

Unparalleled 31

Chapter 31

Strange Occurrence at the Bodyguard Agency

A thought flashed through his mind. Staring at the small stool, Xu Bai thought of a way.

Of course, he would not use the small stool as a hidden weapon. He would be a fool to use such a big object as a hidden weapon.

Because of the stool, he recalled when he'd first started paying.

Reaching into his pocket, Xu Bai took out two copper coins and weighed them in his hand.

This thing was very suitable to be used as a hidden weapon.

The quality of the Great Chu copper coins was very good. If they could be used with the Rain of Maple Leaves, not only would its power increase, but its concealment would also increase greatly.

As a citizen of Sheng County, it was reasonable for him to carry a pile of copper coins with him.

"It works!" Xu Bai immediately made up his mind.

The only drawback was that he did not have enough copper coins.

However, it was not a big problem. He could exchange for some.

The bank could solve the problem, but if he exchanged too much coins, it would arouse suspicion.

"How can I exchange it perfectly without arousing suspicions?" Xu Bai fell into deep thought.

Just as he was thinking, a voice suddenly sounded.

“Brother... Brother Xu?”

“Hm?” Hearing the voice, Xu Bai turned around, his right hand resting on the Ghost Head Saber as he looked at the man beside him.

When Xu Bai’s gaze swept over and the hand on the Ghost Head Saber, the man who was in his twenties shivered.

“It’s me, Brother Xu. I’m Xiao Liu. We came back from the Raging Tiger Bandits together,” Liu Er raised his hand and said quickly.

Xu Bai looked him up and down. “The bodyguard agency’s business isn’t doing well, yet you still have the time to shop?”

Seeing that the other party was dressed in the clothes of the bodyguard agency, Xu Bai finally remembered his identity.

Wasn’t this one of the bodyguards who had returned from the Raging Tiger Bandits?

After returning from the Raging Tiger Bandits, other than him, the other bodyguards did not leave and remained at the bodyguard agency.

“Sigh, ever since that incident, not many people have come to use our escort service. Brother Xu, you know that the bodyguard agency has been in trouble and its reputation is gone. The Young Bodyguard Master has been looking for a buyer recently,” Liu Er sighed.

Xu Bai had been listening with amusement. When he heard that the bodyguard agency was going to sell its business, his eyes lit up.

The Old Bodyguard Master had followed them out of that escort mission, but he had died there. Now, the Young Bodyguard Master was indeed in charge of the bodyguard agency.

“He must be selling it at a high price,” Xu Bai asked.

In his memory, that bodyguard agency was quite big. If he bought it, it would cost a lot of money.

He wanted to buy it. After buying it, he could legitimately exchange it for copper coins.

Those who did business would prepare copper coins. Moreover, businesses like inns would prepare more copper coins.

He thought that it would be very expensive, but Liu Er shook his head.

“As long as you pay, Young Bodyguard Master will sell it for fifty taels of silver.”

“How much? Fifty taels?” Xu Bai stroked his chin and said, “He’s selling it at such a low price?”

The silver in Great Chu was ten taels per ingot. In other words, it only cost five silver ingots.

The purchasing power of each tael of silver was equivalent to five hundred yuan in his previous life. One tael of silver could be exchanged for a hundred copper coins.

It was equivalent to five yuan per copper coin.

Fifty taels of silver was only 25,000 yuan in his previous life.

House prices in Great Chu were not expensive.

However, the Fulong Bodyguard Agency occupied a large area and was on sale for 50 taels of silver. It was truly strange.

"It's quite cheap, but no one is buying it. Someone came to take a look. For some reason, they left on the same day." Liu Er smiled bitterly.

At the mention of this, apart from bitterness, Liu Er's expression was also a little unnatural.

He recalled the abnormality of the bodyguard agency in the past few days and could not help but shiver.

The Young Bodyguard Master's behavior was really strange. Many bodyguards had already thought of leaving. Even he could not withstand it anymore.

Every day he spent in the bodyguard agency was like a year. He lived in fear and anxiety, making him feel uneasy.

"There's something wrong with the Young Bodyguard Master too. Ever since not long ago, every night, when we were all asleep, the Young Bodyguard Master would get up alone and walk around the bodyguard agency."

"That night, I met the Young Bodyguard Master and even talked to him. He ignored me. A senior bodyguard said that he might have been possessed."

"The next day, when we went to ask the Young Bodyguard Master about his situation, he said that he was fine, but anyone with a discerning eye could tell."

At the mention of this, Liu Er could not help but tremble, his eyes filled with fear.

Their bodyguards were all unranked martial artists. To put it bluntly, they only knew how to do some farmer-style martial arts. Otherwise, they would not have been completely wiped out by the Raging Tiger Bandits.

When had they ever encountered such a situation?

Therefore, recently, everyone in the bodyguard agency had been in a state of panic.

“Let’s go and take a look,” Xu Bai said after some thought.

If he could get his hands on the bodyguard agency, he would have a plan for the hidden weapons.

As for the abnormality that Liu Er mentioned just now, how would he know if he didn’t go and take a look?

There should be some issues involved.

For example, if someone paid attention to the bodyguard agency and knew that he had plans over the place, they would definitely be suspicious.

However, he had his ways. When the matter was settled, he would have a way to dispel others suspicions.

“Brother Xu, do you mean that you want to take over the bodyguard agency?” Liu Er understood what Xu Bai meant, and his eyes lit up.

If that was the case, he really hoped that Xu Bai would buy the bodyguard agency.

Ever since they parted after the Raging Tiger Bandits, the bodyguards had received some money, but they were still willing to do their old job.

They couldn’t do anything else. They didn’t have any land at home. They also couldn’t do business.

After working as a bodyguard for the past few years, other than knowing how to go on escort missions, he did not know how to do anything else. He could not expect to use the money he received during the Raging Tiger Bandits to support him for the rest of his lives.

Moreover, their reputation was poor. The bodyguard agency had lost its business, but their salary couldn't be deducted. How could they bear to leave?

If not for the recent incident at the bodyguard agency, they would not have thought of leaving.

As for Xu Bai, Liu Er, and the other bodyguards, their opinions were very simple.

—Awe.

To this day, they still could not forget the scene at the Raging Tiger Bandits.

The figure that wielded a long saber and chopped down the entire Raging Tiger Bandits like cutting melons and vegetables.

He single-handedly cut down a mountain bandit stronghold.

Life was so fragile in his hands, like an egg that was easily broken.

They were in awe, but they also hoped that Xu Bai would stay in the bodyguard agency.

This was a very contradictory emotion.

Reverence, respect, and fear towards Xu Bai.

They had hoped that Xu Bai would stay in the bodyguard agency because it was a mentality for the weak to follow the strong.

"Brother Xu, if you take over the bodyguard agency, all the brothers will be willing to work for you," Liu Er said excitedly.

Xu Bai smiled and looked in the direction of the Fulong Bodyguard Agency. "Let's go take a look first."

"Alright, Brother Xu, this way please." Liu Er's listless look disappeared and he led the way excitedly.

The two of them walked through the streets and finally stopped in front of a house.

This house was different from the surroundings. It was majestic and there were two stone lions at the door.

When Liu Er led Xu Bai in, what greeted his eyes was a wide courtyard with various weapons racks.

Xu Bai's gaze did not linger on these things. He looked across the courtyard and saw a long bench in the courtyard. A young man was lying on the bench.

The young man looked at the sky. There were dark circles under his eyes.

Chapter 32

Will You Sell It For 20 Taels?

It had been five days. A whole five days.

Over the past five days, Lin Song had led a miserable life.

As the Young Bodyguard Master of the Fulong Bodyguard Agency, ever since his father's death, the agency had become his.

He was very filial. In just one day, he had finished the funeral.

Originally, someone had said that he should choose an auspicious day. His father's corpse had not been found, so he should at least make a cenotaph.

Lin Song thought about it and agreed. He casually took a few clothes and within a day, buried his father at the speed of light.

He looked so anxious that even the bodyguards of the bodyguard agency were filial to him.

After the funeral, he also quickly took over.

He had thought that he would be able to continue leading his life, but reality slapped him in the face.

The Bodyguard Agency's reputation had plummeted, and they had no business. Even the businessmen who usually interacted with them kept a respectful distance from them.

Seeing that his days were getting worse by the day, Lin Song was extremely worried and had aged a lot.

There is a saying that the hemp rope is specially picked and broken, and bad luck only found people who suffered. He was already miserable enough, but strange things kept happening.

Speaking of this strange thing, it originated from a tree in the backyard.

There was a tree in the Fulong Bodyguard Agency. Ever since his father bought this house and transformed it into the Bodyguard Agency, that tree had always existed.

At that time, he had wanted to cut down the tree, but his father had disagreed, so they kept the tree.

Until five days ago, something strange happened.

That night, he needed to pee and was prepared to go to the toilet.

