

War God 241

Chapter 241 Don't Cause a Fatality!

"*BURP.*"

After a satisfying meal, Liang Shanshan couldn't help but let out a loud burp. She quickly covered her mouth, a deep blush spreading across her pretty face.

Lin Mu smiled faintly, finding Liang Shanshan rather adorable. Liang Sheng, however, felt completely disgraced.

"Let's go."

Lin Mu stood up, ready to pay the bill and leave.

"Shanshan, go pay," Liang Sheng glared at his daughter. This girl... she didn't have the slightest bit of tact.

"Oh."

Liang Shanshan responded and got up to settle the bill.

"Boss, don't take the lady's money. I'll cover her bill."

Just as Liang Shanshan was taking out her money to pay, a young man reeking of alcohol swaggered over and slammed his wallet on the counter, putting on a generous act.

Liang Shanshan frowned, a hint of disgust flashing in her eyes.

The young man was clearly the idle, unproductive type. With dyed yellow hair, a cigarette dangling from his mouth, and pants riddled with holes, he obviously thought he looked cool.

But in Liang Shanshan's eyes, this kind of person was just a clown.

"This..."

The boss glanced at Liang Shanshan, hesitating.

Seeing this, the young man grew angry and slammed his hand on the counter. "What? Is my money not good enough?"

The boss forced a smile. "Young man, even if you want to pay for someone, you should at least ask if they're willing." As he spoke, he kept giving Liang Shanshan meaningful glances.

"Not willing?" The young man sneered. "My big brother has taken a liking to her. He wants her to come over for a couple of drinks."

"Boss, you must have heard of my boss, right?" The youth stuck up a thumb and boasted, "Lord Ma Liu of Leishan, that's who!"

The boss's expression instantly changed.

Lord Ma Liu of Leishan! He was someone not to be trifled with.

The boss looked at the young man pleadingly. "Young man, please don't make things difficult for the young lady. Do me this favor, and whenever you eat here in the future, how about I give you a twenty-percent discount?"

SMACK!

Furious, the young man slapped the boss across the face.

"Twenty-percent discount?" he sneered. "When have I, Huang San, ever paid for a meal? My coming here to eat is what gives *you* face!"

The boss was slapped by Huang San but dared not show his anger. It wasn't Huang San he feared, but the man backing him: Lord Ma Liu. In the Thunder Mountain area, that man was the reigning Earth Emperor. No one dared to provoke him.

"Beauty, let's go." Huang San grinned sleazily at Liang Shanshan. "Not everyone gets the honor of being invited for a drink with my boss."

"Get lost! Don't bother me!"

Liang Shanshan shot Huang San a look of disgust, placed the money on the table, and turned to leave.

"Whoa, feisty!"

Huang San smirked and followed her, reaching out to put his hand on her shoulder.

"Beauty, I like women just like you—fiery and hot!"

Liang Shanshan was petite and exquisitely built, with even more striking features. Thanks to her meticulous skincare routine, her complexion was fairer than most. In a place like Kai City, which was full of women with sallow faces, she was a rare, top-tier beauty. That was why Huang San's boss had sent him to fetch her after just a single glance from afar.

Just as Huang San's hand was about to touch Liang Shanshan's shoulder, she seized his wrist.

With an overhead throw, she sent him flying.

"Ah!"

Huang San screamed as he crashed to the ground.

Despite her delicate appearance, Liang Shanshan's skills were not to be underestimated. She could have easily handled three or four local thugs like Huang San.

"You ungrateful bastard. Did you really think I'm that good-tempered?" Liang Shanshan cursed, stomping on Huang San's knee.

CRACK!

Huang San's eyes rolled back in his head as he cried out in pain, writhing on the floor.

"Miss, you..." Seeing Liang Shanshan take down Huang San with a single move, the boss was both shocked and worried. "Miss, you need to go! You hit Huang San, so Lord Ma Liu will definitely not let you off the hook!"

"Think you can hit me and just walk away? Dream on!" Huang San clutched his knee and said through the pain, "Today, you're coming with us, one way or another!"

With that, Huang San took out his phone and dialed a number.

Liang Shanshan couldn't be bothered with him and turned to leave. When she saw Lin Mu and her father at the intersection, she got straight into the car. "Let's go."

Liang Sheng asked anxiously, "What took you so long?"

"It was nothing."

Liang Shanshan didn't want to explain and simply settled into the passenger seat.

Lin Mu glanced back into the alley before opening his own door and getting in.

That night, the trio didn't head to Thunder Mountain. Instead, they found a hotel in Kai City to stay in.

Upon entering his room, Lin Mu immediately began his cultivation. By the time he opened his eyes again, three hours had passed.

Just then, a commotion erupted in the hallway. The sound of curses and angry shouts was incredibly irritating. It sounded like someone was banging on doors one by one, searching for someone.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Someone hammered on Lin Mu's door, and the tremendous noise made him furrow his brow. The person knocking clearly had no regard for anyone resting inside.

Luckily, Lin Mu hadn't entered a state of deep cultivation; otherwise, the noise would have completely ruined his session. Cultivators despise being disturbed while practicing. A single mistake can cause them to go berserk. Although he hadn't gone berserk, his mood was still thoroughly soured.

"Open up!"

When no one answered, the person outside became furious and started kicking the door.

Lin Mu stood up and was about to open it when he heard Liang Sheng's voice from the hall.

"What do you think you're doing? Don't you know you're disturbing people's rest in the middle of the night?" Liang Sheng stood in front of Lin Mu's door, glaring at the group before him.

There were over a dozen men, all bare-armed and brandishing weapons, their expressions fierce. Huang San was being supported by one of them, while the leader was a tall, formidable man who resembled him.

"The Horse Fighters Gang is conducting business. Mind your own and get lost!" the tall man snarled, pointing at Liang Sheng's nose.

"I don't care if you're the Horse Fighters Gang or the Dog Fighters Gang. Scram now, or don't blame me for getting rough!" Liang Sheng seemed to be struggling to restrain himself. If he weren't on a mission, he would have laid out these thugs with one punch each.

"You dare insult the Horse Fighters Gang? You must be tired of living!" The man roared, rolling up his sleeves, ready to fight.

"What's all the noise about?"

Just then, Lin Mu stepped out of his room. His eyes swept over the crowd. As expected, these thugs had tracked them down.

From the group, Huang San shuffled forward, peered into Lin Mu's room, and shook his head. "Second Bro, she's not here."

The tall, fierce man shot a glare at Lin Mu and Liang Sheng, pointing at them with clear menace.

"Let's go! Search the next room!"

The group moved to the next door, which was Liang Shanshan's room. Seeing their actions, a cold light glinted in Liang Sheng's eyes.

The door had only been knocked on twice when Liang Shanshan, dressed in pajamas, yanked it open. "Are you going to let anyone sleep?" she snapped irritably.

"Second Bro, that's her!" Huang San's eyes lit up the moment he saw her.

Huang Er waved a hand. "Take her!"

Several goons rushed forward to grab her.

"I'd like to see who dares to touch a single hair on her head today!" Enraged that his daughter was being bullied, Liang Sheng stepped directly in front of the thugs.

"Get out of the way if you don't want to die! We're only here for her today!" the tall man shouted, completely unintimidated by Liang Sheng.

Liang Sheng glanced at Lin Mu.

Lin Mu spoke calmly, "Try not to kill anyone."

Chapter 242: If Something Goes Wrong, I'll Take the Blame!

"Alright!"

Liang Sheng had been waiting for Lin Mu to say the word. Mr. Lin had been disturbed and his daughter bullied. If I, as her father, don't do anything about it, I'm not fit to be called one.

