at ease.

As the saying goes, if you have money, things become easier; there's nothing money can't solve.

Returning to the control center, Ling Chen saw Hu Fei, Tang Guolun, Zhou Qi, and others gathered together, discussing something.

"Ling Chen." Tang Guolun waved a hand, signaling Ling Chen to come over.

Coming to their side, Ling Chen asked, "What are you discussing?"

"We currently have a little problem." Tang Guolun pointed to the surveillance footage on the big screen and said, "Although we have occupied the God Organization's base, the buildings above this base were funded by the Ling Family. Moreover, the construction site is still unfinished, making our travels very inconvenient. Most importantly, the God Organization is very familiar with the structure of this base; they know where the exits and entrances are. If they secretly monitor us, it will surely cause trouble for us. So, we discussed earlier and wanted to make some modifications to this base."

"Modifications?" Ling Chen curiously asked, "What kind of modifications?"

"Reconstruct two new entrances," Hu Fei interjected. "I just checked the base's architectural blueprints and found a few suitable places to start construction. We have enough personnel now, and the base is equipped with sufficient support. As long as we work overtime, we should be able to open a passage within three days."

After listening to Hu Fei's plan, Ling Chen nodded and said, "Alright, I have no objections. You guys handle it."

Tang Guolun and the others were quick to act, and after receiving Ling Chen's approval, they immediately got busy.

Because the first level of the base is heavily fortified, they decided to dig the passage on the second level. Ling Chen supervised for a bit, and seeing the excavation going smoothly, he acted as a hands-off manager, leaving Tang Guolun in full control.

Fearing that the God Organization might send someone for surveillance, Ling Chen and the others stayed at the base and didn't go out in the past few days.

After two and a half days of hard work by more than a hundred people, the passage on the second level of the base was finally completed. The passage is about three meters wide, allowing a vehicle to pass through. It stretches over forty meters, leading to an underground parking lot on the north side of the base.

Building the entrance in an underground parking lot undoubtedly increases its concealment.

Ling Chen was very satisfied with the work results of the past few days. As the saying goes, the more people, the more strength; completing such a large project in a short amount of time was no small feat.

After the passage was completed, Ling Chen personally drove out of the base, purchasing a large amount of cigarettes, alcohol, and food to reward everyone.

After a busy morning, Ling Chen sat in the base's bedroom, crossing his legs, ready to take a break.

At this moment, his phone on the coffee table rang.

Answering the call, Ling Chen said, "Hello," and asked, "Haozi, what's up?"

"Chen, where have you been these last few days? You've been missing."

"Didn't I tell your sister? I've been quite busy these days. Why, do you need something from me?"

Chapter 982 The Shi Family Comes Looking for Trouble

"Chen, a group of people came to the Nanrong family looking for you. Sister is holding them off and told me to give you a call to inform you."

"Looking for me?" Ling Chen asked, "Do you know who they are?"

"I'm not sure, but they seem aggressive, so they're probably here to cause trouble. Chen, if you ask me, you'd better not come back for a few days to avoid a conflict with them. Sister said, if it really doesn't work out, we can call the police for help. After all, they're looking for you, they wouldn't dare do anything to us."

Ling Chen found it odd. He hadn't provoked anyone, so why would someone be coming for him?

After thinking for a moment, Ling Chen instructed, "Haozi, go find out who they are."

"Alright, I'll ask around, but I'm not sure if that fierce woman will spill anything."

"Fierce woman?" Ling Chen perked up upon hearing Nanrong Hao's description and asked, "Haozi, is the leader a middle-aged woman?"

"That's right."

It must be her!

Ling Chen thought to himself. Last time he caused a scene at the Shi family, he didn't expect Shi Su would come looking for trouble so quickly.

"Haozi, how many people did that woman bring?"

"A lot, probably over twenty, and they all look fierce. Chen, you..."

"Enough!" Ling Chen interrupted, "I got it. Stay home, I'll head back immediately."

"Chen, isn't that bad? Those folks are clearly looking for trouble, you shouldn't bother with them."

"I can avoid them for now, but I can't hide forever. I know how these people are; they won't stop until they catch me."

After ending the call, Ling Chen informed Tang Guolun and then drove alone to Wealthy Manor.

When Ling Chen arrived at Wealthy Manor, he saw the property management had organized a security team heading to the Nanrong family's location.

Following the security team, Ling Chen went straight to the Nanrong family's door. Looking around, he saw the entrance was occupied by over twenty people, packed tightly. Moreover, Ling Chen could clearly hear Shi Su's voice.

"I'm warning you, hand over Ling Chen immediately. Otherwise, don't blame me for being rude to your Nanrong family."

At this moment, Nanrong Wanqing stood at her family's entrance, glaring at the aggressive Shi Su, "I've already told you, Ling Chen isn't here. If you keep this up, I'll have no choice but to call the police."

"Call the police?" Shi Su sneered, "Are you trying to scare me? Let me tell you, my Shi family isn't easily intimidated. If you don't hand over Ling Chen today, I'll make sure your Nanrong family has a tough time."

As she spoke, the security team from Wealthy Manor arrived, quickly stepping in between the two parties in conflict.

As homeowners, the security team from the property naturally sided with the Nanrong family.

A leading security guard pointed at Shi Su, "Who are you people? I warn you, this is Wealthy Manor. You can't trouble the homeowners without their consent. Leave now, or we'll force you out."

"Are you even worthy?" Shi Su snorted and turned to her followers, "Everyone, thank you for your hard work."

A husky man stepped out from the crowd, gruffly saying, "Ms. Shi, don't worry, I'll handle these small fries."

As he finished speaking, the man stretched out his hands, lifted two security guards, and tossed them over the heads of the crowd.

"Anyone else?" The man clapped his hands, glaring fiercely at the other security guards.

Seeing the man's prowess, the security guards involuntarily took a step back, fearfully looking at him, none daring to make a move.

"You... you dare to hurt people?" The lead security guard mustered his courage, "I'll call the police and have you arrested, believe it or not!"

"Hmph! A bunch of losers. What else can you do besides calling the police?" Shi Su scoffed. Then she turned her gaze back to Nanrong Wanqing, coldly saying, "Miss Nanrong, I advise you not to test my patience."

"Tsk, ts! Ms. Shi, what a display of authority."

As the voice spoke, everyone turned to look back. There, they saw Ling Chen approaching leisurely, hands behind his back.

Seeing Ling Chen, Shi Su's eyes immediately gleamed with a venomous look.

"You finally showed up. I thought you wouldn't dare come."

Ling Chen smiled faintly, "Ms. Shi, you came all this way to find me. How could I not show up? That would be too disrespectful to you." As he said this, Ling Chen glanced around at those present and asked, "Ms. Shi, did you invite all these people to back you up?"

"Weren't you quite arrogant last time at my Shi family? Today, I'd like to see how capable you really are."

"Ms. Shi, what do you intend to do with this kid?" the husky man from earlier asked.

Shi Su gritted her teeth, "Simple, cripple his hands and feet for me. Let's see how arrogant he can be in the future."

"Alright, no problem, watch and see." With that, the man strode toward Ling Chen.

"Wait!" Seeing the man approach, Ling Chen immediately raised his hand to stop him.

"What, are you afraid?" Shi Su sneered.

