

War God 151

Chapter 151: The Battle of Grandmasters!

The Thunder Dragon and the Vermilion Crane clashed in the sky, engaging in a fierce battle high above the earth.

This spectacle was naturally astounding. If word of it were to spread, the entire world would be shocked, and it might even incite uncontrollable panic.

But neither Lin Mu nor Liu Xianhe cared.

Lin Mu genuinely didn't mind. As for Liu Xianhe, he had his own methods for handling such things.

"I did underestimate you!" Liu Xianhe said, his gaze turning dark as he stared at Lin Mu.

He was clearly taken aback that Lin Mu's Thunder Dragon could fight autonomously. Of course, his Vermilion Crane was no simple beast, either. Within his Sect, it was revered as a guardian beast, with strength even greater than his own.

My confidence in seeking revenge on Guan Chengye doesn't rest on my strength alone. Would the Martial Alliance have allowed me to challenge an Imperial Guardian of the marshal rank if they didn't fear the power behind me?

However, it was evident that Lin Mu, who was aiding Guan Chengye, was also no simple individual.

"Make your move. Let me see just how strong a Martial Arts Grandmaster truly is," Lin Mu said, his hands clasped behind his back as he faced Liu Xianhe.

A murderous glint flashed in Liu Xianhe's eyes. This kid is far too presumptuous.

"You're young, but you have quite an attitude!" Liu Xianhe said coldly. "Don't worry, I will personally break your neck and show you the true meaning of a Grandmaster's techniques!"

Lin Mu replied indifferently, "Then make sure you don't disappoint me."

Without another word, Liu Xianhe fiercely shook the horsetail whisk in his hand. In the sky above, countless strands of Internal Energy materialized, instantly weaving themselves into a vast net.

"Energy Materialization?!" an observing Inner Strength Martial Artist exclaimed, his face etched with shock.

Someone nearby asked, "Elder Zou, what is Energy Materialization?"

The man, addressed as Elder Zou, suppressed the shock in his heart and explained in a trembling voice, "Energy Materialization is a powerful technique achieved when one has so thoroughly mastered the True Qi in their body that they can manifest it into anything. Even an ordinary Martial Arts Grandmaster cannot accomplish this."

"Is Master Liu that powerful?"

"Powerful is an understatement. He's terrifyingly strong."

Elder Zou sighed. "Master Liu may not have a great reputation in the Martial Arts World, but he's still considered a formidable expert. Who would have thought that after his seclusion, he would emerge so mighty?"

I just don't know if Master Lin is his match, one of the onlookers thought.

The crowd's expressions shifted, a current of excitement running through them. After all, not everyone was fortunate enough to witness a battle between Grandmasters. Regardless of who won or lost, this fight would undoubtedly shake the world. As eyewitnesses, they considered it the kind of rare good fortune that only comes once a century. With this in mind, many were so exhilarated they could hardly contain themselves, their gazes riveted to the battle in the sky, afraid of missing the slightest detail.

Internal Energy filled the air, each strand as sharp as a sword, slicing through the very void. One could only imagine the danger lurking within that enormous net.

Liu Xianhe's gaze was icy as he sneered, "Kid, try and take this!"

With that, Liu Xianhe pointed his whisk at Lin Mu. The great net plummeted, descending upon Lin Mu as if intending to shred him to pieces.

"Mere Energy Materialization. How hard could it be to break?" Lin Mu chuckled softly. His clothes stirred as he slowly raised a hand and pressed it toward the sky. With no visible display of Internal Energy, it looked like a deceptively simple palm strike.

Seeing this, a flash of disdain crossed Liu Xianhe's eyes. My Internal Energy Great Array is not so easily broken. It was a technique inspired by an ancient Formation. These strands of Internal Energy may look ordinary, but each one is as sharp as Sword Qi. One misstep, and your body will be shredded by a thousand blades.

Clearly, Lin Mu has overestimated himself, Liu Xianhe thought.

Below, the countless onlookers slowly shook their heads. I thought he had some real skill, but it seems he's all talk after all.

However, the situation changed in the very next moment.

As Lin Mu's palm pressed down, the great net of Internal Energy began to melt away like snow in boiling water. The entire process was silent, not even causing a ripple in the air. The massive net vanished completely.

Everyone was struck dumb, like ducks with their necks wrung, unable to make a sound.

"PFFT!"

As his net of Internal Energy was broken, Liu Xianhe spat out a mouthful of blood. His face turned ashen, completely drained of color.

How... how is this possible? he muttered to himself, looking as though his very soul had fled his body. He had thought it was his most invulnerable attack, yet his opponent had dismantled it with ease. In that instant, Liu Xianhe nearly lost his will to fight.

But it wasn't over.

"SCREECH!"

A sharp, agonizing scream pierced the heavens, and blood rained down from above. A massive figure plummeted from the sky and crashed to the ground.

THUD!

The ground trembled as feathers scattered everywhere. A Vermilion Crane lay in a pool of its own blood, not a single feather on its body left intact.

The Vermilion Crane... is dead? the crowd thought in disbelief.

"ROAR!"

The Thunder Dragon bellowed and charged toward Liu Xianhe.

"Not good!" Liu Xianhe cried out. He shot away, dodging the Thunder Dragon's attack and landing on a distant mountain peak. But his eyes were bloodshot. The Vermilion Crane was dead.

He snapped his head up to glare at Lin Mu, his eyes brimming with killing intent.

"You deserve to die!" Liu Xianhe growled. The Internal Energy around him surged, whipping up a violent wind that made the surrounding trees and buildings groan under the strain.

THUMP!

Liu Xianhe stomped on the ground, his body becoming a blur as he shot into the sky toward Lin Mu. With a wave of his hand, Lin Mu recalled the Thunder Dragon and calmly watched him approach.

Liu Xianhe's whisk splayed open, its thousands of hairs shooting forward like countless beams of sword light, trying to pierce Lin Mu.

"Break," Lin Mu said simply, extending a single finger and tapping it lightly in the air.

An extremely sharp gust of wind shot from his fingertip, colliding with the whisk. The next moment, the whisk snapped, its broken segments drifting to the ground.

Staring at the bare whisk handle in his hand, Liu Xianhe's face went pale, his eyes filled with terror.

"How... How can you be so strong?"

This was the question everyone wanted to ask.

How can Lin Mu be this strong? Even the esteemed Grandmaster Liu Xianhe has been defeated at every turn. He's too strong!

Countless people shook their heads, all of them thinking that with Lin Mu's incredible power, Liu Xianhe stood no chance.

"Is that all the strength you have?" Lin Mu asked, not bothering to hide his disappointment. "I had thought you could give me a real fight, but it seems you have greatly disappointed me. Since that's the case, I won't waste any more time. I'll kill you in a single blow."

As soon as he finished speaking, the entire audience was stunned.

Even if he is that strong, killing a Martial Arts Grandmaster in one move... that's just a lunatic's dream, right?

"Insolent fool!" As expected, Liu Xianhe was enraged. A murderous aura erupted from him as he fixed his gaze on Lin Mu. "Do you really think that's all I've got? If that's what you think, then watch how I kill you!"

Chapter 152: Godslayer Finger!

"You've said that before, but it's useless against me." Lin Mu slowly shook his head, his eyes filled with contempt.

Liu Xianhe's mouth twitched, his eyes turning scarlet.

"You sharp-tongued brat! I underestimated you!" he said, grinding his teeth. "I won't give you another chance!"

Liu Xianhe spread his arms, and Internal Energy surged furiously from his body. The fierce aura coiled in the skies above Wufeng Town, and gradually, the energy turned a deep crimson, like fresh blood. At the same time, an intense, metallic stench of blood permeated the air, blanketing everything.

"Such a thick stench of blood!" Feeling this terrifying aura, everyone's face contorted in horror.

"What in the world is this?" someone exclaimed, their voice trembling with fear.

"This is Liu Xianhe's Crane Killing God Fist!" Guan Chengye's expression changed drastically as he cried out, a rare hint of fear flashing in his eyes.

"Grandfather, what is the Crane Killing God Fist?" Guan Jiaojiao asked anxiously.

Guan Chengye said gravely, "The Crane Killing God Fist is an incredibly powerful fist art that Liu Xianhe created himself. Although it's not famous, the killing intent of this technique is unparalleled. Back when we fought, he had only just created it and had yet to grasp its true meaning. If not for that, I would have been the one to lose."

The Crane Killing God Fist was based on pure killing intent, designed to channel all of the body's power to annihilate an enemy in a single blow. To be struck by the Godslaying Fist meant either death or grievous injury.

Now, Liu Xianhe had already reached the Grandmaster realm and had spent another year perfecting his fist technique. One could only imagine how formidable its power had become. Guan Chengye even had a gut feeling that if he were to face this fist now, even at the same cultivation level, he would have no chance of survival.