But that night, he really needed to go and happened to see a tree. He couldn't hold it.

No man could resist a straight tree when he needed to pee.

Lin Song's head twitched. He ran to the tree and prepared to unbuckle his belt to do his business.

But before he could start, his head suddenly felt dizzy. He didn't know what happened next. The next thing he knew, he woke up from bed the next morning.

Then, the next night, he suddenly woke up in the middle of the night and wandered around the courtyard in a daze. When a bodyguard saw him, he even came to talk to him. He even answered.

On the third morning, he woke up in bed again.

There were still vague memories in his mind that made his hair stand on end.

He felt that he was possessed. Deeply possessed, in fact.

The reason was that tree.

Originally, he was wondering if he should cut down the tree.

However, when he thought of that evil feeling, Lin Song gave up on the idea.

Now, he only wanted to sell the bodyguard agency and wait for another buyer to bear his pain.

The grounds of the Fulong Bodyguard Agency were huge. After the news spread, a few wealthy businessmen came over wanting to buy it. However, when these wealthy businessmen entered the agency and saw the tree, they mysteriously left not long after.

Moreover, their movements and expressions were very strange. Their eyes were lifeless, as if they were sleepwalking.

On the fourth day, he went to find those people again. They all said that they had no intention of buying it.

From the beginning to the end, everything was strange.

For the past few days, Lin Song had not slept for a long time because of the tree.

Whenever he wanted to sleep, he would think of that tree.

“Why don’t I just run away?” Lin Song lay on the chair and looked at the sky with dull eyes.

He felt that he could not hold on any longer. He was only one last straw away from escaping.

He was even more afraid of cutting down the tree.

Who knew what would happen after he cut down the tree?

If something happened, he could not guarantee that he could handle it.

“No! I must find the person who will take over!” Lin Song sat up from the bench and gritted his teeth.

He could not stay in this place anymore. He would sell it at a cheap price and take the money to escape.

If something really happened one day, it would be too late to cry.

Thinking of this, Lin Song prepared to call a few bodyguards and let them go out to publicize.

At this moment, he saw Xu Bai entering.

At this moment, Xu Bai walked into the front yard under Liu Er's lead.

Liu Er kept nodding and bowing, almost kowtowing twice to Xu Bai.

Xu Bai also saw Lin Song lying on the bench and walked over.

"Young Bodyguard Master, how have you been?"

The simple sentence pulled Lin Song back from his daze.

Of course, Lin Song recognized Xu Bai.

The last time this group of bodyguards came back, only Xu Bai quit. This left a deep impression on Lin Song.

"It's Xu Bai," Lin Song replied, looking disinterested.

He only wanted to sell the bodyguard agency immediately and did not want to do anything else.

Seeing Lin Song's attitude, Liu Er hurried forward and said, "Young Bodyguard Master, Brother Xu wants to buy an escort agency."

He had witnessed Xu Bai's ruthlessness. He was afraid that if Lin Song was not careful and provoked Xu Bai, Lin Song's life would be in danger.

Xu Bai saw Liu Er's actions and could not help but shake his head.

Why did he feel like he was a monster?

He was a very kind person.

Why is Liu Er acting like he was a demon?

At this moment, a few bodyguards happened to pass by. When they saw Xu Bai, they hesitated for a moment before hurriedly coming up to greet him.

When they greeted him, they were very cautious, as if they were afraid that they would do something wrong and make Xu Bai unhappy.

Lin Song was stunned when he saw this.

Why did it feel like... Xu Bai was the Bodyguard Master?

Of course, this thought only appeared for a moment before it was quickly thrown to the back of his mind.

"Come, come, come, come." Lin Song reacted quickly. He jumped up from the bench and said quickly.

Putting everything else aside, after hearing that Xu Bai wanted to buy the bodyguard agency, Lin Song immediately stood up.

As long as Xu Bai took over, he would be free.

“Xu Bai, oh no, Brother Xu, let me introduce you to the characteristics of our bodyguard agency,” Lin Song said eagerly.

“Young Bodyguard Master, I was once a member of the bodyguard agency. There’s no need to say anything else. I’m also a straightforward person. I’ll give you a fixed price of 20 taels.” Xu Bai raised two fingers.

“Alright, alright, alright. Eh? No, Brother Xu, I’m selling it for 50 taels.” Lin Song reacted and hurriedly waved his hand.

Xu Bai pursed his lips disapprovingly.

When they came, Liu Er had already explained the situation clearly.

Liu Er was not sure about the others, but the buyers left inexplicably as soon as they reached the backyard.

At this point, could this thing be sold?

Not to mention 50 taels, it was difficult enough to find anyone who wanted to buy this place.

Xu Bai wanted to use the shop, but he wasn’t stupid.

Money could not be spent recklessly.

If he agreed directly and did not bargain, it would actually seem abnormal.

“Brother Xu, your price is too low. It’s impossible to buy a bodyguard agency with 20 taels of silver. You can’t even buy a normal shop with that amount of money,” Lin Song said as he promoted his escort agency.

“But... you can’t sell it either.” Xu Bai stroked his chin.

Lin Song choked.

He turned to Liu Er and saw his innocent look. He was furious.

Initially, he wanted to find a sucker, but he didn’t expect his plan to backfire.

“Alright! I’ll sell it!” Lin Song said through gritted teeth.

He had no choice but to sell it. He really could not take it anymore.

“Wait, Young Bodyguard Master, I want to take a look at the backyard,” Xu Bai said with a smile.

Chapter 33

Take Over! Must Take Over!

As soon as he said this, Lin Song’s expression stiffened, as if he had eaten a fly.

The backyard again!

He still remembered that the few buyers had entered the backyard and left for no reason. They had even forgotten about buying the bodyguard agency.

What was even more ridiculous was that they no longer had the intention to buy it.

“It’s already so cheap. You can’t find such a good house anywhere with 20 taels of silver. Even buying a piece of land is considered cheap. Brother Xu...” Lin Song wanted to persuade Xu Bai to give up on his idea.

However, he was interrupted halfway by Xu Bai.

"I have to understand the backyard of the bodyguard agency," Xu Bai said concisely.

When Lin Song heard this, he became dejected. His hands hung by his sides, and his mental state became worse.

"Okay, I'll show you."

In his opinion, he still could not do this business.

"Brother Xu, I won't be joining, then." Liu Er was a little timid and didn't dare to follow.

Xu Bai waved his hand.

It didn't matter if the others went or not. He wanted to see what was going on in the backyard.

If it was dangerous, he would just slip away.

Although buying an escort agency for 20 taels of silver was a good deal, it was not worth the risk.

Under Lin Song's lead, the two of them passed through a road and arrived at the backyard.

The backyard was extremely wide, with only a few houses.

The bodyguards were all locals, and no one lived in these houses.

Many bodyguards did not even come to the backyard. After all, they had no business here. For example, Xu Bai, who had been at the bodyguard agency previously, had never come.

The houses and backyard looked ordinary. The tree in the middle was the most eye-catching.

When Xu Bai looked over, he felt his head grow heavy.

Immediately after, the Genuine Inner Force in his body began to circulate, and the dizziness disappeared.

Next, Xu Bai knew that he had to buy this bodyguard agency.

A golden progress bar floated quietly on the lonely tree.

When the woman knotted the rope with her tongue, the man knew he had to marry this woman.

At this moment, Xu Bai also knew that he had to buy the bodyguard agency.

It was none other than for this golden progress bar.

This trip was worth it.

Xu Bai thought for a moment and walked over.

Lin Song followed behind with an excited expression.

For the first time, there was no abnormality.

He could sell it this time!

“Brother Xu, what are you doing?” Lin Song was so excited that he did not notice Xu Bai walking to the tree.

"I'm just looking." Xu Bai looked straight at the tree trunk.

There were fuzzy patterns on the tree trunk. It looked no different from an ordinary tree.

"That's strange. Why did it trigger the progress bar?" Xu Bai thought to himself.

"Brother Xu! Let's quickly sign the contract!" Lin Song walked forward and said excitedly.

It wasn't easy for him to meet someone who wasn't turned away the moment they saw the backyard. He couldn't let the person escape.

20 taels it was. When the time came, he could leave Sheng County and do some small business.

After this whole strange matter, he didn't want to stay here any longer.

"Has this tree always been here?" Xu Bai asked.

"Ever since my father bought this piece of land, it has been here. I heard that a woman planted it here back then. It was also that woman who sold it to my father." Lin Song thought for a moment and told him what had happened.

A woman?

Planted the tree?

Xu Bai raised his head and looked at the lush branches.

This was a locust tree.

There was something good about planting locust trees at home.

Locust trees are yin and can nourish the soul.

Yin and Yang were always balanced. If Yin was flourishing, Yang would decline. If Yang was flourishing, Yin would decline. If he wanted to plant a locust tree, unless the Yang Qi of his family's Yang residence could exceed the Yin Qi of the locust tree, it would produce a strange effect.