"Not really, I just wanted to ask them something."

"Ask what?"

Ling Chen turned to the husky man, "Are you all helping them because you've received favors from the Shi family?"

"That's right." The man nodded, "The Shi family once saved my life. Not only me, but they've saved everyone here too."

"I understand. However, have you considered that by asking you to repay this favor, the Shi family might actually be putting you in danger?"

"What do you mean?"

Ling Chen pointed at himself, asking, "Do you know who I am?"

"Ling Chen."

"Since you know who I am, you should understand my identity. I'm a member of the Eight Oddities. If anything happens to me, do you think the Eight Oddities will let you go?"

Upon hearing this, the man and the others were momentarily stunned. They were only thinking about repaying their debt, without considering this aspect.

The Eight Oddities were known for their strong sense of loyalty, something everyone in the martial arts world was aware of. If Ling Chen were harmed, the Eight Oddities would never let it slide. Moreover, all Eight Oddities were highly skilled and formidable, and none of those present could confidently say they weren't afraid of the Eight Oddities seeking revenge.

Seeing everyone silently standing there, Ling Chen slightly smiled, saying, "Folks, repayment should be thought through. Shi Su brought you all here to satisfy her own desires, without considering your well-being. You all are adults, so why not think for yourselves?"

"Shut up!" Shi Su said coldly, "Don't listen to his nonsense, everyone."

Chapter 983 - 990: Who's Really Getting Revenge? (Part 1)

"Am I really just spouting nonsense?" Ling Chen looked at Shi Su with a half-smile and said, "Ms. Shi, ask yourself honestly, have you thought about them? Or, have you told them about my background? I believe you haven't, otherwise, even if they owed a life-saving debt, they wouldn't joke with their lives. The times have changed, Ms. Shi, today's Martial Arts world is not the same as it used to be. There's no more life for a life concept. You saved someone's life and expect them to repay with their own? Honestly, I don't know if you're naive or if I am."

"You..." Shi Su looked at Ling Chen coldly, grinding her teeth in anger.

"Ling Chen, don't get cocky. Everyone, don't listen to his nonsense. He's just trying to sow discord between us." After a pause, Shi Su continued, "What are the Eight Odd Men? You don't need to be afraid; I'm here to back you up, and they won't dare touch you. Don't forget, I have the support of the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion."

Hearing Shi Su mention the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion, everyone's courage suddenly surged.

Indeed!

What if Ling Chen is a member of the Eight Odd Men? Behind Shi Su stands the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion; with such backing, there's nothing to fear.

Thinking of this, everyone's gaze toward Ling Chen gradually grew fierce.

Sensing the change in everyone's gaze, Ling Chen's expression remained unchanged as he strode forward and looked at the burly man in front of him, saying, "Don't be fooled by her. The Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion is no longer the Shi Family's backing. If you don't believe it, let Ms. Shi make a call to the Heavenly Mechanism Pavilion in front of you and see which side they stand on."

"Ling Chen, you're just trying to buy time. Let me tell you, you won't escape this calamity today." While speaking, Shi Su glanced at the crowd and signaled to a man with her eyes.

The latter immediately understood and quickly stepped out of the crowd, saying in a deep voice, "Everyone, what are you hesitating for? Don't forget, if it weren't for the Shi Family back then, would you still be alive? Ms. Shi saved my life, allowing me to live to this day. Now, she needs our help, and yet we're hesitating, unsure? Aren't you ashamed? As people of the Martial Arts world, repay kindness, avenge grievances. If anyone is too scared, they can get lost right now and stop embarrassing themselves here."

Hearing the man's reprimand, everyone looked very ashamed and lowered their heads.

Shi Su was very satisfied with this effect. Seeing no one backing down, the man nodded and said, "That's more like it, finally acting like men. Since everyone's made a decision, what are we waiting for?"

As the words fell, the burly man in the lead immediately swung his fist forcefully towards Ling Chen's head.

Feeling the fierce wind carried by the fist, Ling Chen's gaze intensified slightly, and he quickly stepped back, swiftly avoiding the menacing punch. At the same time, he employed the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, and his body instantly transformed into a shadow, flashing past the burly man's eyes. Before the opponent could react, Ling Chen had already moved to the man's left side.

"Watch out!"

Seeing Ling Chen's position, everyone's expression changed slightly, and they hurriedly warned.

However, the burly man's reaction was still a step too slow. At the moment he turned his head, Ling Chen's steel fist had already broken through the air, slamming hard into his body. Instantly, the burly man's body leaned slightly, his legs lost balance, and he fell directly to the ground.

Without waiting for the opponent to get up, Ling Chen seized the opportunity, grabbed the opponent's neck, and turned his fist into two fingers, stabbing straight towards the burly man's vital point.

Seeing this, everyone was taken aback and hastily shouted, "Stop!"

As the voices reached him, Ling Chen's two fingers stopped, landing just above the vital point.

"You lost!" Ling Chen withdrew his hand, stood up, and said, "If this were a real fight, your life would have already been mine."

Hearing this, the burly man hurriedly got up from the ground, his face turning a mix of blue and red.

"Ms. Shi, I... I wasn't as good as him, I've let you down."

"Useless trash." Shi Su snorted coldly, directly shifting her gaze to the other people present.

The man who spoke earlier said, "Everyone, we're not here for a single fight or a martial competition today, so there's no need to stick to the Martial Arts rules. Let's all go together!" As he spoke, the man strode forward, beckoning to the people behind him to join in.

"Haha!" Looking at the people coming towards him, Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "Ganging up, are we?"

"So what if we are?" The man said arrogantly, "If you've got the skills, you can call people to help too."

"Really?" Ling Chen's smile widened, becoming even more radiant. As he spoke, his gaze flicked over to Nanrong Hao, who nodded gently, immediately taking out his phone from his pocket and walking aside to make a call.

Seeing Nanrong Hao's action, Ling Chen chuckled, relaxing his fists slightly.

"Ms. Shi, I don't know if you checked before coming here, but East Sea City isn't a place just anyone can come to."

"What do you mean?" Shi Su asked coldly.

"I forgot to tell you, East Sea City is my territory, Ling Chen. You came to East Sea City looking for trouble with me. Honestly, I admire your guts." After a pause, Ling Chen pointed to the man in the crowd and said, "Ms. Shi, your friend just said, if I have the skills, I can call people too, right? In that case, I won't hold back."

As the words fell, the sound of car tires driving over could be heard nearby. In no time, over a dozen vans drove along the road by Wealthy Manor, stopping at the entrance of the Nanrong Family, surrounding everyone present.

The car doors opened, and young people filed out, holding steel rods and machetes. A rough count showed nearly a hundred people, with great momentum, instantly suppressing Shi Su and her group's aura.

Seeing so many people suddenly appearing around, everyone present was stunned, especially the man who had spoken provocatively earlier, who was directly dumbfounded.

"Ling Chen, you..."

Before Shi Su could finish her words, Ling Chen interjected, "What about me? Ms. Shi, your friend made it very clear earlier, you came for revenge, no need to talk about rules and ethics. In that case, why should I be polite with you? All right, my people are here, if you still want to fight, I'll accompany you to the end."