"It's that powerful?" Guan Jiaojiao cried out in surprise, then quickly covered her mouth, afraid she might disturb Lin Mu. "What do we do now?"

Her eyes filled with worry. Lin Mu was fighting for the Guan Family; if anything happened to him, she would be overwhelmed with guilt.

"Trust him," Song Wenrou suddenly said from the side.

Guan Jiaojiao turned to look at the other girl, and for some reason, she suddenly calmed down.

"Yes, at this point, we can only hope Master Lin has other means," Guan Chengye added.

High in the sky, the thick, bloody aura swirled, so dense it was like tangible liquid blood emitting a furious killing intent. Liu Xianhe stood at the center of this maelstrom, looking like a god of slaughter incarnate.

"Young man, to die by my Godslaying Fist would be an honor!" Liu Xianhe looked at Lin Mu indifferently as a murderous aura erupted continuously from his body.

Lin Mu stood with his hands clasped behind his back, his expression exceptionally calm, completely unmoved by Liu Xianhe's words or the murderous aura flooding the sky.

"You're just putting on an act!" Liu Xianhe snorted coldly and slowly raised a hand, aiming it at Lin Mu.

"Crane—Killing God Fist!"

As Liu Xianhe's voice faded, he slowly clenched his fist. The murderous aura that filled the sky began to pour madly into it.

The sight left everyone so shocked they were speechless. In just a few seconds, all the murderous aura from the sky had been completely drawn into Liu Xianhe's fist, which now glowed a brilliant red, as if it were about to drip blood.

A dazzling red light exploded outwards as Liu Xianhe finally unleashed the punch.

The terrifying force of the punch, carrying with it an overwhelming killing intent, shot toward Lin Mu like a cannonball.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

A terrifying gale roared out in all directions. The expressions of the onlookers changed once again as they retreated in a panic. The wind itself carried a terrifying power—to touch it was to die. Several Martial Artists who reacted too slowly were caught by the gale and instantly disintegrated into dust, not even having time to scream.

GULP!

Everyone swallowed hard, their eyes filled with lingering fear. The arena had long since vanished, and the ground was a wreck. Even many of the buildings in the distance had collapsed. The aftershock alone possessed such devastating power. Had it been directed at any of the so-called powerful Martial Artists in the crowd, they wouldn't have stood a chance.

However, in the center of the ferocious gale stood a figure, as unyielding as a boulder, not moving an inch. Lin Mu's clothes whipped about him and his black hair billowed, revealing his sharp, chiseled features. He stood with his hands clasped behind his back, his eyes slightly narrowed. It seemed he was still not prepared to make a move.

"Brat, if you don't make your move now, you'll have no chance left!" Liu Xianhe sneered. He seemed to be reminding Lin Mu, but inwardly he was filled with disdain. So what if you have some shocking technique? What good is it against my Godslaying Fist?

Lin Mu finally spoke. "Have you ever seen a finger technique that descends from the heavens?"

Although the wind howled with ceaseless ferocity, his words clearly reached everyone's ears.

"A finger technique that descends from the heavens?" everyone repeated, startled. What trick is he trying to pull now?

Liu Xianhe felt the same, but his expression was one of pure contempt. "A finger technique that descends from the heavens? Are you trying to be funny?" He laughed heartily. "Forget you, my fist can kill an ordinary Grandmaster in a single blow! Stop your act and trying to scare people."

Lin Mu shook his head slightly. "A frog in a well. You've learned a few clumsy fist techniques and already think you're peerless." Lin Mu spoke slowly, "Since that's the case, then I shall allow you to witness a true martial art."

He then extended a hand, clenching his five fingers into a fist before slowly extending a single index finger. Amidst the killing intent that filled the air, that lone finger looked abrupt and utterly ridiculous.

"When I was seeking to verify my Dao, I created a fist art. It has only twelve forms, but each form wields the might of heaven and earth. If all twelve were to be unleashed, not even this world could bear it."

Lin Mu's body shuddered, and a monstrous aura erupted from him like a volcano, making him seem like a god or a demon.

"God Slaying, Demon Slaughtering, Immortal Punishing Fist, First Form—Godslayer Finger!"

With those words, the very heavens and earth transformed. A furious, sinister wind howled over Wufeng Town, carrying mournful, chilling cries that sounded like weeping and lamentation, as if an Ancient God had fallen and the world itself was mourning in shared grief.

BOOM!

In the sky saturated with killing intent, a rift suddenly tore open. An immense, overwhelming pressure descended abruptly.

"This is..." As this pressure emerged, Liu Xianhe's expression changed drastically.

Then, everyone witnessed a scene they would never forget for the rest of their lives. From the rift in the sky, a gigantic finger, its whorls and ridges clearly visible, slowly descended, pointing straight for the top of Liu Xianhe's head. The pressure emanating from the finger rendered Liu Xianhe completely stiff and unable to move.

POP!

With a crisp sound, the power of Liu Xianhe's Godslaying Fist dissipated completely. He was left standing in mid-air, drenched in a cold sweat, his face ashen.

"So this is... the Godslayer Finger..."

Chapter 153: Lord of the Three Rivers Area!

The Twelve Forms of Slaying Gods and Demons and Punishing Immortals was a set of fist techniques that Lin Mu had created upon attaining enlightenment. It consisted of twelve forms: the Godslayer Finger, Deicide Palm, Deicide Fist, Demonslaying Hand, Demonslaying Claw, Demonslaying Seal, Immortal Slaying Secret, Immortal Slaying Sword, and the Immortal Slaying Formation.

Each form possessed heaven-shattering power. Ultimately, the entire set could be combined into one, forming a grand killing formation that would shake the world. However, with his current strength, Lin Mu could only execute the first three forms of this art. But to deal with a Martial Arts Grandmaster of Liu Xianhe's caliber, a single Godslayer Finger was more than enough.

Between heaven and earth, only that one finger could be seen, slowly descending. Nothing else existed.

Liu Xianhe was completely immobilized by the terrifying aura. He couldn't move his body in the slightest and could only watch helplessly as the finger gradually descended.

"No... I don't want to die!" Fear finally appeared in Liu Xianhe's eyes. He pleaded with Lin Mu, hoping he would be spared, but Lin Mu paid him no mind.

"Boy, do you really want to fight me to the death?" Liu Xianhe yelled. "Do you have any idea who I am?"

Lin Mu glanced at him, his eyes filled with disdain.

Suppressing his fear, Liu Xianhe said, "I am an Outer Elder of the Ancient Martial Faction's Crane Immortal Sect. If you kill me, there will be no place for you in this vast world!"

The Ancient Martial Faction was a collective term for all ancient martial sects. For example, the Dragon Tiger Mountain Celestial Master Mansion, where Zhang Yan was from, was one of these sects. Hidden from the mundane world, they possessed the power to influence every aspect of it, just like Dragon Tiger Mountain. The Crane Immortal Sect, to which Liu Xianhe belonged, was also a colossal power not to be underestimated.

"Master Liu is an Outer Elder of the Crane Immortal Sect?"

Some of the martial artists present, who knew of the power these ancient martial factions wielded, were so shocked they were rendered speechless. After all, they were among the weakest in the Martial Arts World. Compared to those ancient martial sects that might not make an appearance for a hundred years, they were utterly insignificant. In their eyes, the Crane Immortal Sect was a supreme existence they wouldn't even dare to look up to.

Given Lin Mu's considerable strength, he surely understood the weight an Outer Elder of an ancient martial sect carried.

"The Crane Immortal Sect?" Lin Mu suddenly sneered. "Let alone a mere Outer Elder like you. So what if the Sect Leader of your Crane Immortal Sect came in person? If I want to kill you, no one can stop me!"

These words shocked everyone. Was Lin Mu really going to kill Master Liu? How could he dare?

Liu Xianhe was even more astonished, shouting, "You dare! Boy, if you kill me today, you too will die without a burial ground!"

His tone then softened. "But if you let me go, not only will I forget today's events, I can even recommend you to the Crane Immortal Sect. With your strength, securing a position as an Elder wouldn't be difficult."

Liu Xianhe's words instantly kindled flames of envy and jealousy in the eyes of the crowd. They couldn't even dream of becoming menial workers in an ancient martial sect, yet Liu Xianhe was now promising to recommend Lin Mu. What a tremendous opportunity! At this thought, their feelings toward Lin Mu turned from simple envy to respect. Only those with absolute strength could ever hope to be noticed by such sects.

Guan Chengye's expression shifted constantly. If Lin Mu truly accepted, it would be an absolute disaster for the Guan Family. After all, if Lin Mu joined the Crane Immortal Sect, he and Liu Xianhe would be fellow sect members. Would Lin Mu still step in to stop Liu Xianhe from wiping out the Guan Family then?