Upon receiving Lin Mu's command, Liang Sheng clenched his fists, a fierce smile spreading across his face.

"A bunch of ill-mannered brats, daring to act tough in front of me. Today, I'll take the place of your parents and teach you how to behave!"

After speaking, Liang Sheng slowly stepped forward. Though small and lean, he was a genuine External Power Martial Artist.

"Old man, I think you're tired of living!" Huang Er grinned with a chilling smile. "Brothers, get him! I want to see how these outsiders are going to teach us a lesson!"

"Get him!"

Several hoodlums, carrying their weapons, sauntered toward Liang Sheng. They had mocking smiles on their faces and were speaking in some unintelligible dialect. Judging by their expressions, they weren't saying anything pleasant.

WHOOSH!

One of the hoodlums suddenly raised his iron rod and viciously smashed it toward Liang Sheng's head. The attack was fierce and ruthless, showing no mercy. It seemed they didn't care at all if the blow killed someone. A hideous, cold smile hung on the hoodlum's face, as if he could already see Liang Sheng on the ground, head split open and bleeding, wailing in pain.

BANG!

"Ah!"

THUD!

The first sound was a fist crashing into flesh. The second was the hoodlum's scream. The third was his body hitting the ground. The hoodlum collapsed in front of Huang Er, foaming at the mouth. His eyes rolled back into his head, and he passed out on the spot. Liang Sheng's punch was perfectly controlled; it wouldn't kill the man, but it would surely leave him bedridden for two months.

HISS!

Seeing this, everyone—from the group of hoodlums to the onlookers peering out of the other rooms—couldn't help but suck in a sharp breath.

Such incredible strength! One punch sent a man flying. Does this scrawny-looking guy have the strength of an ox hidden inside him?

"What are you standing around for? Get him, all of you!" Huang Er's face twisted in rage as he roared, "I refuse to believe it! You can fight one of us, but can you fight ten at once?!"

"Right, all together now!"

The hoodlums spurred each other on, and a group of five formed a circle and charged.

Faced with their combined attack, Liang Sheng showed no hint of fear.

Lin Mu leaned against the doorway, watching everything with indifference.

Liang Shanshan simply yawned and muttered, "Boring." Then, looking sleepy, she walked into her room.

SLAM!

The door shut, and Liang Shanshan's voice floated out from inside. "If you're going to fight, do it quickly. Don't disturb my sleep."

She had been driving all day and was exhausted.

Knowing his precious daughter was annoyed, Liang Sheng declared, "Alright! I'll settle this in one minute!"

Hearing this, Huang Er laughed out of sheer fury. "Such arrogance. I'd love to see if you outsiders are really the legendary 'The Dragon Crosses the River'!"

However, what happened next made Huang Er and his men's eyes widen, their faces filling with terror.

Liang Sheng faced the several attackers without a hint of panic. He took two steps forward, dodged one man's steel blade, and smashed a punch into his chin.

CRACK!

The man's jaw shattered. Liang Sheng quickly lifted his leg, kicking a second man in the stomach. The man screamed as he flew backward and landed hard on his knees with a sickening crunch. The third man was grabbed by the wrist, swung around like a club, and then thrown aside.

The fourth man...

The fifth man...

...

In the blink of an eye, every man Huang Er had brought, except for himself and Huang San, was lying on the ground, either with a broken arm or a shattered leg. Everyone stared at the scene in utter astonishment, their minds buzzing.

One man against a dozen? Is this guy Ip Man? This isn't a movie!

GULP!

Huang San swallowed hard, his entire back soaked in a cold sweat. "Brother Er, it seems we've run into someone tough," he said, his voice quivering.

"What are you afraid of?" Although Huang Er was also scared, he was far more composed than Huang San. "These three are obviously not locals. Even a mighty dragon doesn't press a local snake. I'm curious to see who in Kai City dares to be mentioned in the same breath as our Lord Liu!"

At the mention of Ma Liuye's name, Huang San's eyes lit up. That's right! They were Ma Liuye's men! What could a few outsiders do? Could they really turn the world upside down?

"I admit I misjudged you, but this isn't over," Huang Er said, glancing at Liang Sheng with a threatening tone.

"A ragtag bunch like you thinks you can act like gangsters?" Liang Sheng approached Huang Er, cracking his knuckles. "Today, I'll show you that The Dragon Crosses the River can indeed crush a local snake."

Huang Er's expression changed. "What? You still want to lay a hand on us? Let me tell you something, after hitting my men, you won't be able to take a single step in Kai City. If anything happens to us, I guarantee you'll die a very ugly death!"

Huang Er glanced toward Liang Shanshan's room, a sinister smile on his face. "That's your daughter, isn't it? So pretty. I'm sure you wouldn't want her to meet with any... accidents in Kai City, would you? A car crash? Getting hit by something on the street? Or perhaps... being..."

Liang Sheng's body trembled slightly, his eyes turning red. "Are you threatening me?" he asked, his voice laced with killing intent.

He wanted nothing more than to tear Huang Er limb from limb. But he was worried about bringing trouble to Lin Mu and struggled to contain his murderous rage.

"Threatening? No, no, no," Huang Er shook his head, smiling. "I'm merely stating a fact."

Seeing that Liang Sheng didn't dare to touch him, Huang Er's confidence swelled. Huang San also started chuckling, thinking they had Liang Sheng right where they wanted him.

Liang Sheng's fists were clenched so tight his shoulders trembled. But he couldn't bring himself to strike. A feeling of utter humiliation began to well up inside him.

"Why keep such scum around?"

Just then, a calm voice reached Liang Sheng's ears. He turned his head abruptly.

"Mr. Lin..."

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "I said try not to cause any fatalities, but I never said it was forbidden."

"I..." Liang Sheng's eyes were bloodshot.

"If anything happens, I'll take responsibility!"

Lin Mu's words were like a powerful shot of confidence for Liang Sheng. The killing intent in his eyes became almost tangible.

"Hahaha, kill me?" Thinking Lin Mu was just bluffing, Huang Er laughed loudly. "I'll give you ten times the courage, and you still wouldn't dare—"

PFFT!

Before he could finish, he was sent flying backward.

BOOM!

Huang Er crashed to the ground, feeling like his entire body was falling apart. He glanced down at his chest, and his pupils shrank. His entire sternum had caved in.

"You..."

Huang Er opened his mouth, trying to say something, but blood mixed with bits of flesh began gushing out. His head lolled to the side, and he went silent forever.

"Brother Er!" Seeing Huang Er killed with a single punch, Huang San's eyes nearly split with rage, but they were also filled with irrepressible terror.

Lin Mu spoke again. "Take care of this one as well."

Hearing this, Huang San's limbs went weak. Without a moment's hesitation, he turned and ran. These guys actually dared to kill people! They were terrifying!

But his speed was no match for Liang Sheng's. A few seconds later, Huang San was also a corpse.

"Mr. Lin, what do we do now?" Having killed two men, Liang Sheng himself began to feel afraid. Though he was a Martial Artist, he had a gentle nature. Besides, these were two human lives.

"Don't worry," Lin Mu said with a casual smile. "With me here, you'll be fine."

Then, Lin Mu took out his phone and dialed a number.

"I'm at the Jade Dragon Hotel."

Chapter 243: I Killed the Person, What Can You Do About It!

"Just like that?"

Liang Sheng's face stiffened, as if he hadn't quite processed the situation. Was this Mr. Lin's so-called solution? It's far too dismissive, isn't it?

Lin Mu simply nodded. "Yes. What more is needed?"