"Everyone, don't be afraid!" The man who was in a daze finally came to his senses and quickly said, "We're all martial artists, these are just street thugs. Not to mention a hundred, even if another hundred come, it's no problem for us."

"Good!" Ling Chen gave a thumbs up in praise, "Not bad, you have guts. I hope you'll still be able to say that later."

Chapter 984 - 991: Who's Really Getting Revenge? (Part 2)

"Brothers, you've all heard it. These people look down on us, so when the action starts, you must give it your all. Don't let them underestimate us, got it?"

"Yes!" Nearly a hundred young men raised their machetes and steel rods high, responding in unison, their momentum unstoppable.

Hearing the chorus of voices, Shi Su and her group's faces looked somewhat grim. Even though these people had practiced martial arts, they had never faced such a brawl before, much less experienced a scene like this. Martial artists mostly engage in one-on-one duels. Moreover, these people weren't reckless fighters rarely risking their lives.

However, these young men in front of them had already drawn their blades, certainly not for show or to scare anyone intentionally. From their eyes, it was clear these youths were playing for real.

Seeing this situation, the twenty or so men Shi Su had invited couldn't help but regret. Had they known it would turn out like this, they wouldn't have played the hero and agreed to help the Shi Family. This wasn't help; it was like pushing themselves into a fire pit.

But at this point, the arrow was on the string, and there was no turning back; they had no room for retreat.

"Brothers, it's up to you now. Remember, hold back; don't take lives. After all, we're civilized people; we can't do illegal things."

Upon hearing Ling Chen's voice, nearly a hundred young men didn't hesitate, waving their steel rods and machetes, charging straight at Shi Su's group.

The charge of nearly a hundred people doesn't sound like much, but the visual effect exerted an intangible pressure.

In the blink of an eye, nearly a hundred young men had reached the twenty-odd men. Before they could even set up a stance, machetes, steel rods, and bricks were all hurled into the crowd. Whether they hit anyone was irrelevant; it was a chaotic throw.

In no time, the twenty-odd men brought by Shi Su were overwhelmed, their heads nowhere to be seen.

Witnessing such a scene turned Shi Su's face pale. Originally, she had counted on those people to protect her, but the group she had invited couldn't even look after themselves, let alone spare any effort for her. Moreover, the Shi Family was known for medicine, with few martial artists, and Shi Su herself was completely clueless about martial arts.

Surrounded, Shi Su couldn't even see what was happening before being struck twice, leaving her head bleeding and looking very wretched.

"Enough, enough, stop it!"

Someone in the crowd couldn't bear the pain any longer and shouted loudly. However, no one paid attention, continuing to smash the steel rods and machetes into the crowd.

Ling Chen stood on the outskirts of the crowd, watching for a while. Seeing it was about enough, he then announced, "Alright, stop it, don't actually kill them."

Hearing Ling Chen speak, nearly a hundred young men immediately stopped, retreating collectively. Soon, the surrounded group was seen lying on the ground, clutching their heads, bloodied, with no hint of their previous martial prowess.

Looking at their outcome, Ling Chen sneered, "These are supposed to be experts? I wonder where Shi Su found so many useless fools."

Maybe these people did have real skills. For instance, the burly guy just now wasn't weak, at least a master on the Dragon List. However, no matter how high these people's skills were, without combat experience, they couldn't handle this kind of street brawl.

In fact, martial arts in the community are divided into two types: one for physical fitness and occasional sparring, and another is for killing—this is the essence of martial arts. Nowadays, many practice martial arts for fitness, not for killing, so the distinction between the two is significant.

Ling Chen, having worked in the shadows, learned killing techniques.

Huh?

At this moment, Ling Chen searched the crowd but didn't find Shi Su. Strange, wasn't she here just now?

While pondering, Ling Chen suddenly noticed someone lying on the ground beside the Nanrong Family's gate, hair disheveled—it was Shi Su. However, her current appearance was extraordinarily wretched, completely different from before.

"Ms. Shi, Ms. Shi?" Ling Chen called twice, seeing no response, he walked over to Shi Su, gently tapping her shoulder.

Yet, Shi Su, lying on the ground, didn't react at all, motionless.

Seeing this, Ling Chen was taken aback. Could it be that the group had been too rough, resulting in her demise?

Thinking this, Ling Chen couldn't help but worry. Although Shi Su had come to trouble him, making him quite annoyed, he only intended to teach her a lesson, not to take her life.

Quickly, Ling Chen grasped Shi Su's shoulders, turning her over to lie flat on the ground.

Just then, Shi Su, who had her eyes closed, suddenly opened them, glaring venomously at Ling Chen. At the same time, she stretched her arm, and a glint of cold light aimed straight at Ling Chen's body.

Seeing the cold light approaching, Ling Chen's face shifted slightly. He hurriedly pushed Shi Su forward, swiftly retreating to narrowly avoid the attack.

This sudden change frightened Ling Chen into a cold sweat.

Lucky!

Thankfully, he reacted quickly; otherwise, his life might have ended in Shi Su's hands. Shi Su was versed in medicine and surely her poisons weren't simple.

Seeing Shi Su's disappointed gaze, Ling Chen felt a surge of anger. Damn it! He thought she was in trouble and was kind enough to help her, only to be backstabbed. Such a malicious woman would only be a source of disaster if left alive.

With that thought, Ling Chen stretched out his hand, directly snatching the silver needle from Shi Su's hand.

"Ling Chen, you were lucky today. Next time, you won't have such luck," Shi Su said, gritting her teeth.

"Is that so?" Ling Chen smiled, though a chilling chill filled his eyes.

"Ms. Shi, you obviously don't know my character well. If you just wanted to teach me a lesson, I wouldn't mind playing along. But if you intend to kill me, I won't give you a second chance."

Upon hearing this, Shi Su's expression changed, looking at Ling Chen with dread, "What are you going to do?"

"Nothing much. Weren't you trying to kill me just now? I'll let you experience that feeling too." Saying this, Ling Chen moved swiftly, and the silver needle in his fingers swiftly stabbed into Shi Su's leg.

Feeling the stabbing pain in her leg, Shi Su panicked, urgently reaching into her pocket to pull out a medicine bottle.

The bottle opened, Shi Su poured out a white pill, about to put it into her mouth. However, before she could lift her hand, Ling Chen slapped it away, causing both the medicine bottle and the pill to fall to the ground.

Chapter 985 - 992: Who's Avenging Whom? (Part 3)

"No!"

Seeing the pills scattered on the ground, Shi Su cried out, lunging forward in an attempt to pick them up.

However, Ling Chen didn't let her succeed. Before Shi Su could get close to the pills, Ling Chen kicked her hard, sending her sprawling. Then Ling Chen bent down to pick up one pill, and with another kick, he crushed the rest of the pills into the dust on the ground.

"No, don't!"

Shi Su cried, "My antidote, quick... give it to me!"

Ling Chen toyed with the only pill in his hand and asked, "How long does it take for the poison you concocted to take effect?"

"Fifteen minutes."

"What happens once it takes effect?"

"This poison won't kill anyone; at most, it'll make them unconscious for a few days," Shi Su hastily explained. "I just wanted to teach you a lesson and restore the Shi Family's face. I didn't intend to kill you."