Even someone as naive as Guan Jiaojiao understood this, and her face turned deathly pale.

Everyone waited for Lin Mu's decision. They all thought they knew what he would choose, as the choice seemed far too simple and easy.

However, to everyone's surprise, Lin Mu shook his head.

His calm voice echoed out. "What virtue or ability does your insignificant Crane Immortal Sect possess that would warrant my joining?"

A wave of astonishment swept through the crowd, though many also breathed a sigh of relief. Guan Jiaojiao's face lit up with joy, her eyes curving into crescent moons. Guan Chengye sighed, a sound mixed with relief and regret. The others, however, thought Lin Mu was either absurdly arrogant or a

complete fool for giving up such an incredible opportunity. But they all knew that no one who reached the rank of Martial Arts Grandmaster could possibly be a fool.

Liu Xianhe couldn't believe his ears. Staring at Lin Mu in shock, he stammered, "You... you refused? How could you refuse?"

Lin Mu replied indifferently, "And why shouldn't I?"

Liu Xianhe flew into a rage. "Boy, do you realize what a great opportunity you've just thrown away? Countless people wish to join my Crane Immortal Sect but don't even qualify to be servants! If I hadn't seen your talent and offered to recommend you, when would you ever get a chance like this?"

"Who do you think you are to say such a thing?" Lin Mu's tone was dismissive. "I am the one who grants opportunities to others. Your insignificant Crane Immortal Sect is not worthy."

As his voice fell, so did his finger.

"It's time. Be on your way."

The Godslayer Finger descended. Liu Xianhe let out a terrible scream as a series of sickening CRACKS echoed from his body, and blood spurted from his mouth and nose.

BANG!

The next moment, Liu Xianhe's head exploded. His shoulders, arms, torso, and legs then blew apart in succession. In the blink of an eye, the renowned Grandmaster Liu Xianhe was completely obliterated.

Lin Mu waved a hand, and a gentle breeze swept through, returning peace to the world. He then descended slowly onto the fighting stage, his expression tranquil, as if killing Liu Xianhe hadn't affected him in the slightest.

Only then did the crowd awaken from their stupor.

Liu Xianhe was dead? Lin Mu really dared to kill a member of the Crane Immortal Sect? Did this man have a death wish?

"Hahaha! Boy, you killed a member of the Crane Immortal Sect! Your life is forfeit!"

A burst of wild laughter suddenly rang out. The crowd then realized that Zhang Yan wasn't dead. He was staring at Lin Mu with a venomous expression. "Boy, I'll tell you the truth! The Crane Immortal Sect and my Dragon Tiger Mountain have connections. Since you killed Liu Xianhe today, the Crane Immortal Sect will surely hunt you down for revenge!"

"Oh? Then let them come."

Lin Mu waved his hand. A Thunder Dragon shot from his sleeve and pierced directly through Zhang Yan's body, leaving not even a trace of him behind.

Everyone stared, slack-jawed, their minds completely blank. Lin Mu had not only killed a man from the Crane Immortal Sect, but one from Dragon Tiger Mountain as well?

This... the Martial Arts World was about to be turned upside down!

"Elder Guan, my apologies," Lin Mu said to the stunned Guan Chengye. "I had intended to give you Liu Xianhe's head to use as a wine jug, but I seem to have accidentally blown him to bits. You don't mind, do you?"

Guan Chengye finally snapped back to his senses, shaking his head frantically. "Not at all, not at all! Master Lin's abilities are heaven-defying! Liu Xianhe got what he deserved."

At this thought, Guan Chengye suddenly dropped to his knees and declared, "From this day forward, the Three Rivers Area will honor Master Lin as its supreme authority!"

Lin Mu's gaze swept across the crowd, carrying an invisible pressure. Everyone trembled, jolted back to reality, and thunderously fell to their knees.

"From now on, we pledge our allegiance to Master Lin, the Master of the Three Rivers!"

Chapter 154 Martial Alliance Plan!

The Three Rivers Area was composed of three major hubs: River City, Jiangling City, and Jiangqian. These three locales had always been prosperous centers of trade with formidable economic strength, making them one of the most valued regions in the Empire. Beyond their developed economies and large populations, these cities were also bustling hubs where countless Martial Artists sought their fortunes.

The Martial Alliance had established a branch on a large mountain in the outskirts of Jiangling City. The location was renowned for its beautiful scenery and pleasant climate. Since ancient times, it had been designated a scenic tourist area. However, over a decade ago, the Martial Alliance established its branch here, and the mountain was subsequently designated a restricted zone, off-limits to ordinary people.

The purpose of the Jiangling Martial Alliance Branch was to oversee the Martial Arts World of the entire Three Rivers Area. They had the authority and jurisdiction to handle any and all matters related to Martial Artists. This was because the man in charge of the branch, Lu Tong, was a Martial Arts Grandmaster who had been famous for many years. Although Lu Tong's strength was not the greatest among Grandmasters, a Grandmaster was still a Grandmaster—far beyond the likes of any Inner or External Strength Martial Artist.

At this moment, however, the atmosphere in the Martial Alliance Branch was deathly silent.

Hall Master Lu Tong's face was dark, like a volcano on the verge of eruption.

"Arrogance! Sheer arrogance!" Lu Tong slammed his palm on the solid rosewood table. Its surface, over ten centimeters thick, instantly spiderwebbed with cracks.

Everyone's heart pounded in their chests, and no one dared to even breathe too loudly. They knew exactly why the Hall Master was enraged. His distant nephew, Wang Wu, had been crippled, and it had happened in a backwater place like Wufeng Town.

"Tian Boguang, explain yourself!" Lu Tong's eyes were glacial as he stared down at the kneeling man. He clenched his teeth, barely containing the murderous intent simmering within him.

Tian Boguang shuddered. "Hall Master Lu, this matter has nothing to do with me."

BOOM! A violent force slammed into Tian Boguang, sending him flying backward.

Tian Boguang coughed up a mouthful of blood, his face instantly turning deathly pale.

"Are you trying to shirk your responsibility?" Lu Tong's glare was so intense it seemed he might strike Tian Boguang dead if his next words were wrong.

"No... I wouldn't dare!" Tian Boguang cried out in terror. "I failed to protect Wang Wu. It is my responsibility."

Lu Tong looked at him coldly and said in a low, dangerous voice, "Then tell me now why Xiao Wu's Dantian was destroyed, turning him into a cripple."

Although he was the Martial Alliance Hall Master, he was normally busy with other affairs. Coupled with Wang Wu's lack of talent, he had simply allowed the boy to take Tian Boguang as his master. Who would have thought that after participating in the River City martial arts gathering just once, Wang Wu would be crippled? If Wang Wu's talent hadn't been so utterly pathetic, Lu Tong would have already killed Tian Boguang with a single palm strike.

"It was Lin Mu!"

Just then, a figure slowly walked in. It was Wang Wu. His face was now pale, his steps unsteady, and his entire demeanor had transformed into something gloomy and malevolent. Clutching his chest, he coughed violently before speaking. "Uncle, the one who destroyed my Dantian was a man named Lin Mu. It has nothing to do with Master."

Tian Boguang looked at Wang Wu in surprise, a flicker of gratitude stirring in his heart. Since my return, all my old friends have abandoned me. Not one of them dared to speak up for me. To think that in the end, it would be my own disciple who defended me.

"Oh? Tell me," Lu Tong said, his tone softening slightly as he glanced at Wang Wu, though it held little warmth. Now that he's a cripple, he's useless.

"Uncle, I investigated this Lin Mu. He's from River City and appears to be an Inner Strength Martial Artist with no ties to any Ancient Martial Faction," Wang Wu explained. After returning, he had used every connection he had to uncover Lin Mu's identity. He was certain that Lin Mu was, at most, an Inner Strength Martial Artist.

"An Inner Strength Martial Artist?" Lu Tong murmured. He suddenly looked at his nephew. "Xiao Wu, do you want revenge?"

Wang Wu was startled, then gritted his teeth. "Yes! I dream of it! I want to personally destroy Lin Mu's Dantian, sever his hands and feet, and turn him into the same kind of useless cripple he made me!"

Ever since Lin Mu had destroyed his Dantian, turning him into a cripple, Wang Wu could think of nothing but killing the man to avenge himself. But he knew Uncle would never stick his neck out for me. He had never imagined his uncle would bring the subject up himself.

Lu Tong smiled. "Good. I will let you take this revenge personally."

"Thank you, Uncle!" Wang Wu exclaimed, his eyes blazing with a fervent fire.

Lu Tong waved his hand. "Alright, you are dismissed. Once your body has recovered, I will arrange for someone to take you to River City."