Liang Sheng was at a loss for words. He felt no guilt for killing Huang Er and Huang San. What kind of father can't even protect his own daughter? Still, Lin Mu's method of handling the aftermath left him deeply unsettled.

But now that Lin Mu had spoken, what else could Liang Sheng do? If things truly went south, he could always turn himself in. As long as Mr. Lin and his family weren't implicated, everything would be fine. Fortunately, no ordinary people had witnessed the event, and all the thugs were still unconscious.

"What happened?"

At that moment, Liang Shanshan walked out of her room, her eyes heavy with sleep. Her expression changed the instant she saw the two bodies on the floor.

"Dad, you... you killed them?"

Liang Shanshan's face blanched. As much as she detested those men, murder was a major crime, one that led to prison.

Seeing his daughter, Liang Sheng's expression shifted as well. This was a scene he never wanted her to witness.

"Shanshan, go back to sleep," Liang Sheng said, trying to keep her out of it.

"You've killed people! How could I possibly sleep?" Liang Shanshan's voice was sharp with anger as she paced back and forth. "What are we going to do? What now?"

Finally, she stomped her foot in frustration. "You could have just taught them a lesson. Why did you have to kill them?"

Lin Mu stated impassively, "They were just two pieces of trash. Killing them is no big deal."

"You make it sound so easy!"

Lin Mu's comment only fueled Liang Shanshan's anger. It's all this bastard's fault! If it weren't for him, we would have reached Thunder Mountain by now. None of this would have happened. Now, Dad is a murderer. The police will be here any minute. Besides, I heard these people have some pull locally. If this goes to court, the Liang Family is thousands of miles away and can't help at all.

The more she thought, the angrier she became, and the last shred of goodwill she had for Lin Mu evaporated.

"This won't do!" Liang Shanshan grabbed her father's hand. "Dad, you have to leave now! Get out of here!"

She hurried into her room, found the car keys, grabbed a wad of cash, and pressed them into Liang Sheng's hand.

"Dad, go now. Flee as far as you can. And don't contact home until this is over!" Liang Shanshan took a deep breath. "Don't worry about me. Once you're gone, the police can't do anything to me."

"Shanshan, I..."

Before Liang Sheng could explain, Liang Shanshan cut him off angrily. "What are you waiting for? It'll be too late if you don't go now! Do you really think this guy can solve anything?"

She pointed a finger at Lin Mu. "He's just an ordinary person! You believed him after just a few words? The reason I want you to go alone is that he'll only slow you down. I'm staying to make sure he doesn't reveal your whereabouts!"

As she spoke, her eyes turned red. "This is all his fault. We've never had trouble on our trips before, but the one time he comes along, this happens. Dad, how can you still trust him?"

"Shanshan, do not be rude to Mr. Lin!"

Although his daughter's heart was in the right place, Liang Sheng feared she would anger the man, whose status was far greater than she knew.

"You're still defending him?" Tears streamed down Liang Shanshan's face. "Who is he? You've catered to his every need this whole trip, practically groveling, and for what? He said he could handle this? How did he handle it?"

Liang Sheng fell silent. Even though Lin Mu is a Martial Arts Grandmaster, murder isn't something that can be resolved with status alone.

"I've already made a call. They should be here soon," Lin Mu said calmly. He chose to ignore the disrespect in Liang Shanshan's tone. After all, she was only trying to protect her father. Besides, to him, this was a trivial matter. For an ordinary person, taking a life was a world-shattering event, but for him, it was the opposite.

"You?" Liang Shanshan scoffed. "Who do you know that's so important? Do you think murder can be brushed aside with a few words? Have you ever even read a law book? On what grounds should we believe you?" she fumed, her anger growing by the second.

"Shanshan, that's enough!" Seeing his daughter go too far, Liang Sheng finally scolded her.

"Dad, stay out of this. You need to leave now." Liang Shanshan pushed him. "It'll be too late if you don't!"

"Hmph. I'd like to see who dares leave today!"

Just then, a cold voice echoed from the hallway. "Killing my brothers on my turf... If I let you walk away, then all my years of building a reputation as Huang Da would be for nothing!"

Liang Shanshan spun around, and her face went pale. A man in a military greatcoat was striding toward them from the end of the corridor. What made her heart sink was the legion behind him—dozens of thugs wielding gleaming steel knives. Unlike common street toughs, these men carried themselves with the disciplined air of trained fighters, from their cold expressions to their rigid stances. Their mere presence sent a wave of fear through her.

"Pass the order! Lock down every exit. If a single one of them escapes, you'll all answer to me with your heads!" the man in the coat commanded coldly.

"Yes, sir!"

A unified roar answered him, and several men broke off to carry out the order. The rest fanned out, guarding every room and forming a tight circle around Lin Mu's group.

"You've got some nerve, daring to kill my, Huang Da's, brothers!" The man had a long scar that snaked from the corner of his eye down to his chin. When he spoke, the scar writhed like a centipede carved into his face, a horrifying and intimidating sight. "Speak. Who did it?"

Huang Da's icy gaze swept across the three, finally landing on Liang Sheng. The Jade Dragon Hotel was his business, so news of his brothers' demise had reached him immediately. He had rushed over without a moment's delay, arriving just in time to corner them. In his eyes, of the three of them—a woman, a weakling who looked utterly helpless, and Liang Sheng—only Liang Sheng had the capability. However, he wanted to hear the confession aloud.

Stared down by his murderous gaze, Liang Shanshan shivered. His eyes were terrifying, like those of a demon who had claimed countless lives. Liang Sheng moved to shield his daughter, preparing to admit his guilt.

"I killed them."

Just then, Lin Mu took a step forward. He locked eyes with Huang Da and said flatly, "I killed them. What are you going to do about it?"

Are you an idiot? Why would you provoke him like that? Liang Shanshan screamed internally.

As expected, a muscle in Huang Da's jaw twitched. The scar on his face contorted violently, betraying the fury raging within him.

"Good. You've got guts!" A vicious grin spread across Huang Da's face. "Men, take him! I'm going to carve the flesh from his bones piece by piece and feed it to the dogs!"

Liang Shanshan's face turned white. "No!"

"Anyone who interferes will share his fate!" Huang Da sneered. Liang Shanshan flinched and fell silent.

"Wait, I'm the one who killed them. It has nothing to do with him," Liang Sheng said hastily as the thugs moved toward Lin Mu.

"Wait here for me. I'll be right back." Lin Mu shot Liang Sheng a look. That single glance was enough to silence him. But his fists were clenched so tightly that his body trembled.

"Let's go," Lin Mu said to Huang Da with a faint smile, already walking ahead. "I'm sure you don't want an audience for this, do you?"

"Men, watch them! No one leaves Kai City without my permission!" Huang Da glared at Liang Sheng and his daughter, then snorted and turned to follow Lin Mu.

He'd like to see if this kid could make it back alive.

"Dad, what do we do now?" Liang Shanshan whispered, grabbing her father's hand, her voice trembling with panic.

"This..." Liang Sheng hesitated, then lowered his voice. "Don't worry, my girl. Mr. Lin will be fine. These small fry are no threat to him!"

Chapter 244: Because You're All Going to Die!

"Kid, I really admire your courage." Huang Da's smile became increasingly cruel as he looked at Lin Mu. "You're the first person I've ever seen who can kill someone and still be this calm."

He didn't believe for a second that this seemingly ordinary guy had killed his two brothers, but it didn't matter. He would make the man regret his choice.

"Is that so?" Lin Mu smiled back, his expression somewhat mysterious.

"What are you laughing at? Stop that!" Seeing Lin Mu laughing, a thug punched him in the shoulder.