"Really?" Ling Chen smiled slightly. "Since this poison isn't lethal, why are you so frightened? As punishment, you can just be unconscious for a few days." With that, before Shi Su could say more, Ling Chen flicked his wrist and tossed away the pill in his hand.

"No!" Seeing Ling Chen's action, Shi Su's face turned instantly pale. Without a word, she scrambled up from the ground and rushed to the green belt area, throwing herself to the ground to search for the pill.

"Ms. Shi, didn't you say the poison isn't fatal? If so, why are you worried? It's just a few days of unconsciousness," Ling Chen said calmly.

"No, it's not like that." At this moment, Shi Su was so anxious she was almost in tears.

Seeing her reaction, everyone present understood. The poison Shi Su concocted must indeed be lethal, but she refused to admit it. Even at this point, she was still lying to everyone present. No wonder Ling Chen had thrown away the pill.

"The pill... where's my pill... where is it?"

Sho Su, in a dire state, crawled on the ground, turning over leaves and searching carefully. However, after several minutes, she still couldn't find the pill.

Ling Chen stood in front of the gate, silently watching Shi Su, saying nothing. At that moment, all eyes were on Shi Su.

"Ling Chen." At this time, Nanrong Wanqing came to Ling Chen's side and said softly, "Are you really going to let her die here? Isn't this..."

Before Nanrong Wanqing could finish, Ling Chen interrupted her, saying, "A woman like her wouldn't know fear unless you show some real power. Even if she escapes today, she won't be grateful; she'll hate me more and plot revenge."

"But... if she really dies, you'll bear the responsibility. There's no need to pay such a price for a woman like her."

Ling Chen nodded and said, "Don't worry, I know what to do."

"Ms. Shi, there are five minutes left, haven't you found the pill yet?"

Hearing Ling Chen's voice, Shi Su collapsed to the ground, her eyes showing despair, void of any spirit.

"I'm going to die, I'm going to die... I'm going to die..."

Shi Su murmured incessantly, her lips moving.

Seeing Shi Su's pale face, Ling Chen raised his hand and asked, "Ms. Shi, is this what you're looking for?"

At the sound of his voice, Shi Su glanced at Ling Chen's hand, which held a white pill. Her eyes brightened instantly, and she hurriedly ran to Ling Chen's side, raising her hands like a beggar, pleading desperately, "Please, give it to me, give me the antidote."

"Give it to you?" Ling Chen asked calmly, "Why should I give it to you? Tell me a reason. You came to East Sea City to cause trouble for me, wanting to harm me and take my life. Ms. Shi, if it were you, what would you do?"

"I... I..." Shi Su opened her mouth, unsure how to answer.

After hesitating for a moment, Shi Su lowered her head and said, "Ling Chen, I... I realize my mistake. Please, spare me this once. I promise you, from now on, the Shi Family will not trouble you. As for our past grievances, let's forget them all starting today."

"Really?" Ling Chen said with a half-smile, "Ms. Shi, if it were someone else, I might believe them, but you... honestly, it's hard for me to trust you."

"What will it take for you to believe me?" Shi Su asked hurriedly. At this moment, the time until the poison took effect was running out, and she didn't have any time to waste.

"Alright, here's what I want: you must announce to everyone that from today onwards, you sever your master-disciple relationship with Zhu Xiaozhu and have nothing to do with her from now on. How about that?"

"Alright, no problem." Shi Su agreed without a second thought.

"Good, I hope you keep your word. Otherwise, I won't let you off easily again." With that, Ling Chen let go of the pill, allowing it to fall into Shi Su's hand.

Receiving the pill, Shi Su didn't hesitate at all and immediately swallowed it.

"Well then, Ms. Shi, if there's nothing else, you should take your people and leave. Also, let me remind you, don't forget your promise to me."

"I... I understand." Shi Su looked at Ling Chen, slowly lowering her head to hide the resentment in her eyes.

Not long after, Shi Su left the Nanrong Family with a group of injured men. Watching their departing figures, Ling Chen exhaled slowly, turning to walk into the Nanrong Family's house.

In the living room, Nanrong Wanqing brought a glass of water to Ling Chen, asking, "Why did you want Shi Su to sever her master-disciple relationship with Zhu Xiaozhu?"

"You've seen Shi Su's character; having a Master like her isn't good for Xiaozhu. So, rather than let Xiaozhu be restricted by Shi Su, it's better to end it early," Ling Chen replied.

Pausing for a moment, Ling Chen smiled and said, "Just wait and see. Shi Su won't take this loss lying down. If the opportunity arises, she'll certainly make trouble for me. Moreover, given her character, she'll repay today's humiliation twice over."

"What then?" Nanrong Wanqing asked worriedly.

Ling Chen shrugged and said nonchalantly, "What else? We'll deal with it as it comes. Besides, someone like Shi Su doesn't pose a threat to me. Before, I might have feared her backing, but now... humph! Her greatest support is gone. Anyway, I've already warned her. If she remains stubborn, she can't blame me for being ruthless." As he said this, a cold glint flashed in Ling Chen's eyes.

Chapter 986 - 993: Tang Shiyun's Concert

Since things at the base have settled into a routine, Ling Chen doesn't need to stay there every day. As a result, he has been able to relax and spend some time with Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling at the Nanrong Family's home these past few days.

After lunch, Ling Chen sat on the living room sofa, casually flipping through today's newspaper. Before long, his eyes were drawn to the headline news.

On May 14th, Tang Shiyun's special concert will grandly open at Longyang Stadium in East Sea City.

Seeing Tang Shiyun's name, Ling Chen's mind immediately conjured up her adorable, charming face.

Thinking carefully, it had been quite a long time since he last saw Tang Shiyun, and he wondered how she had been doing lately.

Lately, Ling Chen had been preoccupied with matters concerning the God Organization, leaving him no time or energy to care about anything else. He hadn't even called Tang Shiyun. Now that he thought about it, he felt a little guilty. However, that girl didn't call him either. Could it be that she was doing so well now that she had forgotten about him, her big brother?

After some thought, Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket, found Tang Shiyun's number, and dialed it directly.

After a few rings, the call was quickly connected. Ling Chen slightly raised the corners of his mouth, smiling as he said, "Girl, you..."

"Who are you looking for?"

Before Ling Chen could finish speaking, he heard an unfamiliar woman's voice coming from the other end of the line.

This wasn't Tang Shiyun's voice! Ling Chen was slightly taken aback and asked, "Who are you? Where's Shiyun?"

"I'm Miss Tang's agent. May I ask who you are?"

"My name is Ling Chen. Could you please pass the phone to Shiyun?"

"So it's Mr. Ling." Upon recognizing Ling Chen's identity, the other party became much more courteous. "Mr. Ling, I apologize, but Miss Tang is currently rehearsing. If you have any messages, I could convey them to her once she's done."

Rehearsing?

Ah yes! There are only about ten days left until Tang Shiyun's concert, so she must be very busy right now. With that in mind, Ling Chen replied, "Since Shiyun is busy, I won't disturb her. By the way! Could you let me know where you are rehearsing... Okay, I understand. Thank you!"

After he hung up the phone, Nanrong Wanqing came down from upstairs and walked straight to Ling Chen's side.

"Who were you on the phone with just now?"