"Oh right, I remember now." Lin Song patted his head and said, "This woman was originally a courtesan from another county. Later, for some reason, she came to Sheng County. At that time, when she was selling the house, she paid and signed a contract. The woman asked my father to come back in a month. In the end, when he came, there was no one."

"You've already paid, and you were still asked to wait for a month?" Xu Bai frowned. "How can there be such a thing?"

"Who asked her to be so cheap..." Lin Song scratched his head.

In this world, there were two things that could not be rejected.

—Freeloading and discounts.

Especially when it came to big discounts.

"Alright, let's sign the contract," Xu Bai said.

He didn't ask any more questions because he wouldn't get anything out of him.

Lin Song finally heaved a sigh of relief and quickly brought over the contract. The two of them signed the contract and went through the proper process before everything was settled.

During this time, Xu Bai asked Lin Song where he was going, and Lin Song said that he wanted to leave Sheng County immediately.

After signing the contract, Lin Song left.

When Xu Bai returned home, he moved the things from his old house over.

Of course, he was not the only one doing the moving. The bodyguards were also helping.

This group of bodyguards and Liu Er had the same thought. With Xu Bai here, they had the mentality of following the strong.

Xu Bai did not dismiss them.

He had taken over the bodyguard agency only to exchange for copper coins.

But now, there was another target. The tree in the backyard.

As for the rest, he did not want to care about them for the time being.

Running a bodyguard agency?

He wasn't interested in doing that.

But the bodyguards could not be dismissed.

Now that he had the bodyguard agency as cover, he could not be bothered to find anything else.

As for the matter of the bodyguards' salary, although he still had a lot of silver left, he could not waste it casually.

What's more, he had to find a way to dispel the doubts of those with ulterior motives, such as why a former bodyguard could fork out so much money to buy the bodyguard agency.

These were all problems.

Next, it was time to solve these problems.

"Brother Xu, everything has been moved. Is there anything else we need to do?" Liu Er wiped the sweat off his forehead and asked.

Xu Bai smiled. "Call all the brothers over. I have something to say."

"Alright." Liu Er did not suspect anything and left quickly.

After a while, all the bodyguards of the bodyguard agency gathered together and looked at Xu Bai eagerly.

They didn't dare to speak. They just watched.

Xu Bai carried the small stool he bought from the stall and sat at the entrance of the largest house.

It had to be said that this handmade stool was very comfortable to sit in.

"Everyone, the share of money you got from the Raging Tiger Bandits hasn't been used yet, right?" Xu Bai sat on the small stool with his hands on his knees, looking very lazy.

The bodyguards stiffened. They looked at each other and shook their heads in unison.

Not only was it still unused, but it was also hidden by them.

It was not that they did not want to use it, but they did not dare to.

They were afraid that they would arouse suspicion if they used this extra sum of money.

It was fine for one person to use it, but it was ridiculous for a group of people to use it.

After all, what they did could not be spread.

As a bodyguard, they had split the escorted goods among themselves. If others were to know, it would definitely not be good.

People who broke the rules were not welcome anywhere.

Hence, they did not dare to touch that sum of money.

“Brothers, your family backgrounds are average. It’s not a good thing that you can’t use your money. That’s why I specially bought this bodyguard agency and give you a good idea,” Xu Bai said with a smile.

The bodyguards shuddered in unison.

This smile was exactly the same as when the one he’d shown in the Raging Tiger Bandits.

In front of the Raging Tiger Bandits, Xu Bai smiled. They had all boarded the ship, but they were still unable to return.

Now, Xu Bai was smiling again. They felt their hair stand on end, and some of their faces turned pale.

“I can see from everyone’s expressions that you’re all very happy. In that case, I’ll be straightforward.” Xu Bai, who had once again redefined happiness, pointed at the house behind him and said slowly.

Chapter 34

Bodyguards: We're On The Same Boat Again

As Xu Bai pointed at the door behind him, all the bodyguards present cast their gazes behind Xu Bai.

To be honest, they also wanted to use that money. After all, everyone's family background was not good, and this money could indeed improve their lives.

If not for the fact that the money came from an illegal source, they would have used it long ago.

Of course, if they were like Xu Bai, it was not a big deal to use it alone, but it would be a different story if everyone were to use it.

Now that they heard Xu Bai say that it could be used reasonably, everyone pricked up their ears and listened to what Xu Bai said next.

"I spent twenty taels to buy this bodyguard agency, but how much does everyone earn every month? Can anyone answer me?" Xu Bai retracted his hand and rested his elbows on his knees again as he said leisurely.

"If there's no escort mission, it will only be one tael of silver a month." Liu Er was the first to stand up and raise his hand like a child answering a teacher's question.

Since someone had answered, the other bodyguards fell silent.

One tael of silver was equivalent to five hundred yuan in Xu Bai's previous life.

Not only were houses cheap in Great Chu, but prices of things were also cheap.

Other than some special items, such as books, people did not spend much on other living expenses.

The purchasing power of one tael of silver had already far exceeded that of Xu Bai's previous life.

But was it enough?

It should be enough.

But when they thought about how they couldn't spend the rest of their money, it wasn't enough.

Humans were greedy. They looked at the pot while eating. However, now that the food in the pot could not be eaten, it was extremely torturous.

It was like shopping in a brothel. The beauty had already taken off her clothes, but she said that she only sold her skills and not her body.

How uncomfortable would that be?

"If you want to use your silver without worry, you have to go through a process to make the silver look like it is obtained reasonably." After receiving an answer, Xu Bai continued, "As for how to make it reasonable, it's too simple."

At this moment, all the bodyguards' interest had been piqued as they stared eagerly.

"I bought the Bodyguard Agency and will give everyone a salary, but it's only one tael of silver a month. How long will it take for me to clean all your silver? What if everyone bought this Bodyguard Agency together?" Xu Bai finally revealed his method.

The scene was silent. The bodyguards looked at each other.

They still did not react.

Why was it that the silver could be used reasonably after buying the agency together?

“If everyone bought the agency together, we will all be the bosses of the bodyguard agency. We’ll set our salary by ourselves. The money will naturally come through the bodyguard agency,” Xu Bai said.

At this point, everyone finally understood.

They looked thoughtful as they considered the feasibility.

Xu Bai looked at Liu Er and gave him a look.

Liu Er was also thinking, but when he felt Xu Bai’s gaze, his expression froze.

This meant that he had to take the lead.

But he was also thinking about the feasibility. How could he take the lead?

Under that gaze, he felt like he was sitting on pins and needles.

Especially when he thought of the Raging Tiger Bandits, he could only grit his teeth and raise his hand.

“I agree!”

The other bodyguards all looked over.

“If the money can be used reasonably afterwards, of course I’m willing,” Liu Er braced himself and added.

The bodyguards were still hesitant. After all, this was not a small matter.

Xu Bai felt that it was time to add fuel to the fire.

“I definitely want to work together with you to manage a bodyguard agency. No matter how many of you are willing – even if it’s only one of you – I still want to do it,” Xu Bai said calmly. “But after I do it, it will be impossible for other people to join again later. Don’t be jealous when you see others using money.”

As soon as he said this, the bodyguards finally couldn’t hold it in anymore.

As the saying went, watching others earn money was worse than losing money.

After hearing these words, they thought about how others would use money in the future, but they could not use it. As such, they subconsciously raised their hands.

All of them agreed and not a single one disagreed.

Xu Bai nodded his head in satisfaction. “Very good. This matter has been settled. Now, I have one last request. I’ll tell everyone.”

The bodyguards nodded in unison and waited quietly for Xu Bai’s words.

“Now that we’re partners, we’re all in the same boat. Everyone has to guard this matter strictly. If anyone dares to say anything, everyone present will drag him down. Don’t even dare to only think about yourselves.” Xu Bai’s tone became cold.

The bodyguards shivered as a cold wind blew through them.

They felt Xu Bai’s cold gaze and recalled the scene of the Raging Tiger Bandits. All of them revealed fearful expressions.

They were on the boat again.

Not only did they board the boat, but they also drove the boat further.

They had to keep it a secret. They must not say anything.

Once this matter was leaked, everyone would be doomed.

The bodyguards kept quiet out of fear, not daring to say a word.

However, they knew in their hearts that there was no turning back.

“Alright, I see that everyone has understood. Let’s disperse, then. The bodyguard agency should continue with its previous business. Everyone should do what they need to do.” Xu Bai stood up, put away the small stool, and held it in his hand.

The bodyguards heaved a sigh of relief and left.

Only Liu Er was stopped by Xu Bai.

“Brother... Brother Xu, what’s the matter?” Liu Er asked timidly.

“Exchange 1,000 copper coins for me. The bodyguard agency needs some loose changes. Also, since we’re partners, let them bring the money over.” Xu Bai threw a silver ingot over.

Liu Er quickly took it and agreed.