"Yes!"

After Wang Wu left, Lu Tong turned to Tian Boguang. "I hear you have a daughter around the same age as Xiao Wu?"

Tian Boguang's body tensed, but he forced himself to answer, "That's right. Xiao Duo and Xiao Wu grew up like siblings. They've always been very close."

Lu Tong nodded with a smile. "Hmm. Their closeness is a good thing. I consider Xiao Wu my own flesh and blood, so naturally, I hope he has someone to care for him for the rest of his life. Therefore..."

Tian Boguang knew exactly what Lu Tong was implying and immediately said, "Thank you, Hall Master, for bringing these two children together!"

Lu Tong chuckled. "It seems the two young ones already had this in mind. I hope Deacon Tian won't blame me for this arranged marriage."

Overjoyed, Tian Boguang immediately dropped to his knees. "Thank you, Hall Master! From this day forward, I, Tian Boguang, will dedicate my life to the Martial Alliance!"

He hadn't expected to escape punishment, let alone be made a Deacon of the Martial Alliance. Even though the position doesn't hold much power, I'm finally one of them. As for Xiao Duo... she has no talent for the Martial Way anyway. Being with Xiao Wu is a fine choice for her.

"That will be all. You may go," Lu Tong said, dismissing Tian Boguang with a faint smile playing on his lips. An expert at the peak of External Strength isn't much, but every little bit helps strengthen the Martial Alliance.

"Hall Master, are you really sending people to River City?" someone asked.

Lu Tong nodded. "That's right. Our branch is responsible for managing the Martial Artists of the Three Rivers Area, but aside from Jiangling and Jiangqian, we've never been able to get a foothold in River City. This is our chance."

The crowd instantly understood, and a chorus of praise erupted for Lu Tong's foresight, which was far beyond their own.

「Five days later.」

A group from the Martial Alliance set out for River City.

By now, seven or eight days had passed since the martial arts gathering in River City. News of Lin Mu's performance there had already spread throughout the Three Rivers Area with terrifying speed.

"Did you hear? A new Martial Arts Grandmaster emerged in River City and swept the entire gathering. It was incredible!"

"That's old news. I heard this Master Lin not only has a heaven-defying Cultivation Level and is skilled in the Thunder Law, but he also personally killed Grandmaster Liu Xianhe and Zhang Yan, a disciple from the Celestial Master Mansion!"

"Yeah, right. No matter how powerful this Master Lin is, could he really kill a fellow Grandmaster? And don't forget the Celestial Master Mansion. Who doesn't know what they're capable of? I think you're exaggerating."

"I agree. It sounds improbable."

Some believed the stories, while others dismissed them. Yet, for some unknown reason, the Jiangling Martial Alliance Branch remained completely unaware.

In an elegantly decorated private room of a hotel in River City, several people were seated. They didn't speak, merely nodding to one another, but a glimmer of excited anticipation shone in everyone's eyes.

Suddenly, the door to the private room was pushed open, and a tall figure strode inside.

It was Lin Mu.

Upon seeing him, everyone in the room shot to their feet and bowed deeply. "Greetings, Master Lin!"

Chapter 155: From Now On, Honor Master Lin as Supreme!

Lin Mu's gaze swept across the room.

In the private room, everyone had risen to their feet to pay their respects. However, two or three individuals wore expressions of disdain, not even bothering to clasp their fists in a formal greeting. If not for the others rising, they likely wouldn't have stood at all.

Lin Mu offered a slight smile, unconcerned.

"So this is the renowned Master Lin of the Three Rivers Area? I finally get to see the man himself," a young man remarked as he straightened his clothes. His gaze, fixed on Lin Mu, held not a shred of respect, but a faint chill instead.

His name was Jiang Ming; Jiang Xia was his brother. Clearly, Jiang Xia had told Jiang Ming a few things after returning home.

Lin Mu ignored him, looking instead toward Guan Chengye.

Understanding the unspoken cue, Guan Chengye leaned in and introduced in a low voice, "His name is Jiang Ming. Jiang Xia is his younger brother."

Lin Mu nodded, his understanding immediate.

With a slight smile, Lin Mu said, "Everyone, no need for formalities. Please, sit."

No one moved, but Jiang Ming let out a chuckle and arrogantly took his seat first.

Guan Chengye frowned slightly, but since Lin Mu hadn't said anything, he could only suppress his own dissatisfaction. Only after Lin Mu was seated did the rest of the guests sit down.

No one in the private room spoke, and for a moment, the atmosphere became stifling.

"Ahem. May I ask why Master Lin has summoned us? Is there something to discuss?" Jiang Ming said, rubbing his teacup. "We are all very busy. If there's nothing important, you'll have to excuse me."

SLAP!

Someone slammed their hand on the table, roaring in anger, "Who do you think you are, Jiang Ming? How dare you be so disrespectful in front of Master Lin?"

The speaker was Liang Yue, the Head of the Liang Family. He was a preeminent figure in River City who had personally witnessed Lin Mu's divine might at the martial arts conference and held immense respect for him. Jiang Ming's repeated insolence was more than he could bear. Furthermore, Lin Mu had saved Liang Sheng once during the conference, a favor Liang Yue had to remember.

Liang Yue stared directly at Jiang Ming, his tone cold. "Jiang Ming, let's not even talk about Master Lin. Everyone here is your elder. With such rudeness, is your Jiang Family declaring it has a problem with the rest of us?"

"It seems the Jiang Family Head sent you because he feels we aren't qualified to be here," an old man who had been silently sipping his tea murmured, slowly setting his cup down as he spoke.

Jiang Ming had been unconcerned when Liang Yue spoke, and he could even disregard Lin Mu himself, but when this old man opened his mouth, his expression subtly shifted.

The speaker was none other than Song Wen, a powerhouse of River City's older generation.

The Patriarch of the Song Family.

The Song Family was known for its scholarly heritage and rarely involved itself in business. But Song Wen had been in education for many years, and the Song family wielded considerable influence in that field with ease. With his students all over the country, he had accumulated an unimaginable network of connections. If Old Master Song's words got out, his students would undoubtedly be more than willing to do a little something for their teacher, without the Song Family even having to lift a finger.

At this thought, Jiang Ming broke out in a cold sweat.

But he was mostly just confused.

This Lin Mu is just an ordinary person, isn't he? Even if he knows some martial arts, there's no need for Old Master Song to speak up for him, right?

He paid no mind to the title "Master of the Three Rivers." In Jiang Ming's view, without money, you were nothing. His Jiang Family possessed substantial assets and countless enterprises; otherwise, he wouldn't have been qualified to sit here. As for Lin Mu, according to his brother Jiang Xia, he was just an ordinary man who knew a bit of fighting.

However, reality was not what he had expected.

Liang Yue had spoken. Song Wen had spoken.

Jiang Ming felt a sliver of pressure.

Just then, Guan Chengye spoke up.

"Since you don't wish to stay, you're free to go."

Guan Chengye's tone was placid, but his words made Jiang Ming's hand tremble slightly.

"Of course, I will also notify the relevant departments to conduct an investigation into the Jiang Family."

Jiang Ming's face paled, and he stammered, "Elder Guan, I..."

"Scram!"

With a wave of Guan Chengye's hand, a violent gust of wind swept Jiang Ming up and hurled him out the window. Screams and a brief commotion drifted up from below before quickly fading away.

Guan Chengye was, after all, an Inner Strength Martial Artist.

His cold gaze swept across the room. A few of the other powerful figures who had worn disdainful looks immediately sat up straight, daring not to be presumptuous any longer.

Guan Chengye said coolly, "I invited you all here today not for tea and reminiscing. I believe no one is in the mood for such pleasantries, so I'll get straight to the point."

"Master Lin is a Martial Arts Grandmaster!"

This single sentence made everyone's expression change. Even though they had already heard this news, it was still hard to believe. Aside from Liang Yue and Guan Chengye, who had seen Lin Mu in action, the others, including Song Wen, had only heard rumors. But now, with Guan Chengye stating it so plainly and Lin Mu sitting right before them, they had no choice but to believe it.

This... one of the big shots thought, his mouth agape, but ultimately, he said nothing.

"Alright, there's no need for everyone to be nervous," Guan Chengye said. "Even if Master Lin truly is a Martial Arts Grandmaster, he still has one head and two arms, just like the rest of us."

The simple joke eased much of the tense atmosphere, but a weight of pressure still lingered in everyone's hearts.

"The reason for gathering everyone here is not to ask anything of you," Guan Chengye continued, his gaze lingering on certain faces as a smile touched his lips. "I simply hope everyone understands that while Master Lin is the Master of the Three Rivers Area, he is also our River City's Martial Arts Grandmaster."