"Shiyun." Ling Chen said with a smile, "I haven't been in touch with her for a long time, so I called to ask. I just saw the news and heard that she is going to have a concert in East Sea City soon."

"This news has already spread; only a busy person like you is slow to catch on. I even bought some concert tickets and I'm planning to go watch it."

Ling Chen teased, "I didn't expect you to be a fan of Shiyun."

"Miss Tang's singing skill is indeed impressive, but I'm not the one who wants to go; it's Lin who insisted on going."

"You mean Su Lin?" Ling Chen curiously asked, "Isn't she interning elsewhere? How does she have time to come back?"

"She's a loyal fan of Miss Tang. As soon as she heard about the concert, she called me and asked me to get concert tickets no matter what. The concert is in half a month, and she told me she'd take a few days off to come back early."

Ling Chen smiled and said, "She's been away for a few months; I guess she misses home. It's good for her to come back and take a break. But still, I can't quite understand why a delicate girl like her would want to study archaeology. She doesn't seem the type to have such patience."

"Lin studying archaeology might be influenced by her grandfather. Lin's grandfather was a famous archaeologist in the country. After he retired, as Lin's parents' business grew bigger, they moved abroad to enjoy their later years. Lin was mostly brought up by her grandfather, so they share a very close bond."

"Later, there was a major archaeological project in the country, and Lin's grandfather was invited back. It was after this that he went missing and never returned. Including Lin's grandfather, all members of that archaeological team went missing without a trace. This incident was a huge blow to Lin, so when choosing her major, she picked archaeology, despite her parents' strong opposition."

"I see," Ling Chen nodded. "So, does that mean Lin's grandfather has already..."

Nanrong Wanqing sighed softly and said, "It's been over ten years. If her grandfather were still alive, he would have tried to contact his family. But since there's been no news, it seems unlikely that he has survived."

"I didn't realize Lin's feelings for her grandfather were so deep. However, archaeology is dangerous work, especially for those on the front lines, where accidents can happen at any time. Wanqing, you're her sister, so maybe you should advise her to find something else to do. If something were to happen, her parents would be worried sick. Oh, by the way!" Ling Chen suddenly changed the topic and asked, "I've been at the Nanrong Family's place for quite some time but have never met Lin's parents."

"They're busy with their business overseas and rarely come back unless it's something important. Why, do you want to meet her parents?"

"Not necessarily, I'm just curious. Lin has been in the country for so long, yet her parents haven't come back to see her."

"They're busy with their careers, and since Lin has us to look after her, they feel at ease."

As they spoke, Nanrong Hao came in from outside the villa and greeted them, "Chen, Jiang Hao is here and would like to see you."

"Does he need something?"

Nanrong Hao glanced at the sofa where Nanrong Wanqing was sitting and said, "Jiang Hao mentioned he has something to discuss with you. Chen, how about we go over to my place for a chat?"

"Since you have things to attend to, go ahead. I'll go upstairs and chat with your mom." With that, Nanrong Wanqing stood up and went upstairs on her own.

After Nanrong Wanqing left, Ling Chen followed Nanrong Hao to the villa next door. As soon as they entered, they saw Jiang Hao pacing back and forth in the living room. He walked over quickly, his voice reaching them before he did, "Chen, you finally made it."

"Why such a rush? What's happened?" Ling Chen asked.

"I saw Zhao Zhengxiong today."

"Zhao Zhengxiong?" Ling Chen raised his eyebrows and asked, "Are you sure you didn't see it wrong?"

For some time, Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao's main task had been to locate Zhao Zhengxiong. However, Zhao Zhengxiong was very cunning, constantly changing his residence, making it difficult to track his whereabouts. Moreover, since Zhao Zhengxiong had worked with them before, he understood their methods, making it even harder to pinpoint his location.

Chapter 987 - 994: Encircling Zhao Zhengxiong

"Chen, don't worry, I'm a hundred percent sure this time, it's definitely him," Jiang Hao said. "Around noon today, I was eating at a hotel with some of the boys. I really needed to use the restroom during the meal, so I went to the bathroom midway. Just then, I saw Zhao Zhengxiong coming out of a private room with a few people around him, all of them his trusted subordinates."

"Do you know where he's going?"

"After I spotted Zhao Zhengxiong, I immediately had a couple of the boys secretly follow his car. They just sent me a message; they've already found out where Zhao Zhengxiong lives. Chen, we've been searching for that bastard for so long, and we've finally flushed him out. There's no time to lose, let's set out right away and teach that bastard a lesson."

"Yeah!" Nanrong Hao chimed in. "Chen, this is a rare opportunity. If it weren't for his betrayal back then, we wouldn't have ended up like this."

Ling Chen glanced at Nanrong Hao, pondered for a moment, and nodded, "Alright. You two organize the personnel immediately and surround Zhao Zhengxiong's place. Remember, don't alert the enemy. This time, no matter what, we have to catch him."

After greeting Nanrong Wanqing, Ling Chen directly went with Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao to Zhao Zhengxiong's residence.

By the time the three arrived, Jiang Hao's men were already there, and as per Jiang Hao's instructions, they had surrounded the area to prevent Zhao Zhengxiong from escaping.

Jiang Hao put down his phone, looked at Ling Chen beside him, and said, "Chen, everyone's in position."

"Let's go meet Zhao Zhengxiong." With that, Ling Chen headed straight for the nearby apartment building.

Zhao Zhengxiong was hiding in an old apartment building. This building had five floors with about thirty households. According to the information provided by Jiang Hao's men, Zhao Zhengxiong lived on the fifth floor.

As he passed by the building's entrance, Ling Chen saw several luxury cars parked by the roadside, clearly Zhao Zhengxiong's rides. Back in the day, when Zhao Zhengxiong was running in the Old City, he drove small cars worth around a hundred thousand. Now, he traveled in cars worth millions and even had personal bodyguards.

However, if it weren't for Ling Chen, Zhao Zhengxiong wouldn't have achieved what he has today.

In no time, the three of them went straight up the stairs to the fifth floor of the apartment building.

Zhao Zhengxiong's room was on the far left of the fifth floor. At the staircase entrance, Ling Chen peeked towards the balcony and saw several people standing outside the room at the end of the balcony, presumably Zhao Zhengxiong's bodyguards.

At this moment, Ling Chen gestured to Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao, signaling them to stay in the stairwell and not go out for the time being. Immediately after, Ling Chen's foot slid, and with the Nine Yang Qiankun Step, his body transformed like a swift wind, rushing towards the end of the balcony.

In the blink of an eye, before the bodyguards on the balcony could react, Ling Chen was already upon them, swinging his fists. With a series of 'bang bang' sounds, the bodyguards on the balcony were knocked out cold and fell to the ground.

After dealing with the guards at the door, Ling Chen signaled to Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao who were hiding in the stairwell, and they quickly followed.

Standing in front of the door, without wasting words, Jiang Hao charged directly at it.

Bang!

Under Jiang Hao's impact, the tightly closed door immediately burst open. Seizing the opportunity, Ling Chen and Nanrong Hao closely followed Jiang Hao's steps, quickly rushing into the room.

"Where is he?" Nanrong Hao furrowed his brows, searching everywhere in the empty room for Zhao Zhengxiong. But there wasn't a single person inside.