Lin Mu didn't retaliate, nor did he get angry. He just smiled at the man.

"Still laughing? I think you're tired of living!" The thug was instantly enraged and was about to get violent.

"Ah Mu!" Huang Da stopped him. "Wait until we get him back to our place. There's no rush."

"Alright."

The thug named Ah Mu let out a sinister laugh as he looked at Lin Mu. "Kid, you better pray it isn't me who deals with you later. Otherwise, I'll make you beg for death!"

"I shall wait and see."

Lin Mu appeared unfazed. He glanced at the time and muttered cryptically, "It should be about time."

"Kid, what are you muttering about?" Ah Mu raised his fist again, but after a moment's thought, restrained himself.

Kid, strut around all you want for now. You'll get what's coming to you soon enough.

Soon, the group of men drove to a farm. As soon as they got out of the car, a cacophony of barking erupted.

This was a dog farm, and also Huang Da's hideout.

The gates to the dog farm opened, and a dozen burly men came out, each leading a large, exceedingly ferocious-looking dog.

"Move!" Ah Mu shoved Lin Mu.

The moment the dogs saw Lin Mu, they began barking madly. If their owners hadn't been holding them back, they would have swarmed him and torn him to shreds.

Ah Mu looked at Lin Mu with a malicious smile. "These dogs are all vicious. They've been starved for four or five days and don't recognize anyone but their masters. If we toss you in front of them, they'll eat you alive, leaving nothing behind!"

"Kid, are you scared now?"

Lin Mu's expression remained unchanged; he even had a faint smile on his face.

"Well, well, you're quite composed." Ah Mu chuckled grotesquely and said to the frantically barking dogs, "Don't worry, don't worry. Once this guy is beaten into a pulp, he'll be your meal for tonight."

With that, he led Lin Mu into the dog farm.

The large dogs stared intently at Lin Mu, their eyes bloodshot as they drooled profusely. Clearly, they could hardly contain themselves.

Within the dog farm stood rows of brick buildings, from which the sound of barking echoed continuously. As Lin Mu walked past the enclosures, many ferocious dogs slammed themselves violently against their iron gates. These dogs, too, had bloodshot eyes. It was a sight that would make one's skin crawl.

With his excellent vision, Lin Mu could see that inside the kennels were not just bones, but also... clothes.

Evidently, these dogs had eaten people before.

This made Lin Mu's brow furrow slightly. These people were no good.

"What are you looking at? Keep moving!" Ah Mu pushed Lin Mu, his impatience growing.

Before long, the group arrived at an open space surrounded by spectator stands. The center was a sunken area, spanning hundreds of square meters.

Right now, the stands were filled with visibly excited men and women, waving their arms and shouting, "Bite him, bite him!"

Their faces were flushed with excitement, their eyes burning with a frenzied heat. Many were so agitated that their faces dripped with sweat. It was as if they were at an electrifying sporting match.

As Lin Mu approached the stands, he finally saw it. In the center, a competition arena had been built. However, the sight of the competitors made his expression freeze.

One of them was a dog. The other... was a man.

The man in the arena was in tatters, his body covered in what looked like bite wounds. It was a shocking sight.

Although Lin Mu had seen many cruel and bloody scenes, this was deeply disturbing. Because this was a modern city, the world of ordinary people. The jubilant spectators in the stands—their cheers, the perverted and twisted excitement and greed in their eyes—gave Lin Mu a new understanding of this world.

Utterly inhumane. The phrase felt like an understatement. They were like demons who killed without spilling blood, a pack of beasts with no moral compass.

Murderous intent flickered in Lin Mu's heart.

"Kid, now you know why I brought you back, right?" Huang Da said. "I could have killed you anywhere. Bringing you here was just to make sure your death had some value."

Pointing to the people in the stands, Huang Da continued, "See these people? In their daily lives, they're well-dressed and benevolent. But sitting there, they're a pack of madmen, gamblers without limits!

"Among them, there might be people with high status, harmonious families, and successful, respected careers. But in here, they all have to abide by my rules!"

Huang Da's smile turned cold and cruel. "I didn't establish this dog farm to raise dogs for meat, but for gambling.

"Gambling on the human heart, on human nature, and on life itself!"

Lin Mu was silent. He had guessed as much from the moment he arrived, but he hadn't expected Huang Da to admit it so openly. It seemed that to Huang Da, the people who came to his gambling den were merely playthings. The dogs and men in the arena were nothing more than tools for making money.

He had long since lost any shred of humanity or a bottom line.

"So you don't really care who killed your two brothers. You just needed a new contestant." Lin Mu looked at Huang Da. "Right?"

"You're very smart." Huang Da gave Lin Mu an appreciative glance. "I like talking to smart people; it saves trouble."

"This match is about to end."

As Huang Da finished speaking, the man in the arena—gravely injured and utterly exhausted—finally gave out. The large dog seized its chance, pouncing on him and pinning him to the ground.

"Ugh..." The man's face twisted in agony, yet his eyes held a look of relief.

Blood spurted from his mouth. He lasted only a few seconds more before his head slumped to the side, and he died.

The large dog let out an excited, brutal roar, then lowered its head to begin feeding. This was its prey, and also its prize.

In the stands, the cheers grew even louder. Many of them had won their bets. Although a man had won a match before, the odds of that happening were very slim.

Huang Da suddenly said, "Ah Mu, take him down there for the next round."

"You got it, Boss!" Ah Mu trembled with excitement as he moved toward Lin Mu.

"That won't be necessary," Lin Mu said.

Huang Da was surprised, then laughed. "It seems you're well aware of your situation. Go on down yourself, then."

Lin Mu shook his head. "You misunderstand me."

"I mean, there's no need for any more contests."

Huang Da asked in confusion, "Why?"

"Because..." Lin Mu said ominously, "you're all going to die."

Huang Da was taken aback for a moment, then sneered, "I take back what I said before. You're not smart; you're incredibly foolish!"

"Really?" Lin Mu smiled. "Then just wait and see."

BOOM!

At that exact moment, a thunderous bang echoed. The large iron gate of the dog farm suddenly flew inward, as if it had been kicked open from the outside.

Huang Da and his men's eyes narrowed. At the entrance to the dog farm, they saw a one-armed old man standing there.

Chapter 245: The Old Servant is Late to Save the Master, Begging for Forgiveness!

"Did he really just kick the door off its hinges?"

Ah Mu stared blankly at the one-armed old man standing in the doorway.

"SLAP!"

Huang Da slapped Ah Mu on the head. "Have you ever seen anyone with that much strength?" he roared. "Kicking a door off its hinges? Do you think he's Zeng Zidan?"

"That's what I was thinking! How is that possible?"

Ah Mu burst into laughter. "Maybe the guy used a bomb or something."

"What are you laughing at? Hurry up and get your men to grab that guy for me!" Huang Da bellowed, slapping him again.

"Yes, yes, yes."

Ah Mu hastily agreed and then waved his hand. "Brothers, someone's here to make trouble! Go teach him a lesson!"

Instantly, more than a dozen thugs armed with weapons rushed forward, intending to give the troublemaker a beating.

The audience in the stands was startled by the sudden turn of events but quickly sat back down, settling in to enjoy the show. This dog-fighting ring had been open for many years and had seen its fair share of disturbances. But every single time, the troublemakers either ended up with broken limbs or were thrown into the arena for an even more brutal match.

"Kid, if this is the backup you've brought, then I'm afraid he'll have to die too," Huang Da said viciously, looking at Lin Mu with disdain.

"Is that so?" Lin Mu replied. "I don't see it that way."