"Brother Guan, we have no objections to Master Lin becoming the Master of the Three Rivers Area. It is River City's honor to produce a Martial Arts Grandmaster," Song Wen said. "But this matter is quite significant. Shouldn't we..."

As he spoke, Song Wen glanced at Lin Mu, whose expression remained placid, as if the topic of discussion had nothing to do with him.

Guan Chengye chuckled at his words. "Mr. Song is right. This matter is certainly not trivial. If it were, I wouldn't have invited you all here."

Looks of confusion first appeared on everyone's faces, quickly followed by elation. They were all intelligent people and could infer the underlying meaning of Guan Chengye's words. Since Lin Mu was a Martial Arts Grandmaster, his personal strength and influence were surely no less than that of an illustrious family. The fact that he had gathered them here meant that Master Lin did not consider them outsiders.

"From this day forward, my Liang Family will follow Master Lin's lead!" Liang Yue immediately declared.

"My Ma Family will also revere Master Lin!"

"Hahaha, it is my Hu Family's honor to be acquainted with a Martial Arts Grandmaster!"

One after another, they pledged their allegiance, the joy on their faces unconcealable.

Even Song Wen made his stance clear. Although he came from a scholarly background and generally had little fondness for martial artists who respected only strength, a Martial Arts Grandmaster was no ordinary practitioner.

Their mere existence could ensure the peace and stability of a region!

"Good. Now that we have addressed the first matter, let's move on to the second," Guan Chengye announced.

At his words, the smiles vanished from everyone's faces. They all knew it was finally time to get down to business.

Chapter 156: Warning!

"Of course, if anyone does not wish to stay, they can leave now."

Guan Chengye narrowed his eyes and said, "Rest assured, Master Lin won't mind, nor will he hold a grudge."

Lin Mu nodded, acknowledging Guan Chengye's words.

The crowd exchanged glances. Two of them hesitated, looking as if they were about to stand up.

"But don't blame me for speaking bluntly; once you leave through this door, forget about ever coming back in," Guan Chengye warned. At this, the two individuals immediately sat back down, not knowing whether to laugh or cry.

The implication was clear—if they couldn't grasp that, they deserved to miss out on a great opportunity. Everyone knew that once someone left, there would be no chance of building a connection with Master Lin in the future.

Those who sat were considered family; those who left were another matter entirely.

"Elder Guan, please tell us what this second matter is," Ma Wei said.

The others looked on with curiosity, but only Liang Yue's expression was slightly grave, for he had an inkling of what Guan Chengye was about to say.

Guan Chengye glanced at Lin Mu.

Lin Mu waved his hand lightly. A muffled groan sounded from outside, but it quickly faded into silence.

"Speak."

Lin Mu's tone was as placid as ever. As for those who had been trying to eavesdrop from outside, he had already struck them dead with a remote palm strike.

Seeing Guan Chengye act with such caution, the expressions of Song Wen and the others grew serious.

Guan Chengye coughed twice and said, "As everyone knows, my Guan Family came to River City under orders from above to handle a certain matter."

Song Wen nodded slightly, indicating his understanding. Given his status, he was naturally aware of the Guan Family's purpose in River City. This was also why he had spoken to Jiang Ming as he did earlier.

"Currently, there is an underground organization in River City called the 'Dark Web.' Has anyone here heard of it?"

Guan Chengye's words stunned the entire room.

Ma Wei exclaimed, "Elder Guan, are you talking about the Dark Web known for their ruthless and unscrupulous methods?"

Guan Chengye nodded. "Yes, them precisely."

The others seemed to recall something as well, and the color drained from their faces. Everyone present was an influential figure, so they had naturally heard of the Dark Web. Even those who hadn't, paled slightly after asking the person next to them.

"What in the world does this Dark Web want?" Song Wen's face filled with anger. As a man of integrity, he despised organizations that wreaked havoc on people's lives. After hearing Guan Chengye's words, his face was filled with loathing.

"No one knows their objective. But based on all the clues I have gathered, the River City branch of the Dark Web alone has committed countless murders over the years."

Guan Chengye spoke gravely, "I'm sure you all remember the incident at the Huanan Chemical Plant five years ago?"

One of the tycoons recalled, "Is Elder Guan referring to the plant in the suburbs of River City? Wasn't it destroyed in a fire caused by a fuel leak?"

"That's right. I heard the casualties numbered in the hundreds."

The others remembered the incident as well.

Ma Wei's pupils shrank. "Don't tell me that incident was also the work of the Dark Web?"

"Indeed."

The word landed like a bombshell, and the crowd burst into an uproar.

Ma Wei was the most agitated of them all. One of his sons had been working at the Huanan Chemical Plant at the time and had been killed in the incident.

"Damn that Dark Web!" Ma Wei gritted his teeth. "Elder Guan, just say the word! If you're going to excise this cancerous tumor from River City, count the Ma Family in!"

"Eight years ago, my father was assassinated," Liang Yue added grimly. "Although we had evidence it was the Dark Web, we could never find them. Now that we have the chance, we certainly won't let it slip by!"

The others all spoke up, unanimously agreeing with Guan Chengye's plan to purge the Dark Web.

Guan Chengye said, "I would like to thank everyone in advance. However, the Dark Web has been operating in River City for many years. Eradicating it completely will not be an easy task."

Song Wen declared, "If we can't do it in a day, we'll take two. If not in a year, then two years. Even if we die, the younger generation will rise to take our place! In short, we must uproot the Dark Web completely. We cannot allow them to exist any longer!"

At Song Wen's words, everyone nodded in agreement.

Guan Chengye sighed inwardly, his admiration for Lin Mu growing even deeper. He had initially refused when Lin Mu first proposed this course of action. After all, this was supposed to be his duty. But after the incident in Wufeng Town, he learned that the Dark Web had been operating in River City for many years, deeply entrenched and hidden. Some prominent families even had dealings with them.

Uniting the major figures of River City could rally a great force, but it also risked alerting the enemy, causing leaks and widespread panic. However, Lin Mu had told him not to worry and even offered several suggestions. It was only after careful consideration that Guan Chengye decided to gather these specific people here. The families and factions under suspicion, of course, were not invited.

And Lin Mu was here to back him up.

With this in mind, Guan Chengye no longer hesitated and revealed his plan.

After he finished speaking, everyone was stunned.

"Elder Guan, is it really that simple?" Ma Wei asked, surprised.

He had assumed Guan Chengye would ask for manpower and resources. To his surprise, they were only required to cut off the Dark Web financially.

"That will be enough," Guan Chengye said. "The reason the Dark Web has thrived in River City for so many years is because they've established a complex network of business models. Once we cut off their financial lifelines, the rest will be a matter for my Guan Family."

After a moment's thought, everyone agreed it made sense. They were ordinary people; for them to contribute even this much was commendable.

"Rest assured, you are all heroes of River City," Guan Chengye promised. "Once the Dark Web is eradicated, I will personally report your contributions to my superiors."

Liang Yue immediately replied, "Elder Guan, you do me too much honor. I was born a man of River City, and I will die a ghost of River City. It is my privilege to do my small part for our home!"

"Exactly! As citizens of River City, it is our duty to do something for it!"

Ma Wei patted his chest. "I, Ma Wei, may not have much, but I do have a conscience!"

Guan Chengye stood up and bowed to the crowd with his fists clasped.

"I, on behalf of the millions of people in River City, thank you all for your great righteousness!"

If the Dark Web were to learn of this meeting, everyone present would surely face ruthless suppression and retaliation. Yet, these individuals remained fearless, their eyes resolute.

Once the discussion was more or less concluded, the guests stood up to take their leave.

It was then that Lin Mu finally spoke.

"I don't care if you are truly sincere or merely feigning it. I will say this only once: if I find out that anyone has leaked what was said here, Elder Guan won't have to lift a finger. I will personally take up my sword and create a river of blood."

With those words, Lin Mu stood up and departed.

The remaining people struggled to breathe, their bodies turning cold with fear.

Chapter 157: Get in here!

Su Ke'er had been feeling terrible recently.

The reason, naturally, wasn't just due to company affairs. After all, her uncle, Su Wei, had already told her that even though the company had a new chairman, she would still be responsible for everything, just as before. The new chairman had also made it clear that unless it was a matter of life and death for the company, she should proceed as usual.

If only that were true. You, Lin Mu, dismissed three managers on your first day, and in just two days, you took down a human resources manager and a deputy sales manager. Now, you've taken out a quarter of the company's middle management. How is the company supposed to operate? Still, these were minor matters. Boheng Pharma was a large firm with plenty of talent, so promoting a few capable individuals wasn't difficult.

What depressed Su Ke'er the most was what Lin Mu had said to her on his first day.