However, the TV in the living room was on, and several unfinished bottles of alcohol were on the coffee table, with a half-burnt cigarette in the ashtray.

"They must have been here just now," Jiang Hao said in a deep voice.

"Chen, over there," Nanrong Hao pointed to the window at the back of the room and rushed over.

Leaning out the window, they saw Zhao Zhengxiong and two men climbing up along the outer wall on the air conditioning brackets. Seeing that the three of them were about to climb to the rooftop, Nanrong Hao quickly jumped out of the window, following along the air conditioning brackets to chase after Zhao Zhengxiong and the others.

"Jiang Hao, keep up, don't let Haozi get in trouble."

"Got it," Jiang Hao nodded and immediately followed closely behind Nanrong Hao.

Compared to Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao, Ling Chen was even quicker and more agile. Before long, he had climbed straight up to the rooftop of the apartment through the window.

At this moment, Zhao Zhengxiong, protected by his two subordinates, was quickly heading to the edge of the rooftop.

In the direction they were heading, there was another apartment building's rooftop.

Seeing that Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao hadn't caught up yet, Ling Chen had to chase on his own. By then, Zhao Zhengxiong and his two subordinates had already reached the edge of the rooftop. Looking at the opposing roof, there was at least a seven or eight meters gap, making it impossible to jump over.

"Quick, quick, think of something," Zhao Zhengxiong urged, seeing Ling Chen closing in.

"Boss, there's a plank over there," one of the men picked up a plank from the side of the rooftop and placed it between the two buildings, coincidentally seven meters long.

"Boss, you go first."

Zhao Zhengxiong nodded and, regardless of whether the plank was stable, walked straight on it.

The plank was twenty meters above the ground, and Zhao Zhengxiong carefully balanced, spreading his arms, slowly moving forward.

"Zhao Zhengxiong, stop!"

Ling Chen shouted loudly.

Hearing Ling Chen's voice from behind, Zhao Zhengxiong ignored it and hurriedly jumped onto the opposite rooftop. Then, he quickly turned around and pushed the plank between the two buildings.

Seeing the plank fall, Ling Chen stopped at the rooftop's edge and looked at Zhao Zhengxiong on the other side, saying, "Do you not even dare to face me now?"

"It's not that I don't dare, but I don't want to. Ling Chen, considering our past relationship, I don't want to be enemies with you, so why are you pursuing me so relentlessly?"

"It's not that I don't want to let you go, but you've done too many despicable things. Jiang Hao and Nanrong Hao saw you as a brother and treated you as one of their own, and what did you do in return? You set up Jiang Hao, leading to his arrest by the police. Moreover, you seized Nanrong Hao's territory. When you did these things, did you ever consider the brotherhood we once shared?"

Zhao Zhengxiong coldly said, "No matter what you say, at this point, we can keep to our own sides. If you provoke me again, don't blame me for being ruthless."

"Fine, let's see what you've got."

"You'll see, the underground forces of East Sea City will eventually be mine, Zhao Zhengxiong's alone."

"I'll be watching."

Chapter 988 - 995: Naive Woman

"Chen, Chen!"

At this moment, Nanrong Hao and Jiang Hao finally reached the rooftop. Seeing only Zhao Zhengxiong's two subordinates on the rooftop, Jiang Hao couldn't help but ask, "Chen, where's that bastard Zhao Zhengxiong?"

"He got away," Ling Chen replied. After speaking, Ling Chen turned his head to look at the two men and asked, "Do you know where Zhao Zhengxiong might go?"

The two men exchanged glances and said, "We only follow Xiong's orders and don't inquire about other matters. Besides, Xiong has recently purchased a lot of real estate in East Sea City, but we don't know the exact locations."

"Not talking, huh?" Nanrong Hao grabbed one of the men by the collar and dragged him to the edge of the rooftop, coldly saying, "Tell me Zhao Zhengxiong's location, or I'll let you experience a freefall."

Looking at the ground dozens of meters below, the man's face instantly turned pale with fear, his voice trembling, "I... I really don't know."

"Haozi, let him go." Ling Chen spoke up to relieve the man, "We're looking for Zhao Zhengxiong, no need to make things difficult for him." Pausing, Ling Chen continued, "Zhao Zhengxiong is now connected with the God Organization. We came to find him this time, so he'll definitely seek protection from them."

"What should we do then?" Jiang Hao said, frustrated, "We finally found that bastard, and now he got away again."

"Forget it! If we can't catch him this time, there'll be another chance, anyway, he won't leave East Sea City."

Leaving the apartment building, Ling Chen gave Jiang Hao a few instructions, then followed Nanrong Hao's car back to the Wealthy Manor.

Back home, Ling Chen went straight to the living room, only to find it empty with just the TV on, broadcasting news.

"Wanqing, I'm back," Ling Chen shouted upstairs, then sat on the sofa, casually pressing the remote control. After a moment, seeing no movement from upstairs, Ling Chen found it strange.

Could it be that she didn't hear him? Thinking this, Ling Chen headed directly to the second floor.

At Nanrong Wanqing's room, Ling Chen knocked on the door, and seeing no response, he went to Yang Qingling's room. Before leaving, Nanrong Wanqing had said she would go chat with Yang Qingling.

"Mom, are you there?" Ling Chen asked from outside the door.

But there was still no sound from inside the room. Strange! Where did they all go? The TV was on, indicating someone was home.

In confusion, Ling Chen turned the doorknob and pushed the door open. Entering Yang Qingling's bedroom, Ling Chen immediately frowned and said in a deep voice, "What are you doing here?"

"Ling Chen, we meet again. As I said, I won't leave East Sea City without catching you."

At this moment, in the bedroom, Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling were sitting by the bed. Behind them stood the person they had met some time ago, Ren Qing.

Back then, Ling Chen had schemed in secret to rid himself of Ren Qing's harassment, but who knew she would hide in East Sea City, still relentless in wanting to capture him.

Looking at the gun in Ren Qing's hand, Ling Chen spoke, "The one you want is me, let them go, and I'll go with you."

"Good, you're sensible," Ren Qing said, pulling a pair of handcuffs from her bag and tossing them in front of Ling Chen.

Without Ren Qing needing to say more, Ling Chen had already picked up the handcuffs and put them on his wrists.

"How about now, are you satisfied?"

"Turn around and walk backwards," Ren Qing ordered, pointing the gun at Ling Chen's body, indicating for him to leave the bedroom.

"Ling Chen..."

Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling looked at Ling Chen, their eyes filled with worry.

Ling Chen smiled slightly and said, "Don't worry, I'll be fine."

"You two," Ren Qing said coldly, pointing the gun at Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling, "get up and come out with me."

Hearing this, Ling Chen raised an eyebrow and turned to Ren Qing, "I've done what you asked, why don't you let them go?"

"Ling Chen, don't think I don't know who you are. I've seen your skills. To be honest, I can't handle you alone, so it's safer to have two people around."

"Miss Ren, don't forget you're also a government employee. What you're doing now is breaking the law."

"Humph!" Ren Qing scoffed, "Ling Chen, do you care about the law? Do you know, because of you, I've lost my promising future. As long as I catch you, I can regain the superiors' favor."

"Is that so? Miss Ren, I have to admit, you're a logistics technician, yet you personally came to work in the field."