"It doesn't matter what you think. It only matters what I think." Huang Da took out a cigarette, lit it, and took a deep drag, exhaling a large smoke ring. "Get him."

Upon receiving the command, the thugs immediately raised their weapons and hacked at the old man in the doorway.

"A bunch of trash, and you think you're worthy of fighting me?" The old man chuckled coldly as he stepped forward.

"Old man, at your age, you should be at home taking it easy, not trying to be some hero out of a movie!" Ah Mu sneered cruelly. "Get him!"

Two thugs rushed forward, one from the front and one from the back, swinging their steel knives down without mercy. These men were ruthless killers who wouldn't hesitate to cut down an old man.

However, before their steel knives could land, a palm slapped against their chests.

"PFFT!"

That seemingly weak palm contained immense power, sending one of the thugs flying.

"THUD!"

By the time the thug hit the ground, he was already coughing up blood, his breath gone.

Everyone was stunned.

This old geezer... he has immense strength!

It was only then that they noticed the old man was dressed in a Daoist Robe, his hair and beard completely white. He exuded an otherworldly aura, clearly no ordinary person.

This man was none other than Qing Yu Daoist.

"He's a tough one! Don't hold back! Go!" Ah Mu ordered, taking a deep breath.

This time, however, Qing Yu Daoist attacked first. He moved with deft footwork, dodging the thugs' attacks before landing a punch on one of their heads.

"SPLAT!" The thug's head instantly exploded, splattering blood and brain matter all over the floor.

The faces of the other thugs paled, and they all took a step back in unison.

Qing Yu Daoist didn't stop. His body became a blur, and his fists flew. Every thug he struck dropped to the ground, dead on impact. They were utterly powerless to fight back.

In no time, Qing Yu Daoist had killed all dozen or so thugs, each of their deaths grisly. Blood pooled on the ground.

In the stands, all the gamblers were in shock. Even though they were used to bloody scenes, the sight before them made them bend over and vomit.

Looking at the old man before him, then at his slaughtered companions, Ah Mu couldn't help but swallow hard.

"Who the hell are you?!"

Qing Yu Daoist stroked his beard and smiled. "The man who is going to kill you."

The moment he spoke, he appeared in front of Ah Mu and seized him by the throat.

"Don't kill him yet."

Just as Qing Yu Daoist was about to snap Ah Mu's neck, a calm voice spoke up. It was Lin Mu. He pointed to the ring below. "Throw him down there."

"Yes, Master!"

As soon as he agreed, Qing Yu Daoist grabbed Ah Mu. Tapping his toes lightly on the ground, he soared like the Azure Hawk, crossing the distance to the stands in just a few leaps. With a casual flick of his wrist, he tossed Ah Mu into the fighting arena.

"No!" Ah Mu let out a despairing shriek, but it was too late.

"ROAR!"

The moment Ah Mu landed, the large dog that had been gnawing on flesh snapped its head up, its eyes flashing red. It roared like a wild beast and lunged at him.

"Don't eat me! Don't eat me!" Ah Mu scrambled backward, his face a mask of utter despair.

This dog had Tibetan Mastiff blood and had been trained to be ferocious, refusing to obey any commands. Having been frequently fed human flesh, it wouldn't even listen to its own owner. To subdue it, the kennel staff always had to use a tranquilizer gun. Ah Mu stood no chance against it.

The large dog sank its teeth into Ah Mu's wrist, slammed him to the ground, and began to drag him forcefully. The sudden disaster threw Ah Mu's mind into chaos, and he could only struggle desperately. But the more he struggled, the more excited the dog became.

In a fit of desperation, Ah Mu swung the steel knife still in his hand, managing to slice the dog's eye.

"ROAR!"

The large dog yelped in pain and released its grip. Ah Mu scrambled away and yelled to the stands, "Get me out of here! Quick, save me!"

The kennel staff took an involuntary step back. As long as that dog was down there, no one dared to enter.

"Use the tranquilizer gun!" Huang Da ordered at the critical moment.

A staff member quickly fetched the gun, aimed at the large dog, and fired.

The big dog, however, had been driven mad by the slash. It moved with blinding speed, leaping out of the way in an instant. The tranquilizer dart grazed its head and hit the ground. The staff member froze.

Seizing the opportunity, the dog roared, its eyes blood-red as it pounced on Ah Mu again.

"Hurry! Save me!" Ah Mu's face was ashen as he tried to flee. But his speed was no match for the dog's, and he was caught after just a few steps.

"Ah!"

The dog bit into his thigh and tore violently.

"RIP!"

A large chunk of flesh was ripped from his leg. The pain was so intense that tears and snot streamed down his face, and his movement was crippled. He fell to the ground, flailing his arms wildly, but his blows had no effect on the dog.

His struggles only made the dog more frenzied. It pinned Ah Mu's back with its paws and bit down hard.

"CRACK!"

The dog's jaws clamped precisely around Ah Mu's neck. Its sharp teeth snapped his spine with ease, and blood spurted everywhere.

"ROAR!"

Exhilarated, the dog began to savagely tear at Ah Mu's corpse.

In the stands, everyone's face had turned pale.

"Kill it!" Huang Da's face was as dark as a thundercloud. Although this dog was the most ferocious one in his kennel—one he had spent a great deal of time and effort to train, and which had earned him a lot of money—but now, it had to be put down.

"BANG!"

A gunshot rang out, and the bullet struck the dog in the head. It let out a final whimper and collapsed.

Once the dog was dealt with, Huang Da spun towards Lin Mu, his face contorted with murderous intent. "Kid, you die today!"

"How dare you!" Qing Yu Daoist strode forward, shielding Lin Mu. "Who do you think you are, speaking to my master that way?"

Facing Qing Yu Daoist, Huang Da couldn't help but shiver.

This old Daoist is formidable. I'm no match for him.

Qing Yu Daoist let out a cold snort, then turned around. To the absolute shock of everyone present, he dropped to one knee before Lin Mu.

"This Old Servant was late in coming to your aid. I beg for Master's forgiveness!"

Chapter 246: Kill them all, not a single one left!

Old servant? Master? This old man, who kills without blinking, is just someone's servant? Just how deep and powerful is Lin Mu's background?

Huang Da was shocked. The others were shocked as well. Thinking back on his earlier words, Huang Da felt a chill run through him.

"I..." Huang Da wanted to say something, but he couldn't utter a word.

"Master, what should we do now?" Qing Yu Daoist asked, his cold gaze sweeping across the room as a chilling aura emanated from him. He was still kneeling on the ground. Without his master's permission, he dared not rise.

Not long ago, Qing Yu Daoist had returned to Southern Sky, his hometown. He had planned to deal with some business and then leave, but to his surprise, his master had also come to Southern Sky. When he received the call from his master, Qing Yu Daoist was both shocked and terrified. He was shocked that his master had actually come here. He was terrified because a call from his master meant only one thing: trouble.

His master would never call unless he had encountered a problem in Southern Sky. That was the arrangement they had made before he left River City.

Therefore, Qing Yu Daoist had used his connections to investigate every place named Jade Dragon Hotel in Southern Sky. He soon learned that Ma Liuye's people had been active in Kai City. Qing Yu Daoist immediately concluded that his master was in Kai City, and so he rushed over without a moment's delay.

Had he not been quick enough to arrive before his master took action, one could only imagine the punishment he would have faced.

Although my master's strength is profound and unfathomable, if something were to happen to him on my turf, I would also be held responsible.

Thinking of this, a powerful killing intent swelled in Qing Yu Daoist's heart.

These blind fools dared to provoke my master. They deserve to die!

"Kill them all. Leave none alive," Lin Mu said indifferently in response to Qing Yu Daoist's question.