He did not have any thoughts about it. In the past, when the Old Bodyguard Master was around, he often went to the bank to exchange for copper coins.

Without waiting for Xu Bai to say anything, he quickly left.

After Liu Er left, Xu Bai carried the stool and returned to the backyard.

The locust tree was still the same. The progress bar was very slow.

There were no saber marks on this tree, unlike on the wall in the Raging Tiger Bandits. Xu Bai also did not know where the progress bar came from.

However, the most important thing now was not the progress bar on the tree, but the nameless saber scripture.

After such a long time, the progress bar on the nameless saber scripture was almost full.

According to the information he got from Yun Xiang, this saber scripture was divided into 24 parts. As long as an ordinary martial artist comprehended one of them, his saber technique would improve greatly.

Xu Bai was already a Grade Eight Wanderer. What he lacked now was a saber technique.

He had been using the Bone Breaking Saber Technique for a long time, but it was still lacking. After all, it was only Rank 1, and it was even slightly inferior to Rank 1.

In the previous battle, it was the Rain of Maple Leaves that played a decisive role.

However, that was in long-range combat. A saber technique was still needed in close-range combat.

Even as he worked on a progress bar, he had to prioritize specific needs. What he needed now was close-range combat skills.

"If I work harder tonight, I should be able to finish completing the progress bar." After Xu Bai figured it out, he returned to the largest house in the backyard.

This room was his bedroom. Although the furniture inside was old, it was not damaged.

Xu Bai put on his things, sat on the chair, and took out the Nameless Saber Scripture.

“Let’s go!”

The progress bar began to slowly increase. It was getting closer and closer to completion.

Chapter 35

Breaking a Move

After that, Xu Bai spent the entire day working on the progress bar in his room.

Liu Er worked very fast. He had already exchanged the copper coins and brought the money from the bodyguards by the afternoon.

After solving the problem of the Rain of Maple Leaves, Xu Bai felt much more relaxed.

Although the bodyguards were curious as to why Xu Bai stayed in his room all day, no one dared to ask.

Time passed until night fell. Xu Bai lit the oil lamp on the table.

He stared at the Nameless Saber Scripture intently. He was only missing the last bit of the progress bar.

The flames of the oil lamp flickered, and the shadows kept flickering.

The next moment, the last of the progress bar was finally filled. Light blue words appeared in front of him.

[You have studied the Nameless Saber Scripture and comprehended the 24-styles of Armor Piercing (Incomplete).]

“24-styles of Armor Piercing? It is incomplete?”

Xu Bai stroked his chin and stared at the light blue words in front of him, recalling what Yun Xiang had said.

It seemed that this Saber Scripture was really divided into 24 parts. Yun Xiang was not lying about this.

At this moment, the light blue words gradually disappeared, and new words appeared.

[Fusion option detected. Fusion in progress.]

[24-styles of Armor Piercing (Incomplete) + Bone Breaking Saber Technique = Breaking Style.]

[Fusion successful!]

The words in front of him disappeared again, and Xu Bai's stats appeared.

[Name: Xu Bai.]

[Realm: Grade Eight Wanderer.]

[Breaking Style (Rank 2): Maximum level.]

[Four Directions Slaughter Mental Cultivation Technique (Rank 2): Maximum level.]

[Kidney Massage Technique (Rank 1): Maximum level.]

[Rain of Maple Leaves (Rank 2): Maximum level.]

[Four Xun Body Technique (Rank 1): Maximum level.]

[Four Xun Array Formation (Rank 1): Maximum level.]

[Comprehension: Maximum level.]

...

A huge amount of information invaded. Xu Bai digested the information for a moment before opening his eyes.

As the name suggested, the Breaking Style only had one move, but this move had 24 variations.

He guessed that it should be related to the 24-styles of Armor Piercing.

After experiencing so much, he was now a Grade Eight Wanderer, so he still had some insight.

According to the 24 variations of each move, there should be 576 variations of the 24-styles of Armor Piercing.

"It's a pity that it's incomplete," Xu Bai thought to himself as he placed his hand on the handle of the Ghost Head Saber.

With just one move, there were 24 variations. If he could collect all of them, his power would definitely increase exponentially.

Of course, this did not mean that he was dissatisfied. On the contrary, he was very satisfied because this was no longer the 24-styles of Armor Piercing.

In the past, the Bone Breaking Saber Technique emphasized stability, accuracy, and ruthlessness. But now, after fusing with the 24-styles of Armor Piercing, the new Breaking Style not only had the characteristics of the Bone Breaking Saber Technique, but also the characteristics of the 24-styles of Armor Piercing.

Armor Piercing was just like how it was written.

Using his Genuine Inner Force as a catalyst, he could transform it into a fierce Saber Qi that could penetrate through armor.

Xu Bai felt that if he met that blacksmith again, he would be able to kill him with just his saber technique.

“How strong...”

Xu Bai unbuttoned his shirt and looked at the soft golden armor he had obtained from the Raging Tiger Bandits. He had an urge to give it a try.

Using the spear to attack the shield.

However, it was just a thought. He was not crazy to this extent.

Xu Bai was extremely excited to obtain a new skill, and it was even so powerful.

Although he was excited, he did not forget to get rid of the traces.

He took out a brazier from his room and threw the Nameless Saber Scripture into it. Xu Bai stomped his foot lightly.

The Four Xun Formation activated, and flames rose.

A moment later, the Nameless Saber Scripture turned to ashes in the fire.

“Hmm... Now, there’s only the tree outside.” After the saber scripture turned to dust, Xu Bai put the brazier back and approached the door. He looked at the lonely locust tree in the backyard.

It was already late at night. The moonlight shone down from the clouds and it covered the backyard with a layer of silver dust.

The leaves of the locust tree flickered under the moonlight, as if they were covered in a thin layer of frost.

In the dead of night, only Xu Bai and the locust tree were in the backyard.

The progress bar increased very slowly. Xu Bai stood in the room and looked at it for a while before preparing to return to his room.

He still followed the same pattern as before. He could not stay up late at night to prevent being in a bad condition the next day.

He had to maintain the most perfect mental state at all times. After experiencing so much, he did not want to make any mistakes on small matters.

The tree was right there. It would still be there tomorrow. It was not as if someone would come to cut down his tree?

Whoever dared to touch his tree, he would definitely skin that person alive.

“Sleep.”

Xu Bai stretched and prepared to close the door.

At this moment, a cold wind suddenly blew past. When the leaves of the locust tree were blown by the cold wind, they made rustling sounds.

The backyard was quiet to begin with. After the sound appeared, Xu Bai immediately turned his head and his eyes widened. At the same time, he placed his hand on the Ghost Head Saber.

Just a moment ago, he suddenly felt dizzy, and the Genuine Inner Force in his body started circulating again.

During the day, such a thing had happened as soon as he stepped into the backyard.

Now that it was night time, the drowsiness from before was even stronger. Fortunately, his Genuine Inner Force could withstand it and there were no negative consequences.

“This tree is very strange.” Xu Bai looked straight at the locust tree and thought to himself.

With his Genuine Inner Force, this kind of dizziness did not affect him.

“Let’s wait until I complete the progress bar.” Xu Bai returned to the house and closed the door.

He wouldn’t do anything to this tree now.

The progress bar was very rare, at least for now.

It wasn’t easy to catch one, so he had to comprehend it thoroughly.

When the progress bar was completed, he would solve the problem of the locust tree.

Thinking of this, Xu Bai returned to his bed.

...

Liu Family, Liu Xu's room.

Liu Xu sat on a high-quality yellow rosewood stool with her legs slightly bent.

Because of the stool, even though she was wearing white, it still squeezed out a rough outline of her figure.

Beside her was a yellow rosewood table with an incense burner on it. Faint green smoke was rising from it.

At this moment, Liu Xu had taken off her veil, revealing her beautiful face.

Her shoulders were tapered, her waist was thin and beautiful, and her neck was long. The fair skin was exposed and her hair was piled in a high bun.

She knew very well that if she did not wear a veil, she would attract a lot of attention. She did not like it.

She would only take it off when she was alone in the room.

There was an iron bead in her fair hand.

Ever since the blacksmith shop had become empty, she had continued using Paper Crane Searching Technique. Finally, she found traces of two charred corpses and iron beads in a desolate suburb in Sheng County.

In fact, the facial features of the charred corpses could no longer be seen clearly, but one of them was wearing iron armor, so it was easy to guess his identity.

——The Underworld Blacksmith couple was already dead.

The iron beads were found in another place. Combined with what the government office had said, it further confirmed Liu Xu's guess.

There was a third person who attacked, and that person was an extremely brilliant martial artist.

Not only was this person proficient in saber techniques, but he also knew a brilliant hidden weapon technique.

The people from Jisheng Cult, the official from Heaven Surveillance Bureau, as well as the Underworld Blacksmith couple were all killed by this person.

Most importantly, Liu Xu's lead once again stopped here.