"Cut the crap," Ren Qing said coldly, pointing the gun at the back of Nanrong Wanqing's head, "Move!"

"Fine, I'll do as you say, just don't hurt them," Ling Chen said, stepping out of the bedroom and heading straight to the villa's living room.

"Go get a car," Ren Qing ordered Ling Chen, "and hand over your phone. If you don't want them to get hurt, you'd better not play any tricks."

Ling Chen shrugged, raising his handcuffed hands, "Miss Ren, how am I supposed to get you a car like this? At least help me take off the cuffs."

Ren Qing hesitated for a moment, then took a key from her pocket and began to step towards Ling Chen. However, halfway there, she immediately stopped and retreated.

"You, go unlock his handcuffs," Ren Qing handed the key to Yang Qingling, indicating for her to go over.

Seeing his mom approaching, Ling Chen immediately extended his hands towards Yang Qingling.

Their eyes met, and Ling Chen winked, signaling to Yang Qingling, who quickly understood and gave a slight nod.

After the handcuffs were unlocked, Ling Chen took out his phone from his pocket and handed it to Yang Qingling, then turned and walked towards the door. At the same time, Yang Qingling went to stand in front of Ren Qing with Ling Chen's phone.

Approaching the door, Ling Chen suddenly turned around, grabbing the vase placed by the door and pretended to throw it at Ren Qing.

Seeing Ling Chen's action, Ren Qing's face turned cold, and without thinking, she raised the gun in her hand.

But before Ren Qing could pull the trigger, Yang Qingling, who was already close, quickened her pace, flicked her wrist, and threw the phone, hitting Ren Qing's face.

Distracted by the phone, Ren Qing instinctively dodged back. Taking advantage of the moment, Yang Qingling quickly closed in on Ren Qing, grabbed her wrist, and gave it a light twist. Instantly, the pained Ren Qing released her grip, dropping the gun to the ground.

Before Ren Qing could retaliate, Yang Qingling continued to press forward, restraining Ren Qing's hands and pinning her to the ground.

"Let me go!" Ren Qing gritted her teeth, struggling desperately.

Chapter 989 - 996: Fearless of Death

However, no matter how much Ren Qing resisted, she was no match for Yang Qingling and was firmly subdued.

After struggling for a while, Ren Qing finally gave up resisting, lying quietly on the ground, motionless. "Mom, let her get up," Ling Chen stepped forward and said.

Yang Qingling nodded, grabbed Ren Qing's shoulder, and pulled her up from the ground.

"Miss Ren," Ling Chen looked at Ren Qing and said, "Aren't you being too naive? Do you really think you could capture me all by yourself?"

Hearing this, Ren Qing stared coldly at Ling Chen, gritting her teeth, her eyes filled with venomous hatred. Facing Ren Qing's icy glare, Ling Chen said calmly, "You don't need to look at me like that. I have no grudge against you and really don't want to cause you trouble. Unfortunately, I gave you a chance to retreat safely, but you insisted on staying."

"Cut the crap," Ren Qing said through clenched teeth, "Since I'm in your hands, do whatever you want, kill me if you like."

"You're not afraid to die?" Ling Chen said with a faint smile, "Alright then! If you want to die, I'll fulfill your wish." Saying so, Ling Chen picked up the handgun that had fallen to the ground, removed the magazine, counted the bullets inside, leaving only one, and threw the rest to the ground.

Reloading the bullet into the chamber, Ling Chen pulled the slide and directly aimed the muzzle at Ren Qing's forehead. Feeling the cold muzzle, Ren Qing couldn't help but close her eyes tightly, her whole body tensed, trembling slightly beyond control.

"Miss Ren, I originally intended to spare your life, but you chose death yourself, so don't blame me!" As his voice fell, Ling Chen's finger gently pulled the trigger.

Perhaps sensing Ling Chen's action, Ren Qing's face turned deathly pale, and tears squeezed out from the corners of her eyes.

"Goodbye, Miss Ren!"

"No! Don't!"

As soon as Ling Chen's voice sounded, Ren Qing immediately screamed. She clasped her head in her hands, fell to her knees with a thud, and burst into tears.

"Please, don't... don't kill me. I... I don't want to die."

Hearing Ren Qing's plea for mercy, Ling Chen put away the gun in his hand and said, "I thought you really weren't afraid to die. Miss Ren, I hope you learn a lesson from this; fear of death is not just something you say lightly."

"Ling Chen," Nanrong Wanqing asked softly, "how do you plan to handle her?"

Ling Chen pondered for a moment, took out his phone from his pocket, and dialed a number. After a while, the call connected, and a cheerful voice came from the other end: "Hello, Mr. Ling!"

"Mr. Zhang, sorry to disturb you."

"Mr. Ling, you are too polite. I actually wish you would come disturb me more." Joking a bit, Mr. Zhang asked, "Is there something Mr. Ling needs from me?"

"There is something here that only Mr. Zhang can help handle, so I'm afraid I'll have to trouble you." After a pause, Ling Chen continued, "Mr. Zhang, Ren Qing is one of your subordinates, right? Earlier, she broke into my house armed, held my family hostage, and threatened me. I've subdued her now. I thought about it and decided it would be best to hand her over to you."

"Qing?" Mr. Zhang's voice was somewhat heavy.

"Mr. Ling, I'm very sorry. I apologize for what Qing did and hope you won't take it to heart. Moreover, I'd like to clarify that I had already ordered Qing to leave East Sea City, but she defied my orders and insisted on staying. I've been trying to locate her all this time."

"Mr. Zhang, you don't need to explain; I understand what you mean. Rest assured, I know this wasn't your doing, so I won't hold it against you."

"That's good to hear." Mr. Zhang breathed a sigh of relief and said with a smile, "Mr. Ling, our last cooperation wasn't able to proceed smoothly. I hope we have the opportunity to work together again in the future."

"No problem, whenever there's a suitable opportunity, I'll definitely reach out to you."

After a bit of casual chat, Ling Chen hung up the call, looked at Ren Qing, and said, "Wait here. Mr. Zhang will send someone to pick you up."

"You... you..." Ren Qing asked incredulously, "Why... why are you..."

"Why what?" Ling Chen replied, "Are you wondering why Mr. Zhang didn't come after me?"

Ren Qing silently nodded. She couldn't quite understand why, when Mr. Zhang had initially agreed to her capturing Ling Chen, his attitude had now changed.

"Miss Ren, that's why I said you're too naive. Some things aren't as simple as you think. In Mr. Zhang's eyes, I am someone with value. Similarly, he is the same in my eyes. So, as long as things aren't too excessive, neither of us will take it too seriously. Miss Ren, I wonder if you can understand what I'm saying? If you can't quite grasp it, let me put it simply. From the current situation, I have more value than you."

Upon hearing this, Ren Qing knelt dumbfounded on the ground, momentarily lost.

Not long after, the people sent by Mr. Zhang arrived at the Nanrong Family home. Watching Ren Qing being taken away, Ling Chen retracted his gaze, turned to Yang Qingling, and said with a smile, "Mom, I didn't expect your skills to be so good."

Back when they were abroad, Ling Chen had witnessed Yang Qingling's marksmanship, which was absolutely accurate and impressive. Besides marksmanship, Yang Qingling's combat skills were also commendable. Back then, to evade the Ling Family's pursuit, Yang Qingling had hired professionals for training, and her skills could rival those of a special forces soldier.