Kill them all? Leave none alive?

The words were spoken calmly, but everyone felt the icy murderous intent within them.

"No!" Huang Da's eyes were filled with terror. He stared fixedly at Lin Mu and shouted, "I'm one of Ma Liuye's men, and this is Ma Liuye's establishment! If you kill me, Ma Liuye will never let you go!"

"Ma Liuye?" Qing Yu Daoist sneered. "If Ma Liuye knew you'd offended a person you should never have crossed, he would be the first to kill you!"

Huang Da's expression changed. He demanded with a mix of shock and anger, "Who the hell are you people? There are no major figures like you in Southern Sky!"

"Who are we? We're people you can't afford to provoke," Qing Yu Daoist said. "Have you decided how you want to die?"

Huang Da backed away frantically. "I admit I offended your master, but he also killed my brother! I can offer a large sum of money, even everything I have, as an apology. How about we just call this whole thing even?"

He believed he had made a significant concession and that Lin Mu would surely agree.

No one dislikes money! Besides, Lin Mu wasn't even injured.

Thinking this, Huang Da felt an inexplicable wave of relief.

"Money?" Qing Yu Daoist scoffed with disdain. "Do you think my master is short on money? For offending him, all of you must die!"

Qing Yu Daoist slowly advanced on Huang Da.

"No, you can't touch me..." Huang Da stammered, his voice trembling.

"Stop wasting your breath on him. Do it," Lin Mu said, growing impatient. He didn't want to stay here a moment longer.

Hearing Lin Mu's command, Qing Yu Daoist stopped talking and moved to act.

"Fine! If you want me dead, then I'll take you with me!" Huang Da's face twisted with rage as he roared, "Brothers, get them! Kill them!"

However, to his dismay, nobody moved. In fact, his underlings all took a step back in unison.

It was a joke! That old man was an incredible fighter; they were no match for him.

"What? Are you all looking to die?" Seeing his men were too scared to move, Huang Da said sinisterly, "Remember, your lives are in my hands. If I die, you all die with me!"

The expressions on the men's faces changed instantly. A few of them exchanged glances, swallowed hard, and then let out a yell as they charged toward Qing Yu Daoist.

However, they were no match for him. In the blink of an eye, several more bodies littered the ground.

"Run!"

The remaining men didn't dare to confront Qing Yu Daoist any longer and tried to scatter and flee.

Trying to escape?

A crazed look appeared on Huang Da's face. He pulled out a beaded bracelet and crushed one of the beads between his fingers.

THUD!

A man who had only run a few steps collapsed. His face turned a sickly green, and his expression filled with terror as he struggled desperately on the floor. A few seconds later, the man began foaming at the mouth and took his last breath. His death was gruesome; his face was covered in poisonous blisters, as if he'd been bitten by some venomous snake.

Huang Da held up the bracelet and snarled, "Anyone else who dares to run will share his fate!"

The remaining men were all cowed into submission.

Someone yelled, "Brothers, we die if we run, and we die if we don't! We might as well follow the boss and kill these two!"

"Yeah! Kill them!"

"..."

The group became savage. Wielding various makeshift weapons, they charged at Qing Yu Daoist.

"Grab the other guy first! I bet he's not as tough!" someone realized, charging directly at Lin Mu.

"Right! If we capture him, the old man won't dare to kill us!" the others shouted in delight, joining the charge.

Idiots!

A mocking smile touched Qing Yu Daoist's lips. His master was the sixteenth-ranked Martial Arts Grandmaster on the Martial Way Rankings. How could these small fry possibly harm him?

Still, he had no intention of letting his master act. With a flicker, his body appeared in front of the charging men. He waved his palm.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

Several thugs coughed up blood and fell to the ground, dead. The remaining thugs, though unwilling, were also swiftly cut down by Qing Yu Daoist.

Of the entire group, only Huang Da remained. Looking at the bodies all over the floor, he was consumed by despair.

"You... Aren't you afraid Lord Liu will come after you?" Huang Da pleaded, hoping the threat of repercussions would make Qing Yu Daoist hesitate.

"Ma Liu? If he dares to show up, I'll just kill him too!" Qing Yu Daoist laughed coldly. "Alright, now it's your turn."

Qing Yu Daoist walked toward Huang Da step by step. Huang Da's expression shifted through various shades of terror.

"Don't... I beg you, don't kill me."

However, Qing Yu Daoist was unmoved. "The master's orders were to leave no one alive. Your mistake was provoking him. Not even a Heavenly God descending from the heavens could save you now."

Qing Yu Daoist came to a stop in front of Huang Da and struck with his palm.

"If you're going to kill me, then you can go to hell!"

Suddenly, a mad gleam flared in Huang Da's eyes. A pistol slid from his sleeve into his hand. He aimed it directly at Qing Yu Daoist and pulled the trigger.

BANG!

The bullet shot out, striking Qing Yu Daoist's body.

"Hahaha! No matter how tough you are, you can't be faster than a bullet!" Seeing his shot land, Huang Da roared with ecstasy. "This is the age of firearms! Who the hell fights head-on anymore!"

However, the next moment, the smile on Huang Da's face froze. He saw Qing Yu Daoist extend his hand and open his palm. A bullet was resting in it.

"You ignorant ant. There are powers in this world you can never imagine." Qing Yu Daoist smiled faintly and flicked his finger.

PFFT!

The bullet shot back out, striking Huang Da squarely between the eyes.

After killing Huang Da, Qing Yu Daoist turned his gaze toward the gamblers, who had long since been scared stiff and were huddled together. A predatory grin spread across his face.

Since the master had said to leave no one alive, he certainly wouldn't be leaving any survivors.

And so, a bloody massacre began...

Chapter 247: Coming to Take Your Head!

"Dad, let's just leave."

In the hotel room, Liang Shanshan felt that something was increasingly amiss. It's dangerous to stay here. We'd be better off leaving. She simply couldn't believe that Lin Mu was capable of taking on so many people. Although leaving now might be somewhat unfair to him, it was their first meeting, and they hardly knew each other. As for the people outside, she and her father could easily handle them; they couldn't possibly stop them.

"Absolutely not!" Liang Sheng rejected the idea outright. "Mr. Lin hasn't returned yet. We can't leave!"

Her head starting to ache, Liang Shanshan said, "Dad, why do you respect that guy so much, always 'Mr. Lin' this and 'Mr. Lin' that? You're not usually like this." With a touch of defiance, she added, "It feels like you treat him better than you would your own son!"

"Shut up!" Liang Sheng snapped, furious. "Shanshan, I tolerate your usual nonsense, but how could you say something like that?"

"What did I do? Was I wrong?"

Liang Sheng sighed heavily. "Do you have any idea who Mr. Lin is? He's far more formidable than you can imagine!"

"More formidable than you?" Liang Shanshan said disdainfully. "I don't believe it!"

Liang Sheng asked, "What do you think of my strength?"

"You're amazing!" Liang Shanshan said proudly. "Dad, you're the top expert in our Liang Family!"

Liang Sheng gave a bitter smile. "Yes, and this 'top expert' of the Liang Family? In front of Mr. Lin, I'm not even worth a damn." As if recalling that dazzlingly brilliant figure from the River City Martial Meeting, Liang Sheng's expression grew solemn. "If Mr. Lin wished, he could crush me with a single finger."

"How is that possible?" Liang Shanshan's beautiful eyes widened as she pressed her palm against her father's forehead. "Dad, are you delusional?"

He slapped his daughter's hand away and said earnestly, "Daughter, do you remember when I participated in the River City Martial Meeting?"