The Paper Crane Searching Technique was no longer effective. Liu Xu knew the reason.

At first, she had used the Underworld Blacksmith as a guide. Now that she had changed her method, she could no longer find any traces. This meant that the other party was stronger than her.

"The government office said that after a while, the Heaven Surveillance Bureau will send people. We'll talk about it when they arrive," Liu Xu thought to herself.

Chapter 36

Ligature Mark

When the people from the Heaven Surveillance Bureau arrived, let's see how they would deal with it.

Based on Liu Xu's thoughts, this person might be in trouble.

Killing the Jisheng Cult and the Underworld Blacksmith couple was a righteous act.

At least, that was what Liu Xu thought.

The Jisheng Cult and the Underworld Blacksmith couple had done countless bloody deeds and had a lot of blood debts.

If this expert killed them, Liu Xu would quickly applaud. However, the story was different since an official from the Heaven Surveillance Bureau had also died.

Judging from the Heaven Surveillance Bureau's personality, they would probably investigate this matter to the end.

"I don't know why he killed the official..." Liu Xu rubbed her forehead. After thinking so much, her head felt slightly swollen.

After thinking for a while, Liu Xu decided to put this matter aside for the time being. There were only a few days left until the people from the Heaven Surveillance Bureau arrived.

It was already late at night.

Liu Xu blew out the oil lamp, lay on the bed, and gradually fell asleep.

...

The next day.

Xu Bai woke up early. After washing up, he went to the front yard.

In the courtyard, there were already bodyguards practicing their moves.

In their line of work, although they only knew some farmer-style martial arts, they still had to practice every day.

Some skills would become rusty if one did not practice them, and that could prove fatal at critical moments.

Seeing Xu Bai walk out, the bodyguards hurriedly greeted him.

Xu Bai nodded and instructed them to continue practicing. He then went out to eat alone.

The streets were bustling, with an endless stream of people, a mixture of city spirit and noise, and it was particularly lively.

In front of the stall, Xiao Yue was busy.

"It's finally opened after so long."

Xu Bai walked over. Just as he sat down, he saw Xiao Yue running over.

"Big brother, are you having the usual?" Xiao Yue lowered her head. She looked like she was not in a good mood.

Xu Bai wanted to rub her head as usual, but when he saw Xiao Yue's expression, he frowned.

"Something happened at home?"

Ever since he came here to eat, Xu Bai had gradually become addicted.

Xiao Yue was very innocent. After all, she was a six or seven-year-old girl. Moreover, she was in the Great Yue Country which was similar to ancient times. Most of the time, she maintained the characteristics of a young girl.

Lively, but timid.

When she met someone she knew, she would be as naïve as a chattering swallow. When she met a stranger, she would become like a quail.

Humans liked beautiful things, and so did Xu Bai.

Ever since he came to this world, his hands had been stained with too much blood.

Even though he knew that these people deserved to die because they provoked him.

However, Xiao Yue's innocence made Xu Bai feel much better.

Hence, when he saw Xiao Yue dejected today, he casually asked.

"It's alright, big brother, wait for a while, I'll go get some food for you." Xiao Yue said with her head still lowered, then turned around and left.

Normally, she would raise her head and show an expression like she was asking for a head pat.

Xu Bai rubbed his chin as he stared at Xiao Yue's back.

In this situation, something must have happened.

And it was not a small matter.

With the little girl's personality, she would forget small things after a while. It was very abnormal now.

The more Xu Bai thought about it, the more he felt that something was wrong. Before he could think about it, a gust of wind blew past him.

Following the direction of the wind, the woman in white passed by him.

It had been a long time since he had seen the woman in white. Xu Bai was slightly surprised to see her this time.

“Xiao Yue, give me two buns. Pack them up,” Liu Xu said as she stood in front of the stall.

In this stall, other than Xiao Yue, there were also Xiao Yue’s parents.

A middle-aged couple with ordinary looks was busy at the stall. Xiao Yue was in charge of running errands.

“Okay, Sister Liu.” Xiao Yue was still not in a good mood.

At this moment, Liu Xu could tell that something was wrong.

“What’s wrong, Xiao Yue?”

“Nothing, Sister Liu. Maybe I caught a cold recently.” Xiao Yue forced a smile.

Children could not lie.

Liu Xu took the buns and pulled Xiao Yue aside, whispering to each other.

On the other side, the middle-aged couple knew Liu Xu’s identity and stayed silent. The middle-aged woman served the dishes.

“Sir, please enjoy.”

The buns were quickly served to Xu Bai. He took a bite and tried his best to prick up his ears to eavesdrop.

Unfortunately, the street was too noisy to hear clearly.

After a while, Liu Xu left and Xiao Yue got busy again.

Xu Bai thought about it. After eating the bun, he called Xiao Yue over to settle the bill.

Xiao Yue quickly ran up to him, her head still lowered.

Xu Bai placed the money in Xiao Yue's palm and asked, "Xiao Yue, tell me, what happened?"

"It's alright..." Xiao Yue forced a smile.

For some reason, two streams of tears flowed from the corners of her eyes.

She couldn't control herself. She felt terrible.

"Xiao Yue... Xiao Yue is going to die."

Xu Bai's gaze froze. He frowned and said, "What nonsense are you talking about!"

"It's true, big brother. A few days ago, Xiao Yue dreamt of grandma. Grandma said that she wanted to bring Xiao Yue to her place. After that, I am listless every day. The elderly said that if one dreamed of an invitation from a deceased family member, they would die..." Xiao Yue cried as she spoke, wiping her tears with her hands.

At this moment, Xu Bai noticed something unusual.

There was a mark of strangulation on Xiao Yue's neck.

It was not very obvious. If one did not look carefully, one would not be able to tell.

"Big brother, Xiao Yue needs to go out for a while, so I won't talk to you anymore." Xiao Yue lowered her head and mumbled.

Xu Bai did not ask any more questions. His gaze did not leave Xiao Yue's neck.

Looking at Xiao Yue, it seemed like he did not intend to say anything.

There was no point in asking further.

Xiao Yue returned to the stall and said something to the middle-aged woman.

In front of the stall, the middle-aged couple nodded at Xiao Yue, as if agreeing to her request.

Then, Xiao Yue left.

Xu Bai thought for a moment and stood up. He held the handle of the Ghost Head Saber and followed behind Xiao Yue.

The streets were lively, but Xiao Yue walked very slowly, as if she had lost her soul.

After walking through several streets, Xiao Yue walked into a remote alley.

Standing in the alley, Xiao Yue suddenly stopped.

Xu Bai followed behind. When he saw this scene, he frowned slightly.

Beside Xiao Yue, the woman in white suddenly appeared and touched Xiao Yue's head.

"Sister Liu, can my illness really be cured?" Xiao Yue looked up.

"It can be cured." Liu Xu squatted down and touched the mark on Xiao Yue's neck. "Trust me."

Because her back was facing Xu Bai, when Liu Xu squatted down, her white clothes were pushed up.

Just the sight of her squatting down was enough to make one's heart race.

Xiao Yue lowered her head again. She was in a bad mood and kept wiping her tears.

"Let's go. Don't do anything stupid. Bring me to your house. I can help you." Liu Xu stood up, held Xiao Yue's hand, and left along the alley.

Xu Bai stood where he was, deep in thought.

He placed his hand on the handle of the Ghost Head Saber and did not let go for a moment.

Hearing their conversation, he already had his speculations.

Xiao Yue seemed to be sick, but the ligature mark on her neck was very strange.

It was as if someone had wrapped it with a rope.

What did this woman mean when she said not to do anything stupid?

"Let's wait and see."

Xu Bai stepped out of the alley and continued to follow quietly.

Chapter 37

Death

In front, Liu Xu brought Xiao Yue along this remote alley until they reached the end. After finding a simple house, the two of them entered.

Most of the houses in this alley were simple and crude. Most of the people living here were poor.

Liu Xu and Xiao Yue entered the house and came out after a while.

From Xu Bai's point of view, Xiao Yue's expression was much more relaxed.

"It's alright, Xiao Yue. I've already cured your illness," Liu Xu said with a smile.

The innocent smile returned to Xiao Yue's face as she nodded vigorously, "Thank you, Sister Liu."

"It's fine. I'll bring you back." Liu Xu kept smiling.

"Mm." Xiao Yue nodded obediently.

The two of them chatted for a while more before leaving the street.

Xu Bai didn't leave with them. He stared at the simple house, deep in thought.

After going in and coming out once, the problem was resolved?

There was something strange about this, especially in this house.

He thought about it and waited until he was sure the street was empty before approaching the house.

There was a lock on the door. It was a common padlock. With his hand on the door, he could push the door open a crack.

Xu Bai did not use his hands. Instead, he pulled out the Ghost Head Saber and used the hilt to push the door.

After the door was pushed open, sunlight shone into the house through the crack.

The furnishings inside were simple, but they were quite complete.