How on earth did that guy figure it out?

The coffee in front of her had gone cold, and she had no appetite for the desserts she usually loved. Her abdomen felt as if it were being twisted by a knife, and the pain was unbearable.

"Sorry, sorry, I'm late."

At that moment, a figure hurried over and sat down in front of Su Ke'er, taking a big gulp of coffee. Seeing that Su Ke'er wasn't speaking, Qin Yan grew puzzled. "Ke'er, what's wrong? You look so pale."

The newcomer was Qin Yan, Qin Luoli's cousin.

Su Ke'er looked over at Qin Yan and said, "Yan, do you really think there are people in this world who can tell if someone is sick with just one glance?"

Qin Yan was taken aback. She pondered for a moment before saying, "If you'd asked me before, I would have said no. But..."

"But what?" Su Ke'er's eyes lit up as she stared at Qin Yan.

A figure flashed through Qin Yan's mind. She said, "I just happen to know someone like that. Even the Divine Doctor admires him greatly and says his medical skills are unparalleled. He must possess that ability."

Su Ke'er suddenly grabbed Qin Yan's hand, her voice pleading, "Yan, you have to help me this time."

Qin Yan jumped in fright. "Ke'er, why is your hand so cold?"

Suddenly, Qin Yan did some quick math. Her expression changed slightly as she asked, "Could it be that you..."

Su Ke'er nodded, tears welling up on her eyelashes.

Qin Yan immediately grew angry. "Wasn't the medicine I prescribed for you for a whole course of treatment? Or are you saying you didn't take it at all?"

Su Ke'er looked down, not daring to meet Qin Yan's eyes, and mumbled, "There have been a lot of issues at the company recently, so..."

"How can you be so careless with your own body?" Qin Yan said with frustration. "Your situation is different. I've told you time and again to get enough rest, so why don't you listen?"

Su Ke'er felt wronged but knew that Qin Yan meant well. She pleaded, "Yan, I know I was wrong. But is there anything that can help ease the pain for now?"

After a moment of thought, Qin Yan said, "Ke'er, your condition is very unusual. If you had listened to me, rested well, and taken your medicine on time, you would have improved. But in your current state, you might really need to be hospitalized."

"No, I can't be hospitalized," Su Ke'er said immediately. "The company has a mountain of problems right now. It can't function without me."

The thought of that bastard just washing his hands of all responsibility made Su Ke'er seethe with anger.

"You silly girl, what's more important, your job or your life?" Qin Yan couldn't help but scold. But when she thought of Su Ke'er's background, her expression softened with sympathy.

She and Su Ke'er had met in the hospital. Qin Yan had just graduated and happened to see Su Ke'er coming in for a check-up. As a fellow woman, learning about Su Ke'er's problem had filled her with empathy and heartache. In their subsequent encounters, she repeatedly urged Su Ke'er to come to the hospital for regular check-ups. But Su Ke'er, whether out of shyness or because she was too busy with work, rarely came. It wasn't until Qin Yan got fed up one day that she went directly to Su Ke'er's home, only to find her unconscious and covered in blood.

That incident had terrified Qin Yan.

From that day on, Su Ke'er treated Qin Yan as her savior. Whenever they had free time, they would get together for coffee or go shopping.

Seeing Su Ke'er's current state, Qin Yan knew exactly what was happening. Her period had come again, and judging by her pain, the situation looked bleak.

"Even if you don't go to the hospital, you still need regular check-ups, right?" Qin Yan said.

Su Ke'er quickly responded, "Yan, don't you know a Divine Doctor with unparalleled medical skills? Could you introduce me? Please, just do this for me."

Qin Yan hesitated for a moment before nodding. "Alright, but I can't guarantee he'll agree."

Su Ke'er beamed. "It's fine. Even if he doesn't, I'll remember your kindness, Yan."

"AH!"

Qin Yan had been about to suggest rescheduling when she heard Su Ke'er cry out. She saw her clutching her abdomen, her expression one of agony, and knew at once what had happened.

"Ke'er, quickly, I'll take you to the restroom."

At that point, Su Ke'er's pants already seemed to be stained red. Her face was crimson with shame, yet it couldn't hide her underlying pallor.

No longer caring about appearances, Qin Yan immediately took out her phone and dialed a number.

"Lin Mu, come to the Starry Sky Cafe, it's urgent!"

After hanging up, Qin Yan supported Su Ke'er and quickly asked a server for a private room to use.

When Lin Mu received Qin Yan's call, he was having dinner with Qin Luoli.

"What happened?" Qin Luoli asked.

"I don't know, my cousin didn't say," Lin Mu replied indifferently.

Qin Luoli put down her utensils. "It might be an emergency. You should go take a look. I'll head to the company."

After thinking it over, Lin Mu said, "Alright."

"Wait, I'll drive you."

After dropping Lin Mu off, Qin Luoli straightened his clothes. "Speak nicely when you see my cousin. Don't act like you're enemies."

"Got it," Lin Mu replied, twisting his neck a bit awkwardly.

Qin Luoli smiled, then suddenly leaned in and kissed his forehead. "Go on. Come back early tonight, I'll wait for you for dinner."

Then, Qin Luoli stepped on the gas and sped away.

Lin Mu stood frozen for a moment, subconsciously touching his forehead. Recalling her words, he broke into a slight smile.

This feeling isn't too bad.

Guided by a server, Lin Mu arrived at a private room. He pushed the door open and walked in.

The moment he entered, Lin Mu's body jolted. He instinctively took two steps back and shut the door. Not long after, a voice tinged with embarrassment and annoyance came from inside, "Get in here!"

Chapter 158: Take a Tough Stance!

Lin Mu reopened the door and walked back in, making sure not to let the attendant follow him. After all, the scene inside the lounge was not something for outsiders to witness.

"You?" When Su Ke'er saw Lin Mu, she froze. In the next instant, a deep blush crept across her face, so red it looked as though it might bleed. Just moments before, Qin Yan had been helping her remove her pants to clean her up, a scene Lin Mu had just walked in on. Tears welled up in her eyes, though it was impossible to tell if they were from the pain or the humiliation.

"You two know each other?" Qin Yan glanced between them, her curiosity piqued. She seemed completely unconcerned that her best friend had just been exposed. As a doctor, she understood that a patient should have no reservations with their physician. While she had never witnessed Lin Mu's medical skills firsthand, the fact that even Divine Doctor Sun Tianyang admitted his own abilities were inferior spoke volumes. Lin Mu had to be incredibly skilled.

"We do!" Su Ke'er ground out, glaring at Lin Mu. Strangely, a part of her felt relieved. It's far better for him to have seen me than some stranger. And he did rush over after just one call from Qin Yan... For that, she felt a flicker of gratitude.

Lin Mu had already regained his composure, understanding the situation with a single glance at Su Ke'er. "Having your period?"

His first words instantly extinguished the flicker of gratitude she had just felt. Her face burned with shame, and she lowered her head.

Qin Yan shot Lin Mu a look, admonishing him for stating the obvious. "Lin Mu, didn't you say your medical skills were practically miraculous? Hurry up and take a look at Ke'er." Qin Yan knew her friend's personality well. If they dragged this out, the seemingly cold but intensely shy young woman would change her mind.

"I already have," Lin Mu stated plainly, unfazed by Su Ke'er's embarrassment or Qin Yan's glare. "I told you before that if you didn't resolve this issue soon, it would make you wish you were dead."

Su Ke'er bit her lip, his words feeling like a personal humiliation. "If you're not going to help, then just leave!"

Qin Yan flared up. "Lin Mu, what's that supposed to mean? Are you really going to stand by and do nothing?"

Lin Mu simply waved his hand. "I never said I wouldn't help."

Qin Yan was so furious she wanted to kick him. "Then what are you waiting for? Get to it!"

Lin Mu's brow furrowed as he surveyed the lounge. "Are you sure you want to do it here?" He didn't personally care, but her condition required a quiet, comfortable environment.

"It's an emergency," Qin Yan insisted. "We can't be picky about the location."

"Let's... go to my place," Su Ke'er interjected suddenly. "It's not far from here."

"But..." Qin Yan began to protest.

"Don't worry, Sister Yan," Su Ke'er said weakly. "I can make it."

Lin Mu chimed in, "Don't worry. I guarantee she'll be fine, but this really isn't the right place for the treatment."

Qin Yan relented. "All right, we'll go to Ke'er's apartment." She then helped Su Ke'er to her feet. A wave of pain washed over Su Ke'er's face, making it clear she was at her limit.

Seeing this, Lin Mu stepped forward. "Let me. You clean up here."

"What?" Qin Yan started.

Lin Mu gestured toward the bloodied tissues and clothes on the floor. "You don't expect me to handle this, do you?"