"Alright, stop flattering me. Son, be cautious when you're out there. After everything that's happened, I'm really worried about your safety," Yang Qingling said with concern.

"Mom, don't worry. I know how to take care of myself."

As they spoke, Ling Chen's pocket suddenly rang with an incoming call. Taking out his phone and seeing the caller ID, Ling Chen walked aside to answer it, asking, "Boss Tang, what's up?"

"Nonsense, if there was nothing, why would I call you? Hey, where are you now? If you have time, come back to the base quickly. I've made a significant discovery."

Ling Chen asked curiously, "What kind of significant discovery?"

"Why ask so many questions? You'll find out when you get here." With that, Tang Guolun directly hung up the call.

This guy... always mysterious, leaving me wondering what kind of significant discovery it is, Ling Chen mumbled. Nevertheless, Tang Guolun had piqued his curiosity, and unable to resist, Ling Chen greeted Nanrong Wanqing and Yang Qingling before driving off to the base.

Half an hour later, Ling Chen drove his Audi into the underground parking lot. Reaching the lowest level of the parking garage, he parked his car and headed straight to a corner storeroom. Opening the door, he saw a three-meter-wide and over two-meter-high passageway behind the storeroom. At the moment, more than a dozen staff members were busy installing a blast door.

Chapter 990 - 997: Secret Laboratory

Arriving at the control center of the base, Ling Chen looked at the busy Tang Guolun and asked, "Boss Tang, what significant discovery compelled me to make a trip to the base?"

Tang Guolun glanced at Hu Fei beside him, the two exchanged a smile, and couldn't help but say triumphantly, "Ling Chen, we've made a big discovery this time. Come, let me show you."

Following Tang Guolun and Hu Fei, the three of them walked straight to the second floor of the base. Walking in the spacious corridor, Ling Chen asked, "Why come all the way here?" The second floor of the base is mainly residential areas and a canteen, as well as some recreational facilities, with only one equipment room being more important.

"You'll know soon." As he spoke, Tang Guolun arrived in front of the equipment room and entered the password.

With the opening of the equipment room's blast door, Ling Chen and the others stepped inside. Once the door was closed, Tang Guolun and Hu Fei gestured for Ling Chen to follow them.

In no time, the three arrived at the east wall of the equipment room. Looking at several pieces of equipment hanging on the wall, Ling Chen asked puzzled, "Are these things special?"

Hu Fei smiled mysteriously and said, "Not this, but this." Saying that, Hu Fei reached out and grasped the protruding lampshade on the wall and gently turned it. Immediately, the lampshade moved aside, revealing an electronic password lock behind it. Besides the password lock, there was also a retinal scanner.

"This is..." Ling Chen was shocked, not expecting there to be a hidden door here.

"To crack this layer of password, I spent quite some time." Hu Fei said while entering the password. After scanning his retina, there was a 'click' sound, and the entire wall slowly moved aside, revealing a passage more than two meters wide. Simultaneously, the lights in the passage all lit up automatically.

"Let's go." Tang Guolun called, leading Ling Chen straight into the passage.

Soon after, the three passed through the passage and arrived at a decontamination room. After completing the disinfection procedure, the back door slowly opened.

Passing through the door, Ling Chen's view opened up. At this moment, he was in a massive underground laboratory. The laboratory housed a variety of instruments and advanced equipment, some of which Ling Chen had never seen before. Besides equipment, the lab also stored many vessels, each soaking different limbs, both human and animal, which looked particularly eerie.

In the corner of the laboratory, dozens of large crates were piled up. Judging by the markings on the crates, they should contain reagents. It was probably due to a rush that the crates were not organized properly, piled up messily.

"There's a lab here too. Wow!" Ling Chen exclaimed, "Those guys from the God Organization have hidden well. Hey, Fatty, how did you discover this place?"

Hu Fei said proudly, "Yesterday, when I was checking the equipment in the equipment room with Boss Tang, I accidentally found the password lock hidden in the lampshade. After I cracked the password, I found out there was a lab hidden here." After a pause, Hu Fei shifted the conversation, "Ling Chen, do you know what's the most crucial thing about this lab?"

"What is it?"

Hu Fei pointed to a machine in the center of the lab and said, "That's our biggest find this time."

"Really?" Ling Chen walked forward, half-believing, and examined the machine in front of him. In the center of the machine was an iron bed equipped with many wires and IV tubes. On both sides of the iron bed were computers connected to the mainframe below.

Looking at the dense wires around, Ling Chen asked curiously, "What does this machine do?"

"Its function is substantial," Hu Fei said with a smile, "Do you remember when Jiang Yunkai, Bai Huanjun, and Xia Mutong were captured? The God Organization conducted experiments on them. Later, we found out that a microchip was implanted in Xia Mutong's brain. The microchip transmitted signals, which

were converted into commands directly to Xia Mutong's brain. As a result, Xia Mutong completely lost autonomy and could only act according to the transmitted commands."

Hearing this, Ling Chen pointed at the machine before him and said, "You mean... this machine implanted the microchip into Xia Mutong's brain?"

"No, no." Hu Fei waved his hand, "You misunderstood my point. This machine is not the one used before. How to say, the previous machine used for experimenting on Xia Mutong was just a prototype, with some flaws, but this machine is different. It's an improved version, much better than the previous one, and with a lower failure rate."

"Fatty, you're not from the God Organization, how do you know so much?"

"All the information is stored in the computer of this machine, I've read it all." Hu Fei said, tapping Ling Chen's shoulder, "Hey, are you interested in conducting an experiment?"

"Experiment?" Ling Chen asked, "How do we do it? We don't even have a test subject right now. Besides, implanting a microchip into the brain isn't something just anyone can do. The brain is the most complex part of the human body, and any slight mistake could lead to the experimenter's death. Unless we find a professional neurosurgeon to help, it's best not to do it, lest we harm someone."

"True." Hu Fei scratched his head, "How about this, I'll find a few neurosurgeons first. We'll try to see if we can master the research of the God Organization."

"Fatty, what are you planning? This is no joke. Are you thinking of using this thing against the God Organization?"

"Of course! Think about it, if we use this thing to control Lin Guodong, wouldn't the God Organization be at our mercy?"

"The idea is nice, but I don't think this plan is very reliable." Ling Chen criticized unreservedly.

"You haven't even tried, how do you know it's not reliable?" Hu Fei argued, dissatisfied.

"Alright, alright," Tang Guolun chimed in, "Anyway, the item is in our hands, no harm in trying. Besides, it's using the God Organization people as test subjects, even if we fail, there's no real loss."

"Fine, do what you see fit, just don't go overboard." Ling Chen thought for a moment and agreed to Hu Fei's request. If the experiment really proves effective, it could indeed be a good tactic.

Back at the control center of the base, Ling Chen looked at Tang Guolun and asked, "Boss Tang, where's the porridge girl? I didn't see her around."

"She went out early today, said she had important business to attend to, and won't be back for a few days. Do you have any business with her?"

"Nothing much, just asking." Ling Chen rubbed his nose. The porridge girl, as always, liked to leave quietly without saying anything to him.