When Xu Bai saw what was inside, his eyes widened.

In the dim sunlight, a few shadows swayed. As the sunlight shone, these shadows appeared and disappeared.

There were three people hanging from the beam.

——The middle-aged couple and Xiao Yue.

The three of them hung from the rafters, ropes around their necks, hands dangling.

The three pairs of eyes widened, and their tongues came out of their mouths. They were no longer alive.

There were large patches of livor mortis on their skin, proving that they had been dead for a long time.

“They’re dead?” Xu Bai was stunned. He thought of Xiao Yue, whom he had met earlier.

But why was he still able to see her?

Had she turned into a strange creature?

Wasn't it said that they were strange and irrational and only knew how to kill crazily? But why were they still setting up stalls on the streets like living people?

Xu Bai couldn't understand. After all, he hadn't been in this industry for long.

Although his hands were already stained with the blood of so many people in this short period of time, he was actually still a newbie and did not know many theoretical things.

Therefore, when he saw this scene now, he could not understand the reason.

But one thing was certain... Xiao Yue and her parents were dead.

Xu Bai looked at her protruding eyes and thought of Xiao Yue's usual obedient appearance. He gripped the Ghost Head Saber tightly.

How did he feel?

He couldn't explain it clearly.

Usually, Xiao Yue was naive and innocent. She was curious about everything around her.

The current Xiao Yue was completely different. Her livor mortis-covered face was terrifying.

Anyone who saw this would sense a huge difference.

She was only a seven or eight-year-old girl, but she had already reached the end of her life.

Xu Bai thought that he was a ruthless person, but when he saw this scene, he still felt uncomfortable.

After coming to this world, from the Raging Tiger Bandits all the way to Sheng County, he had experienced many battles. Every time, he killed his enemies, and his hands were stained with a lot of blood.

Only in front of the stall, eating the buns and porridge, did he feel happy.

In the darkness, one yearned for the light even more.

“Who is it?” Xu Bai took a deep breath.

The family of three committed suicide for no reason. This was very strange.

Everyone wanted to live. If nothing happened, who would commit suicide?

Xu Bai pondered as he stood on the spot.

At this moment, the sound of footsteps interrupted Xu Bai’s train of thought.

Xu Bai looked at a nearby house. The door was tightly shut.

Genuine Inner Force circulated in his body as he leaped high into the air and landed on the roof, using it to hide his figure.

A large group of people rushed in from the alley, wearing the uniform of the government office.

The leader was the county magistrate and Liu Xu. Xiao Yue, who had been led out by Liu Xu, had disappeared.

“Miss Liu, is this the house?” Magistrate Zhang asked.

Liu Xu nodded.

The bailiff rushed in and opened the door. Then, he carried out three corpses with a stretcher covered with a white cloth.

Soon, the bailiffs carried the corpse away, leaving only Liu Xu and Magistrate Zhang in the alley.

“County Magistrate, I hope that this matter will be carried out impartially,” Liu Xu said.

“Of course. I will use the best method,” Magistrate Zhang replied casually.

“The best method?” Liu Xu frowned. Even with the white veil, it was obvious that she was unhappy.

“Most of the people in the academy have to take the imperial examination. After you take the imperial examination, you will understand everything,” Magistrate Zhang added.

In the Great Chu, even women could obtain scholarly honors.

The meaning of the Emperor of the Great Chu Country was that regardless of gender, only merits mattered.

Most of the people who studied in the Academy were also trying to get scholarly honors. Only a few would stay in the Academy.

“But...” Liu Xu still wanted to say something.

"I know that the Qingyun Academy values you. Although I'm not from the Qingyun Academy, I also graduated from an academy. You can write a letter to your teacher about this. He will tell you everything." Magistrate Zhang interrupted Liu Xu, not wanting to say anything else.

When Liu Xu saw this situation, she sighed.

She planned to go back first and write a letter to her teacher to see what was going on.

"Leave first. Anyway, in two days, I will announce this matter, including the cause and effect and the corresponding punishment," Magistrate Zhang added.

At this point, Liu Xu had been thinking about Magistrate Zhang's words.

The corpse had already been carried away. Magistrate Zhang and Liu Xu had also left the alley.

At this moment, Xu Bai jumped down from the roof and looked at the empty house with a gloomy gaze.

He had heard it clearly from the roof just now.

From their conversation, he could tell that there was more to Xiao Yue's death.

Putting aside how Xiao Yue ended up in such a strange state, the truth behind this was worth investigating.

"In two days..." Xu Bai stroked his chin.

He planned to wait another three days to see what they would announce.

Thinking of this, Xu Bai did not stay in the alley and left.

...

Liu Residence.

After Liu Xu returned home, she was in a bad mood. The first thing she did was to return to her room and take off her veil.

She sat in the chair, her chin propped on her white palm, her elbows on the table, as if she were thinking about something. Her eyes were glazed.

It took her a moment to collect herself. She took a piece of paper from a drawer, dipped a brush in ink, and wrote a letter.

After she finished writing, she took out an iron cage from another cabinet. There was a messenger pigeon in the iron cage.

This messenger pigeon belonged to the Qingyun Academy. If there was any urgency, she could contact the academy through this method.

The letter was short. Liu Xu folded the letter, tied it to the pigeon's leg, and walked out the door.

"Flaps..."

With a flapping sound, the messenger pigeon flapped its wings and flew far away.

Liu Xu looked straight in the direction where the messenger pigeon flew off, her fists clenched tightly.

After a while, she unclenched her fists and returned to the room.

Looking at the green smoke rising from the incense burner in the room, she took out a book from her sleeve and flipped to a certain page.

A white light flashed from the book, and then three lights landed on the ground.

Chapter 38

The So-Called Spirit

These three spheres of light were white, but there was a black aura inside, and the black aura was gradually deepening.

After the three spheres of light landed on the ground, they transformed into Xiao Yue and the middle-aged couple.

“Sister Liu... are we... really dead?” Xiao Yue sat on the ground, her eyes lifeless.

The middle-aged couple was not in a good state either. They hugged each other tightly and trembled.

“Xiao Yue’er, although this news is very cruel, you are indeed dead. You didn’t believe that you were dead, so you turned into spirits.” Liu Xu’s eyes revealed a look of pity. She held the brush in her hand, and her knuckles turned pale.

Spirit was a very special existence.

If a person died with great resentment or under other circumstances, it was very likely that they would become a strange creature.

These strange creatures had no rationality. They only knew how to kill.

However, there was a special situation in between, and that was spirit.

The so-called spirit manifested when a dead person did not believe that they were already dead. They still retained the meaning of their previous life and repeated what they had done when they were alive.

This situation is extremely rare.

But that didn't mean it was a good thing.

When spirits existed in the world, they would be corroded by the world and gradually develop into strange things.

This speed was very fast. Just like now, the space between Xiao Yue and the middle-aged couple's eyebrows had already started to turn black.

Moreover, it was also very difficult to discover Spirit because they maintained the same appearance they had when they were alive. They even looked no different from ordinary people.

One could see and touch them, but there was no warmth.

The difference could only be discovered in the most minute of details.

When Liu Xu stayed in the county previously, she had already gotten very familiar with Xiao Yue, so she noticed something amiss.

"Xiao Yue, you should have slowly gained your memories. When you remember the scene of your death, you will turn into a strange creature. At that time, you will lose your rationality." Liu Xu endured the sadness in her heart and added.

"Sister Liu, I don't want to lose my rationality." Xiao Yue tried her best to raise her head, the black gas between her eyebrows was getting thicker.

At this moment, the middle-aged couple finally reacted. As the black aura deepened, they recalled many things.

The middle-aged woman hugged Xiao Yue from behind and gently touched Xiao Yue's head. Their faces were full of pain.

The middle-aged man looked at Liu Xu and smiled bitterly. “Miss Liu, you want to free us, right?”

Liu Xu nodded without hiding anything. “I will try my best to minimize your pain.”

Before spirits became strange, all their thoughts were no different from ordinary people.

It was extremely painful to eliminate them before that happened. All she could do was alleviate the pain.

As for whether or not she could not eliminate the pain, the answer was no.

If she ignored them and they turned into strange creatures, this matter would turn even more dangerous.

She was a scholar and a capable person. She had to make the right choice at this time.

——Even if it was a painful choice.

“It would be great if there was a Spirit Medium. They would be able to leave without any pain.” Liu Xu sighed.

Spirit mediums threaded needles through Yin and Yang. There was a branch in this industry that could free spirit without pain.

“Miss Liu, we are ready.” The middle-aged woman patted Xiao Yue’s head and comforted her for a while before raising her head.

This decisiveness stunned Liu Xu.

The middle-aged woman smiled. "We can't cause trouble for the neighbors even if we die."

"Miss Liu, you don't have to think about seeking justice for us. You'll be in trouble. We're already satisfied that you can send us on our way." The middle-aged man returned to his wife's side and opened his arms to hug the middle-aged woman and Xiao Yue.