"Uh-huh, I remember!" Liang Shanshan nodded hastily. "I remember Uncle saying that you represented our Liang Family and were being defeated by Yun Xu's disciple, Zhang Yan. If a Martial Way master hadn't intervened to save you, you would have been seriously injured."

It seemed the Liang family talked about this often, because at the mention of that Martial Way master, Liang Shanshan's eyes sparkled.

Liang Sheng said with deep emotion, "That's right. If it weren't for Mr. Lin, I might not be alive today."

"Right, right, so our Liang Family owes Mr. Lin—Wait, who? Mr. Lin?" As she spoke, Liang Shanshan realized something was wrong.

Liang Sheng nodded gravely. "Yes. It was Mr. Lin!"

Liang Shanshan's eyes shot wide open, her mouth agape in a look that was surprisingly adorable. Her head spun; she thought she must have misheard.

"Dad, are you talking about the same person?" she asked, still finding it hard to believe.

Liang Sheng raised his voice. "This is a serious matter. Why would I lie to you about it?" He took his daughter by the shoulders, looked her in the eyes, and said with grave sincerity, "I'm telling you this

because I want you to show Mr. Lin more respect in the future. Don't be so arrogant just because your father is the family's top expert! In the eyes of a true master like Mr. Lin, I am nothing!"

Sensing the desolation in her father's tone, Liang Shanshan took his hand. "Dad, don't be so hard on yourself. That Lin-whatever might be powerful, but you have an adorable, precious daughter!"

Liang Shanshan was beginning to believe some of what her dad said, but she remained deeply skeptical. Lin Mu just seemed so ordinary, nothing like a Martial Way master at all. In her eyes, he was more like an uneducated, good-for-nothing bum. If it weren't for her father, she would find it annoying to even glance at such a person.

But as she mulled over her father's words, her curiosity about Lin Mu grew. That annoying guy... is he really a Martial Way master? And he saved my dad? This world is insane!

Liang Sheng said, "Anyway, it boils down to one thing: when you see Mr. Lin from now on, be as respectful as you possibly can."

"Fine, fine! Geez, you're so annoying!" Overwhelmed, Liang Shanshan couldn't help but grab a pillow and bury her head under it.

「The Dog-Fighting Ring」

Daoist Master Qing Yu was covered in blood. The ground around him was littered with bodies.

"Master, I will make sure Ma Liu gives you a proper explanation for this!" he declared.

Huang Da and his entire crew had been wiped out, along with every last gambler. None were left alive. They were conscienceless scum who took pleasure in man-versus-dog fights to make a profit. They deserved to die. This was merely a light punishment to serve as a stark warning. If Ma Liu doesn't give a proper explanation for offending the Master, then he can atone with his life!

"Handle it as you see fit," Lin Mu replied, completely unconcerned.

If Huang Da was like this, then Ma Liu, the man backing him, was certainly no better. Killing such people had no effect on Lin Mu whatsoever.

Hearing this, Daoist Master Qing Yu breathed an inward sigh of relief. He had been terrified that his Master, in a fit of rage, would wipe out all the factions in Southern Sky. If that happened, the Martial Alliance would definitely start paying attention to them. Besides, the Southern Sky region had its share of formidable experts. His Master was naturally fearless, but if this incident gave him the impression that Qing Yu was incompetent, his future would be grim. Though he knew little of his Master's methods, the small part he had witnessed had already left him with lifelong trauma.

Looking at the corpses and blood staining the ground, the sound of frenzied barking still echoing in his ears, Lin Mu turned to leave.

"Burn this place down."

A place like this had no right to exist.

"What about these dogs..." Daoist Master Qing Yu hesitated.

"They're just beasts that have tasted human flesh. Let them meet their end in a sea of flames," Lin Mu's voice drifted back on the wind, sending an involuntary shiver down Qing Yu's spine.

But since his Master had spoken, Qing Yu naturally obeyed. Before long, a great blaze lit up the night sky of Kai City, shocking everyone who saw it.

「Back at the Hotel」

When Lin Mu returned, the expressions of the ruffians posted at the door changed instantly.

"Why are you back?" the leader asked. Seeing not only Lin Mu but also a one-armed old Daoist with him, he had a very bad feeling.

Lin Mu smiled. "The business is finished, so naturally, I came back."

"What?" The ruffian was startled. Then his eyes fell on the bloodstains covering Qing Yu, and his heart sank. Could it be...

"Master, we've already killed so many," Qing Yu said suddenly, his words making the ruffians' legs go weak. "A few more wouldn't matter, right?"

So it's true!

THUD. The ruffians all dropped to their knees at once. "Spare us! Please, spare our lives! We were just following orders! It had nothing to do with us!"

Lin Mu said indifferently, "Relax, I won't kill you. But I do have an errand for you." He spoke with cold apathy. "Go back and tell that Ma Liu, or whatever his name is, to watch himself. Otherwise, I will personally come to take his head."

"Now, get lost!"

Chapter 248: Lord Ma Liu of Thunder Mountain!

"Mr. Lin, you're back?"

Anxiously waiting in his room, Liang Sheng heard voices outside. He opened the door to see Lin Mu standing there and was immediately overjoyed.

Although he trusted that Lin Mu would be fine, Lin Mu's identity was, after all, too sensitive.

If something were to happen to him, Family Head Liang Yue would personally intervene before anyone else had the chance.

Lin Mu asked, "Are you all okay?"

Liang Sheng scratched his head, slightly embarrassed. "What could happen to us? We were just a bit worried about you."

"And this is..."

Only then did Liang Sheng notice Daoist Master Qing Yu standing behind Lin Mu.

He felt an overwhelming pressure emanating from Daoist Master Qing Yu.

It wasn't just that the man's strength surpassed his own; it was also the undisguised murderous aura coming off him.

Having just killed so many people, Daoist Master Qing Yu now radiated an incredibly sharp and alarming killing intent.

"You can just call me Qing Yu," Qing Yu said with a smile.

"Greetings, Daoist Master Qing Yu," Liang Sheng said, not daring to be careless as he cupped his fist.

"Master, please talk. I'll go handle some things first," Qing Yu said, sensing that his master had things to discuss with the other man.

Besides, he had other matters to attend to as well.

"Go on."

After Qing Yu left, Liang Sheng looked at Lin Mu in shock. "Mr. Lin, that Daoist Master Qing Yu... he calls you Master?"

Lin Mu nodded but offered no further explanation.

Liang Sheng was astounded. Mr. Lin is truly amazing! To have such a powerful subordinate here in Southern Sky. That phone call he made earlier must have been to this Daoist Master Qing Yu.

"Mr. Lin, what should we do next?" Liang Sheng's first thought was to leave this place and head straight for Thunder Mountain.

"Let's wait for Qing Yu to return, and then we'll set off for Thunder Mountain directly," Lin Mu replied. He didn't want to waste any more time; he wanted to get to Thunder Mountain and acquire the medicinal herbs.

"Okay, I'll go get ready."

An hour later, Lin Mu and his group left Kai City, heading for Thunder Mountain.

「Thunder Mountain.」

It was located in the southwest of Kai City in Southern Sky.

The area, predominantly inhabited by the Miao and Dong peoples, was rich in ethnic character. Quaint and elegant, it was endowed with profound cultural significance and acclaimed as the cultural center of the Miao Tribe.

As far back as the Hongwu era of the Ming Dynasty, Thunder Mountain had been brought under the imperial court's jurisdiction, which even established eight military garrisons, including Zhenyuan, Qing Lang, and Tonggu.

In 1944, the Thunder Mountain Administrative Office was established as part of a designated administrative zone.

It wasn't until 1950 that the office was reorganized into the Thunder Mountain of today.