Mortified, Su Ke'er tugged on Qin Yan's sleeve. "Sister Yan..."

Qin Yan realized it was true; she couldn't possibly ask a man like Lin Mu to clean up the mess. "Fine," she said. "But you better take good care of Ke'er. If anything happens to her, I'll never let you hear the end of it!"

Ignoring her, Lin Mu scooped Su Ke'er into his arms, earning a cry of surprise.

"What... what are you doing?"

"Can you walk in your condition?" Lin Mu asked, his expression cold. She couldn't even stand properly, let alone walk.

Qin Yan draped some clothing over Su Ke'er to preserve her modesty, then said with a huff, "Ke'er, don't worry about it. This guy's got plenty of muscle. Might as well put it to use."

Su Ke'er whispered a quiet, "Thank you."

As she held the door open, Qin Yan warned Lin Mu, "Don't you dare take advantage of her while she's weak. I'll be right over in a little bit."

"You talk too much," Lin Mu muttered. He strode out of the coffee shop with Su Ke'er in his arms, leaving Qin Yan to stomp her foot in frustration.

That damn brat! Just you wait, I'll get you back for this!

At a nearby intersection, Lin Mu hailed a taxi. After giving the address, he settled into the back seat with Su Ke'er still in his arms. The driver had seen his share of public displays of affection, but this was a bit much. He wore a sour expression for the entire ride.

Su Ke'er's face was already a deathly pallor from the pain, leaving her with no strength to offer an explanation. Lin Mu, for his part, remained completely unfazed by the driver's disapproval.

Fortunately, her apartment wasn't far. After about ten minutes, they arrived at an upscale residential complex. By then, Su Ke'er was barely conscious, her body limp from the agony.

Looking down at the woman in his arms, he saw her pretty face was contorted in pain. A cold sweat had soaked through her clothes. Lin Mu sighed heavily. "You didn't have to go through all this," he murmured.

Luckily, Su Ke'er had managed to tell him her apartment number earlier. Carrying her, Lin Mu went straight up to her floor. As he arrived, he saw a man holding a large bouquet of flowers standing outside her door.

The man nodded at Lin Mu in greeting, nervously straightened his clothes, and knocked. There was no answer. Lin Mu walked over and stopped beside him.

The man frowned, about to speak, but then his gaze fell upon the woman in Lin Mu's arms. His expression instantly darkened. "Who are you? What did you do to Ke'er?" His voice was a volatile mix of anger, worry, and the raw humiliation of perceived betrayal. He stared at Lin Mu with undisguised hostility.

Lin Mu ignored him completely. He simply took out a key, unlocked the door, and stepped inside.

BANG!

He kicked the door shut behind him, catching the other man, who had tried to follow, square in the face. The man cried out in pain, clutching his nose.

"You're courting death!" the man howled, crouching on the ground with tears streaming from his eyes. He glared viciously at the closed door before pulling out his phone and dialing a number.

"Brother Chen, I need to take care of some guy. Send me some people," the man said into the phone, his voice grim. "Get me the ones who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty."

After hanging up, he spat on the ground. Brat. You dare lay a hand on my woman? Just you wait, I'll make you regret it!

Chapter 159 I'm Afraid He'll Beat You to Death!

「In the room.」

Looking at Su Ke'er, who was practically comatose, Lin Mu frowned. The situation was worse than he had imagined. Fortunately, it wasn't a problem for him.

He pulled up a stool to sit beside her. "This might hurt a bit," he said. "You'll have to bear with it."

Half-conscious, Su Ke'er could hardly hear him, but she let out a low, almost inaudible hum in agreement.

Lin Mu then removed her outer clothes, leaving her in a thin layer of underwear. Her skin was as white as snow and dazzlingly beautiful. He kept his gaze firmly averted.

Perhaps feeling a chill, Su Ke'er instinctively curled up. Her delicate brows knitted together, creating a pitiful sight.

Lin Mu collected himself, extended a palm, and gently placed it on her abdomen. He softly released his Spiritual Energy, which transformed into a warm current that seeped into her body.

"Mmm..."

With her red lips slightly parted, Su Ke'er let out a soft moan, a sound somewhere between pain and pleasure. It was low and melodic, enough to make a man's blood run hot.

Lin Mu remained unmoved. With his eyes slightly closed, he extended his senses into Su Ke'er's body. He immediately "saw" a thumb-sized white ice crystal tucked away in a hidden corner, emitting an intense chill. It was this crystal that had made Su Ke'er's life a living hell all these years.

An Ice Spirit Body, truly a rarity in this world.

Although he had suspected as much, the confirmation still surprised him. Earth was not like the Immortal Realm, which was abundant in Spiritual Energy. People with talent for cultivation were already rare, to say nothing of those with unique physiques.

Liu Xiaolin's Limitless Sword Body alone had been a surprise, and now there was Su Ke'er. If these two had been born in the Immortal Realm, they would have long been coveted cultivation prospects fought over by the major Immortal Sects.

Liu Xiaolin was fine; he was still young and currently in a deep sleep. But Su Ke'er had already missed the optimal time for cultivation. Even if she were given a Cultivation Technique perfectly suited to her Ice Spirit Body, her progress would be much slower.

This slowness, however, was only relative. After all, the Ice Spirit Body was, in some ways, not much inferior to the Limitless Sword Body.

Still, Lin Mu didn't feel obligated to guide her on the path of cultivation just because she possessed an Ice Spirit Body. Each person had their own Dao Methods and opportunities; it was best to let things take their natural course.

So, Lin Mu focused only on the treatment. This part was rather simple. All he had to do was use his Spiritual Energy to bind the ice crystal and prevent any of its chill from leaking out. Otherwise, with her mortal flesh, Su Ke'er would suffer terribly.

This way, he wouldn't destroy her Ice Spirit Body, leaving her a slim chance to embark on the path of cultivation in the future. It would also effectively solve her current problem.

Perhaps because Lin Mu's intervention was containing the chill within her, Su Ke'er's breathing gradually calmed. She began to snore softly, having fallen into a deep sleep.

Looking at her delicate face, so flawless it seemed it could be marred by a single touch, Lin Mu couldn't help but sigh. She's a pitiful one, too. If her Ice Spirit Body had been discovered by a Cultivator when she was young, she would have been guided onto the path of cultivation and spared so much suffering. For an ordinary person to endure the constant invasion of cold day and night, even an average Cultivator couldn't withstand it. He wondered how she had managed to hold on for so long.

Spiritual Energy flowed continuously from his hand. Su Ke'er had completely relaxed, her limbs spreading out and naturally exposing some sensitive areas. The view between the hills and valleys was quite pleasant.

Lin Mu averted his gaze. Only after the ice crystal was completely sealed did he slowly withdraw his hand. He felt a lingering reluctance, a subtle unwillingness to let go.

It seems that woman will have to serve me well tonight.

Once he was finished, Lin Mu noticed Su Ke'er was drenched in sweat. It was partly from the pain and partly from the chill dispersing as the seal settled over the ice crystal.

But there was a distinction between men and women, so Lin Mu didn't do anything more, deciding to wait for Qin Yan to arrive.

Just then, a knock came from the door. Lin Mu found a blanket to cover Su Ke'er and went to answer it.

Qin Yan stood at the entrance, carrying a bag. Seeing Lin Mu, she asked nervously, "Is Ke'er alright now?"

"She's fine now," Lin Mu replied.

Qin Yan looked surprised. "That fast?"

"It wasn't a terminal illness," Lin Mu said.

Qin Yan entered the room. When she saw Su Ke'er lying on the couch in only her underwear, her gaze toward Lin Mu turned strange.

"Don't get the wrong idea. I was just treating her," Lin Mu said, knowing what she was thinking. "You should help her wipe down so she doesn't catch a cold. If there's nothing else, I'll be going."

"You're leaving just like that?" Qin Yan said, alarmed. "What if Ke'er has another attack?"

Lin Mu frowned. "Rest assured, she'll be fine."

Still unconvinced, Qin Yan grabbed his arm. "No, you have to stay and observe. You solved a problem in minutes that I was completely helpless against. It's hard to believe."

Lin Mu gave a wry smile. "Cousin, you're laying it on a bit thick."

Qin Yan glared at him. "I don't care! You can't leave now, because..."

"Because he's not leaving today!"

A cold voice suddenly cut in from the doorway. The man who had been holding flowers earlier was standing there with an ugly look on his face, flanked by seven or eight menacing men. It was clear they were looking for trouble.

"Ma Xuan, what do you think you're doing?" Qin Yan's expression changed, clearly recognizing him.

The man, Ma Xuan, grinned. "Dr. Qin, this has nothing to do with you. He's my target!" He pointed a finger at Lin Mu, his eyes like ice.