Liu Xu remained silent, not knowing what to say.

Her grip on the brush was very tight.

This was the first time she experienced this feeling. She could feel a sense of helplessness from Xiao Yue.

"Don't want to cause trouble for the neighbors..." Liu Xu muttered to herself.

At this moment, the speed of the black gas spreading was gradually increasing, and Xiao Yue and her parents began to lose consciousness.

"Urgh!"

A beast-like roar came from their mouths, revealing a sinister and cold aura.

The consciousness in the middle-aged couple's eyes was decreasing, and Xiao Yue was also changing.

Xiao Yue's eyes were dazed as she lowered her head and looked at her slender palm. Her eyes turned from dazed to ferocious.

She recalled that good-looking big brother. The first time that big brother had touched her head.

But what followed was endless coldness.

“I’m really going to die...”

Xiao Yue’s voice was so soft that Liu Xu could not hear her clearly.

At this moment, she knew that she was about to attack. She gritted her teeth and waved the brush in her hand, condensing the word “suppress” in midair.

After this word appeared, Xiao Yue and the middle-aged couple groaned in pain.

The painful process was very short. In the blink of an eye, they turned into white light and disappeared.

Liu Xu was the only one left in the room.

Liu Xu held the brush and took a few steps back. Her face was pale.

Because she retreated too quickly, she almost fell to the ground.

She turned around and looked out of the window. A trace of hesitation flashed across her star-like eyes.

“Teacher, I wonder what answer you will give me...”

Liu Xu’s low moan sounded in the room that was filled with the scent of sandalwood.

...

Time gradually passed. In the blink of an eye, two days had passed.

Xu Bai hadn’t been in good spirits for the past two days.

Every day, other than staring at the tree, he would think about Xiao Yue.

Especially when he thought of the corpse hanging on the beam in his mind and the innocent and cute Xiao Yue, he felt uncomfortable.

Today should be the time that Liu Xu and County Magistrate Zhang had agreed on that night.

Sitting in the backyard with a small stool, Xu Bai stared at the locust tree.

The progress bar was still increasing.

At this moment, Liu Er's voice came from the front courtyard.

"Brother Xu, there are so many people outside. They're all heading towards the county office."

The bodyguards did not dare to enter the backyard. After all, something strange had happened in the courtyard before. Even when they came to look for Xu Bai, they would only shout from afar.

Xu Bai, who was in the middle of working on the progress bar, came back to his senses when he heard Liu Er's voice.

"The county office?"

"Lots of people?"

Without hesitation, he placed the stool in the backyard, stood up, and walked out of the bodyguard agency.

After leaving the bodyguard agency, Xu Bai saw that many people were walking towards the county office. It was much livelier than usual.

He thought for a moment, held the handle of his Ghost Head Saber, and followed behind this group of people.

The crowd surged and he soon arrived at the county office.

The front door of the county office was open. Two bailiffs stood guard at the door, preventing anyone from entering. A sign stood beside it with a piece of paper stuck to it.

There were densely packed small words on the paper, and many people were watching.

As they watched, noisy discussions could be heard.

“So many people?” Xu Bai frowned. He was too far away to hear what was being discussed.

Usually, when the county office announced important news, they would post a notice here. Xu Bai guessed that the content should be related to what he wanted to know.

After much effort, he finally squeezed through the crowd and reached the sign.

Many people were squeezed by him and wanted to turn around and curse, but when they saw the sinister Ghost Head Saber at Xu Bai’s waist, they shut their mouths.

The words on the signboard were very clear. Xu Bai read it from beginning to end, and his expression became increasingly gloomy.

Chapter 39

If You Are Not Going To Manage This Matter, I Will

People came and went at the entrance of the county office. At this moment, not only was Xu Bai’s face gloomy, but most of the people who saw the contents of the paper had ugly expressions.

Some people were still discussing.

“How pitiful. A family of three is gone just like that.”

“I was eating there a few days ago. They really passed away just like that.”

“What kind of world is this? Ten years in prison and they’re still not arresting him for now?”

...

Xu Bai listened to the discussions of the people around him and scanned the notice from beginning to end. He had already understood the cause and effect clearly.

“No wonder. I was wondering why all three of them committed suicide.”

The announcement explained everything that had happened.

There was a large family in Sheng County called the Lin Residence.

Among the rich merchants in Sheng County, Lin Residence was the first to achieve prestige.

The Lin Residence had an only child named Lin Fenghua.

This person was pampered and extremely lustful.

Not only that, ordinary women could no longer satisfy Lin Fenghua’s desires. Hence, Lin Fenghua shifted his gaze elsewhere.

One day, Lin Fenghua passed by Xiao Yue’s stall and had bad intentions.

He used all sorts of methods to bring Xiao Yue into the Lin Residence.

That night, Xiao Yue came out of the Lin Residence covered in wounds. When she returned home, she fainted.

After that, Lin Fenghua went to Xiao Yue's house several times.

As time passed, Xiao Yue's entire family hanged themselves.

"The evidence is conclusive. He will be sentenced to ten years in prison. According to the laws of the Great Chu, because Lin Fenghua is injured, his sentence will be suspended. After his injuries recover, he will carry out his sentence as scheduled."

This was the contents of the announcement.

Xu Bai took a deep breath, feeling depressed.

There were many twists and turns in this matter. They could deceive the simple commoners in Sheng County, but they could not deceive him.

First of all, he had only been sentenced to ten years in prison for forcing a family of three to death.

Secondly, for the suspended sentence, who knew when he would be cured? In the first place, was he even really sick?

A person's memory was short. This matter would drag on and on for more than half a year until the people forgot. At that time, nobody would even know if the punishment had actually been carried out.

"It looks like the county magistrate wants to cover up this matter." Xu Bai glanced at the county office and turned to leave.

Along the way, he remained silent.

Even when he returned to the bodyguard agency, he still did not say a word.

A few bodyguards saw him and wanted to go forward to greet him, but when they saw Xu Bai's expression, they were smart enough not to come forward.

"Brother Liu, what happened to Brother Xu?" A bodyguard asked.

Liu Er glared at him. "Don't get involved in Brother Xu's matters."

The bodyguard shrunk when he heard this.

The two of them stopped chatting and pretended not to see anything.

Xu Bai walked into the backyard and moved the small stool to the door. Then, he started to stare at the lonely locust tree in the courtyard.

He was a little distracted. His eyes were on the locust tree, but his hand was on his knee, tapping. No one knew what he was thinking.

The sun gradually set.

The bodyguards had idled for another day. They stood at the entrance of the backyard and left after bidding farewell to Xu Bai.

A ray of moonlight shone down and landed in the backyard.

The locust tree was shrouded in silver light, and its leaves fluttered in the wind. It seemed to be mocking him, but also seemed to be amusing itself.

The progress bar was still slowly increasing.

In the dark backyard, other than the locust tree and the moonlight, only Xu Bai was sitting on a small stool.

Xu Bai supported his chin with his hand and rested his elbows on his knees.

After an unknown amount of time, he put down his hand and stood up on his knees.

“In the end, I can’t be absolutely heartless. Just treat it as me being a busybody.”

After he came back, he still thought of Xiao Yue from time to time. When he thought of how Xiao Yue would ask for a pat on the head, he felt his heart become more and more stuffy.

When he encountered danger, he could be ruthless. He didn’t mind shouldering the sins of taking dozens of lives.

However, at this moment, he could not be heartless no matter what.

People could be selfish. As the saying went, every man for himself.

But... he just felt very depressed.

He felt depressed and he wanted to find something to relax his body and mind.

“According to the laws of the Great Chu, he should be decapitated at the entrance of the market.”

“If Magistrate Zhang doesn’t want to manage this matter, I will.”

Xu Bai picked up the stool and entered the house.

Not long after, he changed into clothes that he usually did not wear. He covered his face and head with a cloth. He even stuffed something into his waist and shoulders to disguise his body shape.

He left the Ghost Head Saber in the house, went to the front yard, and casually found a saber on the weapon rack.

This saber was an ordinary saber in the martial world. It was easy to find anywhere.

“Lin Residence...”

The night gradually deepened. Xu Bai carried his long saber and left the bodyguard agency. He took advantage of the night and gradually walked farther and farther.

...

On this side, Xu Bai had already left. On the other side, in Liu Xu’s room in the Liu Residence.

At this moment, Liu Xu was sitting on a yellow rosewood stool. She was holding a letter. The contents of the letter was jumping on the paper.

She had already taken off her veil. Her expression was very conflicted, and her red lips were white from her biting them.

“Why? This is the complete opposite of what I understand as a scholar!”

Liu Xu’s hand that was holding the letter began to tremble. She could no longer hold it in and slammed the letter on the table.

The letter was from her teacher.

A few days ago, she had sent a letter to her teacher and told him about Magistrate Zhang's actions.

Tonight, the reply to her letter came. When Liu Xu finished reading it, she felt very depressed.

The content of the letter was very simple. It could roughly be summarized into five words—Don't interfere with the matter.

"According to His Majesty's rules, the county magistrate will be in charge of the security of a region. Before the scholars take the examination to obtain a scholarly honor, they should just study in peace. However, if it's a demon or evil spirit from the martial world, the scholars are allowed to manage it. Don't get involved in this matter."

These were the original words on the letter. It was these words that made Liu Xu tremble with anger.

Of course, she understood that the Emperor of the Great Chu Country had delegated all the work meticulously.

Civil officials protected the security of a region, and generals guarded the borders. The Heaven Surveillance Bureau was in charge of demons and evil spirits from the martial world.

They would not overstep their boundaries or interfere with each other.

A scholar could actually be considered as halfway from the martial world. Before taking the imperial examination, the county magistrate gave her some face because she was from the Qingyun Academy.

There was no need for her to look at today's announcement. The maidservant at home had already told her.

She also understood why the county magistrate would give such a verdict.

It was because the Lin Residence was powerful.

It was none other than the Lin Residence's finances.

Magistrate Zhang did not want to offend the Lin Residence.

In Liu Xu's opinion, Xiao Yue's family had long been abandoned by Magistrate Zhang.

"County Magistrate Zhang was once a scholar, but what he did today really broadened my horizons."

Liu Xu unclenched her fist. Her teeth, which had been biting her lower lip, also loosened.

Her red lips regained their color.

She suddenly stood up and took off her white clothes, revealing her jade-like skin.

Her waist was as white as snow.

She took out the black clothes from the cabinet. Liu Xu slowly put them on and covered her face and head with a black cloth.

A moment later, her face was covered.

"I'm not studying just for scholarly honors. If I don't interfere with today's matter, I'll be studying a dog's stomach."

"If Magistrate Zhang doesn't want to manage this matter, I will!"

“A gentleman doesn’t stand under a dangerous wall. I’m a woman.”

Pushing open the window at the back, Liu Xu jumped out...

Chapter 40

I’ll Give Him a Way to Die

The night-view outside the window was beautiful.

Liu Xu took advantage of the darkness and walked to the corner of the wall. She wrote the word “light” in the air with a brush and flew out of the Liu residence.

There was no one on the streets in the dark night. Other than the sound of the night watch, the night was completely silent.

From time to time, terrifying cat cries could be heard, as if they were mourning.

The Lin Residence was very famous in Sheng County. There was no need to ask around.

Liu Xu was also from Sheng County. She arrived at the Lin Residence not long after.

Even at night, red lanterns still hung high at the gate.

Two servants were guarding the gates. It seemed like they were prepared to stay up all night.

Liu Xu looked at the corner of the street. She did not choose to enter through the main entrance. Instead, she went to the far-off wall.

No one was guarding this place, and no one passed by.

Liu Xu took out her brush. After looking around, she wrote the word “light” again.

Even though she was dressed in black and her face was covered, her figure was still captivating.

Coupled with the fact that she was flying in the air, her very smooth figure was extremely charming.

In just a moment, Liu Xu had already flown into the Lin Residence and landed steadily on the ground.

Then, an embarrassing scene appeared.

As soon as Liu Xu landed on the ground, she heard a gasp.

Then, she shifted her gaze and stared at the person in front of her in a daze.

Not far from her, a person in ordinary clothes with a cloth covering his face and head was looking at her.

The night breeze was a little cold. The two of them looked at each other and fell silent.

Other than the occasional meow, the surroundings were silent. Other than the awkwardness, Liu Xu also felt a sense of danger.

Her gaze fell on the waist of this mysterious person and saw an ordinary long saber.

Saber?

For the past few days, she had been waiting for her teacher's letter and didn't have time to think about this. Now that she suddenly saw the long saber, she couldn't help but think of the matter regarding Underworld Blacksmith.

Could it be... that this person was the one who killed the Underworld Blacksmith couple?

Liu Xu had a sudden conjecture.

At this moment, the mysterious person also moved.

He did not care about her at all. He found a path and left silently.

This was the first time Liu Xu had seen such a situation.

However, seeing that the other party was also masked and not from the Lin Residence, moreover the current situation was special, she did not care.

After finding another path, Liu Xu also left.

At this moment, there was a strange tacit understanding.

——They minded their own businesses and did not interfere with each other.

...

The dark corner of the wall returned to its original silence.

Xu Bai walked into the Lin Residence and thought of the woman in black he had just met.

How did he know she was a woman?

Bullshit. That figure and shoulders were wide and narrow, and a certain smooth part was obvious at a glance.

To be honest, it was indeed unexpected.

The scene just now was so awkward.

Fortunately, he was sensible and did not linger.

It was more important to settle the matter first. That woman's attire showed that she was obviously not from the Lin Residence. He would not care about it for the time being. He did not want to make trouble and attract attention.

In that situation just now, there shouldn't be a fight, right?

With this thought in mind, Xu Bai began to search the Lin Residence again.

The Lin Residence was too big. He wanted to find Lin Fenghua's room. It was a little difficult to find.

During the search, the two people who had the same idea met a few times.

However, they did not speak to each other. After meeting, they left as if they had never seen each other.

However, their tacit understanding did not last long.

Outside a lighted room, Xu Bai looked at the woman in black. The woman in black looked back at him.

Finally, the woman in black couldn't take it anymore and said in a slightly low voice, "Are you here to kill too?"

Even if she deliberately pretended to be hoarse, her voice was clear.

When Xu Bai heard this, he nodded silently. At the same time, he pretended to have a hoarse and dull voice. "You too?"

Liu Xu nodded.

The two of them fell silent again. It was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Damn it, things had already exceeded his expectations.

At least from Xu Bai's perspective, this was something that was not part of his plan.

"Why don't we... do it together?" Xu Bai said something shocking.

Liu Xu didn't know what was going on in her head, but she nodded subconsciously.

She was also very helpless. How could she still meet someone at this?

It was fine if she met someone, but the key was that he had the same intention as her.

Together?

Let's do it together for now.

Thinking of this, Liu Xu rubbed her eyebrows.

——Her head hurt.

The two of them reached a temporary agreement. Without saying anything, they quietly came to a window.

Xu Bai raised his long saber and pierced a small hole in the window. He looked over.

The room was brightly lit. Many oil lamps were lit up, and they illuminated the entire room.

Looking through the small hole, he could see a young man sitting in the house with a naked woman in his arms.

The man was good-looking, but he exuded a silkpants aura from the inside out. His hand brushed across the woman's body. He was either already done or he hadn't started.

Liu Xu pushed Xu Bai's shoulder, indicating that she also wanted to see.

Xu Bai made a gesture, indicating if she really had to see it.

Liu Xu nodded without hesitation.

At this point, what else could she not see?

After Xu Bai stepped aside, Liu Xu moved closer to the small hole. She quickly lowered her head and glared at Xu Bai.

'You were the one who insisted on seeing it,'

Xu Bai thought.

The two of them stayed outside the window, and a sound came from inside the window.

"Young Master Lin, I heard that the officials said that once you are healed, they will send you to jail."

From the voice, it was the woman who spoke.

Soon, Lin Fenghua said, "It's just for show. Let's not talk about anything else. My Lin family has given that county magistrate many things. Moreover, if the county magistrate wants to be promoted, he will need to depend on my Lin family."

As he spoke of this, Lin Fenghua's tone was filled with pride.

As if because of this sentence, he became interested and started talking again.

"Sigh, now that you mention it, I remember. What a pity for that young lady. You don't know how it feels..."

"Hahaha, Young Master Lin, the little girl doesn't understand as much as I do..."

Outside the window, Liu Xu clenched her fists, her eyes spitting fire.

Xu Bai was different. His expression was extremely gloomy, like ten-thousand-year-old ice.

Liu Xu glanced at Xu Bai and lowered her head. She moved closer to Xu Bai and lowered her voice. "Let's go in and kill him."

She really couldn't take it anymore.

He could still be so arrogant after breaking the law. He was simply looking down on the laws of the Great Chu Country.

"It's not good to kill him directly. Both you and I will leave traces behind," Xu Bai said as he moved closer to Liu Xu.

The two of them only spoke when they were close and lowered their voices. Liu Xu was not used to it.

Upon hearing Xu Bai's words, Liu Xu wanted to say that she wasn't afraid and that it would be difficult to find her if she did it cleanly.

Even if she was found out, she had support.

However, at the thought of causing trouble for the Academy, she still asked.

"Do you have a way to not leave a trace?"

"I'll give him a way to die." Xu Bai listened to the sounds in the room and revealed a sinister smile.

For some reason, Liu Xu could not help but shiver.

It was very cold, as if she could see countless souls pouncing at her.

Still...

Give him a way to die?

She was suddenly interested.

What kind of way was it?