"Don't you dare do anything reckless! Do you believe I won't call the police?" Qin Yan shielded Lin Mu.

"Call the police?" Ma Xuan burst out laughing, and his goons laughed with him.

His face twisted into a snarl. "You think I'm afraid of that? Kid, if you don't want to get hurt, I suggest you drag yourself out here!"

"Oh?" Lin Mu raised an eyebrow. "You're sure you've got this in the bag?"

He wasn't an idiot; he could see that this Ma Xuan was here because of Su Ke'er.

"You cocky brat! In a minute, we'll see if your bones are as hard as your words!" Ma Xuan roared.

Qin Yan grabbed Lin Mu's hand and shook her head. "Lin Mu, don't be reckless. Ma Xuan's background isn't simple; he's from the Ma Family. He's been pursuing Ke'er for a long time, but she doesn't like him. We just can't afford to offend him outright because of his family, which made him think Ke'er might feel something for him."

Lin Mu wasn't interested in the drama. "Do you think I care about his background?"

Ma Xuan sneered. "You'll find out soon enough. I can crush a nobody like you whenever I please."

"You shut your mouth!" Qin Yan yelled, furious, pointing at Ma Xuan's nose. "You idiot! I'm afraid he's going to kill you!"

Chapter 160: Remember, My Name is Lin Mu!

"What did you say?"

Ma Xuan seemed to disbelieve his own ears and scoffed, "Today, I'd really like to see how he's going to kill me!"

Qin Yan grew anxious. Ma Xuan, you absolute idiot. You have no idea who you're dealing with. I admit the Ma Family is powerful, but are they as powerful as the Luo Family? Even Elder Master Luo acts like a grandchild in front of Lin Mu. His own grandson, Luo Jinping, was even beaten up by Lin Mu in front of countless people. Do you really think you're more formidable than Lin Mu? If I weren't worried about Lin Mu causing trouble, who would care if you lived or died? To think you're still so oblivious. It's no wonder Ke'er looks down on you.

"Suit yourself! Go get yourself killed for all I care!" Qin Yan glared at Lin Mu and said, "Just don't kill him. Anything else is up to you."

After saying that, she pushed Lin Mu out the door. Out of sight, out of mind.

Lin Mu stood at the door with his hands in his pockets. "Let's go," he said. Without waiting for a response, he headed straight downstairs.

Ma Xuan raised an eyebrow and sneered, "Boys, after him!"

The seven or eight thugs exchanged glances, chuckled, and followed hastily. They all looked relaxed.

After all, he's just some pretty boy who's all show and no substance. Teaching him a little lesson will not only get us a large sum of money but also earn us the favor of Young Master Ma. It's killing two birds with one stone. As for whether the kid who offended Young Master Ma gets his limbs broken, that's none of our concern. Young Master Ma will smooth over things like that. Besides, this isn't the first or second time we've done this. Thinking of this, the men chuckled amongst themselves.

It was a high-end residential complex, so the scenery was naturally pleasant, complete with a park for recreation. Lin Mu stood in the park, admiring the view.

"You've chosen a nice spot." Ma Xuan walked over, nodding in satisfaction.

There was hardly anyone around. The few elderly people and children who had been playing in the park moments before had been scared away by the thugs. Who would dare to come close?

Lin Mu looked at him and said, "Let's start."

Ma Xuan paused, then sneered viciously. "Kid, it seems you won't shed a tear until you see the coffin!"

"I'm very busy," Lin Mu said impatiently.

"Hmph, we'll see how long that arrogance lasts!" Ma Xuan waved his hand. "Remember, don't kill him. Other than that, do as you please!"

"Don't worry, Young Master Ma. It's not our first time doing this," one of the thugs said with a grin, flipping a switchblade in his hand.

"I'm always confident when you handle things, Monkey," Ma Xuan laughed. "Since he's in a hurry, make it quick. I'm going for a smoke."

As for personally witnessing Lin Mu getting his limbs broken? Sorry, he really wasn't interested.

The thug called Monkey dangled a cigarette from his lips, eyeing Lin Mu sideways. "Not bad, kid. Daring to compete with our Young Master Ma for a woman... you've got guts!" Monkey gave a thumbs-up, then spat out the cigarette butt with a scoff. "Take a look at yourself. Did you really think Young Master Ma's woman is someone you can touch?"

As soon as he finished speaking, Monkey lifted his foot and aimed a kick directly at Lin Mu. His kick was fast and fierce, one that most people wouldn't be able to block.

BANG!

Suddenly, Monkey's ankle was caught in a firm grip. He froze for a second, then let out a scream like a pig being slaughtered. He could feel a terrifying force coming from the hand gripping him, a power so immense it felt like it was about to crush his ankle.

"You... Let go!" Monkey yelled, his eyes bloodshot as sweat poured down his face from the pain.

Lin Mu casually flung him aside. Monkey slammed onto the ground with a thud, where he rolled around, screaming in agony.

"Monkey!"

The other thugs' expressions changed. One of them rushed to help Monkey up. His face pale with pain, Monkey pointed at Lin Mu and stammered, "Brothers... get him!"

Two of the thugs instantly charged forward, launching an attack on Lin Mu.

Monkey spat on the ground and hissed venomously, "Damn it, if I don't make you bleed today, you'll think I'm easy to bully!"

But in the next moment, Monkey's jaw dropped in shock.

BANG! BANG! The two thugs, reputedly their best fighters, were each sent flying into the bushes by a single slap, their condition unknown.

Lin Mu's expression remained calm as he said coolly, "With such pitiful strength, you dare to be thugs? I really don't know what you were thinking."

"Son of a bitch, he's so arrogant!"

The other thugs, refusing to believe what they saw, all surged forward at once. Monkey couldn't have stopped them even if he tried. He could only turn his head away, unable to bear the sight.

Sure enough, the next moment, the remaining thugs were, without exception, slapped away and sent flying into the bushes.

Watching Lin Mu approach him step by step, Monkey's face drained of color. It's over. I've run into a real monster.

"B-Boss... this... this is a misunderstanding." Monkey could feel his voice trembling as he spoke. He forced an ugly smile. "Brother, I was just following orders. Please, let me go."

Lin Mu just smiled faintly without saying a word.

Monkey was so frightened he nearly pissed himself. His legs felt weak—whether from the pain or the fear, he didn't know—and he fell to his knees with a thud.

"Sir, I was blind to have offended you. Please, a man of your stature shouldn't trouble himself with a nobody like me. Please let me off this one time."

Lin Mu looked down at him. "That's not what you were saying a moment ago."

Monkey was on the verge of tears; he had just been running his mouth earlier. But now, he was completely outmatched and had no choice but to grovel.

"Boss," Monkey pleaded, "I work for Brother Chen. For his sake, how about we just let this go?"

Lin Mu smiled. "Brother Chen? Oh? Does his name carry that much weight?"

Monkey was speechless.

"Monkey, what are you doing?"

Just then, Ma Xuan finished his cigarette and walked over. When he saw Monkey kneeling and begging, he flew into a rage. This bastard took my money and is now kowtowing to someone else! He deserves to die!

"Young Master Ma..."

Before Monkey could explain, Ma Xuan slapped him hard across the face and bellowed, "What is this? Is this how you handle things for me? Where are the others?"

"Don't bother looking," Lin Mu said indifferently. "You're the only one left standing."

"What?" Ma Xuan was stunned. As a horrifying realization dawned on him, he pointed a trembling finger at Lin Mu. "Who... who the hell are you?"

Lin Mu shook his head with a mocking smile. "Don't you think it's a bit pointless to ask that now?"

Watching Lin Mu slowly walk toward him, Ma Xuan instinctively took a few steps back. "I'm warning you, don't do anything stupid."

"Don't worry," Lin Mu said calmly. "I won't."

Ma Xuan's heart relaxed slightly at his words, and a sneer returned to his face. Looks like this kid doesn't have the guts to touch me after all.

But the moment that thought crossed his mind, a hand struck him fiercely across the face.

SLAP!

Lin Mu's slap sent Ma Xuan flying. He immediately closed the distance and stomped down on Ma Xuan's leg.

CRACK!

The immense force instantly shattered Ma Xuan's thigh. He let out a bloodcurdling scream.

"You bastard, I'll kill you!"

Lin Mu applied more pressure. Ma Xuan immediately fell silent, his face a mask of terror. He could only stare at Lin Mu and shake his head frantically, silently begging for mercy. In his eyes, Lin Mu was no different from a Devil.

"Since you enjoy breaking people's limbs so much," Lin Mu said coolly, "how could you not get a taste of it yourself?"

With that, Lin Mu withdrew his foot and began to walk away.

"Remember the name. It's Lin Mu. You can come for revenge anytime you like."