The region boasted a long and storied history, having always been a world-famous tourist destination.

Along the way, Liang Sheng briefed Lin Mu on the local situation.

"The place we're going is still a ways from Thunder Mountain proper, about a two-hour drive."

Liang Sheng added, "By the time we get there, it will be almost dawn."

Lin Mu nodded.

Liang Sheng continued, "Aside from that, there are quite a few local factions entrenched here. The power dynamics are incredibly complex. Combined with the unique nature of this place, these factions are not to be trifled with by ordinary people."

After a moment's thought, he said, "The medicinal herbs we're looking for are controlled by a local power called Forgotten River Hall. They monopolize eighty percent of Thunder Mountain's medicinal herb business, have extensive channels, and even have some connections with the Sheng Miao of the deep mountains."

"Sheng Miao?" Lin Mu asked, somewhat curious.

Liang Sheng had been here many times to purchase medicinal herbs, so he was very familiar with the subject.

"The Sheng Miao are descendants of the Great God Chiyou's followers who migrated here in ancient times. They settled here to survive, but later, an internal split formed two major clans: the Sheng Miao and the Shu Miao."

Liang Sheng's expression turned grave as he explained, "Because the Shu Miao are heavily Sinicized, dealing with them is a bit easier; at worst, you might suffer a small loss. But the Sheng Miao are different. They are extremely xenophobic and have maintained a secluded life for many years, with almost no contact with the outside world."

"Rumor has it that they are adept at the art of Gu crafting. Making an enemy of them means an unending, merciless vendetta."

Lin Mu suddenly remembered Ding Fengqiu from the Dark Web.

Could he be one of the Sheng Miao?

Liang Sheng smiled. "However, Mr. Lin, please rest assured. I've been here many times, and Forgotten River Hall has cooperated with my Liang Family for a long time. The three types of medicinal herbs you need are provided by them."

"Mm. That's good."

Lin Mu didn't want any unnecessary complications while trying to gather the ingredients for the Foundation Establishment Pill.

The rest of the journey passed in silence. The group didn't stop in Thunder Mountain's county seat, instead heading directly to a small town under its jurisdiction.

「Xijiang Town.」

「Thunder Mountain County City.」

A villa was built on a mountaintop.

It was constructed along the contours of the mountain and equipped with all sorts of facilities.

Numerous guards could be seen patrolling the perimeter.

A single glance revealed its tight security, as impregnable as an iron fortress.

This was the residence of Lord Ma Liu of Thunder Mountain.

It was also a forbidden area within Thunder Mountain.

Several hoodlums knelt outside the villa's main gate, their heads bowed low and their bodies trembling slightly.

In the living room, an old man dressed in local attire was having breakfast.

The food looked dark and gave off a strong herbal scent, seeming to be some kind of unique local medicine.

Despite the unpleasant odor, the old man ate with great relish.

After he finished, a maid served him fragrant tea and cleared the plates.

The old man took a sip of tea before finally looking up at the men by the door.

"Kill them."

As soon as he spoke, several agile young men emerged from the shadows, seizing the hoodlums and dragging them away.

"Lord Liu, spare us, spare us..."

The old man remained unmoved.

A few seconds later, the screams abruptly stopped.

SMASH!

The old man suddenly hurled the ceramic teacup in his hand to the ground. It shattered into pieces, splashing tea across the floor.

"Daring to challenge me, Ma Liu, right on my own turf is simply courting death!"

This old man was none other than Lord Ma Liu of Thunder Mountain.

The kennel established by Huang Da was also one of his properties.

Over the years, it had earned him an immense fortune.

But just last night, the kennel had been completely slaughtered, and even the dogs he had spent so much effort raising were killed without a single one left.

So many years of hard work, all gone up in smoke!

A dangerous glint flickered in Ma Liu's narrow, triangular eyes. "Sang Tu," he ordered, "take some men and investigate immediately. Even if you have to turn Kai City upside down, you find that person for me!"

"Yes!"

A burly man accepted the order and walked out.

"And another thing! After you find them, find out who their relatives and friends are, even people they're just casually close with, and kill them all!"

Ma Liu said ominously, "He dared to destroy my life's work! I'll make sure he and everyone he knows are wiped out, down to the last chicken and dog!"

"Yes, Lord Liu!"

After Sang Tu departed, the old man straightened his clothes and went upstairs. He opened a wardrobe in his bedroom and took out a telephone from inside.

It was a one-way phone.

He could only receive calls; he couldn't make any.

But this phone was Ma Liu's most treasured possession.

At a specific time, the phone in Ma Liu's hand began to vibrate.

Ma Liu immediately sat up straight, his expression turning deferential.

Clearly, the person on the other end of the line held such a distinguished status that Ma Liu instinctively adopted a respectful posture, even over the phone.

"High Priest!"

Chapter 249: Forgotten River Hall!

"I already know about the incident," came the raspy, dissatisfied voice on the other end of the line.

Even through the phone, Ma Liu could feel the High Priest's murderous intent, sending a shiver down his spine. He hastily explained, "High Priest, I will definitely handle this matter well!"

"Hmph. Ma Liu, remember this: everything you have now was given to you by me, and I can take it back at any time!"

A cold sweat broke out on Ma Liu's skin. In the eyes of outsiders, he, Ma Liuye, was the king of Thunder Mountain, able to command the wind and rain at will. In the eyes of the High Priest, however, he was nothing more than a pitiful ant. If the High Priest was displeased, he could be crushed at any moment.

"High Priest, please rest assured. I will not let you down!" Ma Liu promised, standing up straight.

"You have three days. I want to see that person's corpse!"

The call disconnected, and Ma Liu let out a long, shuddering breath. Though the call had only lasted a few minutes, he was drenched in sweat. He knew, however, that this was the best possible outcome. If he failed to find the culprit who destroyed the dog farm, he, Ma Liu, would die a miserable death. He was all too familiar with the High Priest's methods.

"Damn it," Ma Liu muttered ferociously, his face twisted with a fierce killing intent. "When I find out who you are, I will make you regret ever being born!"

「...」

「Eight in the morning.」

Lin Mu and his party finally arrived at Xijiang Town.

Xijiang Town was quite famous in Thunder Mountain, as it was home to the renowned tourist destination, the Xijiang Qianhu Miao Village. Praised as a thousand-year-old ancient capital, it possessed a profound cultural heritage, unique local customs, and beautiful scenery. It could be called God's paradise on Earth.

Although it was only eight o'clock, the town was already bustling with people. Shops had opened for business, and the aroma of various breakfast dishes wafted through the streets.

However, all of this held little appeal for Liang Shanshan, despite her love of food. The events of last night were still fresh in her mind, and her father's words echoed in her ears.

Lin Mu was a master of the Martial Way? Her father's savior? He even took first place in the River City Martial Meet?

Gazing at Lin Mu's back, Liang Shanshan couldn't help but think to herself. How can a guy like that be a master of the Martial Way? He doesn't look the part at all; he's just an ordinary person. Aside from being a little good-looking, he's completely ordinary. Where's the air of a master of the Martial Way?

She had heard that the Master Lin at the River City Martial Meet was exceptionally distinguished and powerful. His skills were unfathomably deep, and he had even killed another martial arts master single-handedly.

Master Lin? His surname is Lin? Could it really... be him?

She shook her head sharply, dismissing the unrealistic idea. She laughed at herself. There are so many people in the world with the surname Lin. It can't be such a coincidence.

On the other hand, the Qing Yu Daoist following Lin Mu looked every bit the part of a top-tier master. He had an ethereal aura and a calm demeanor. During his conversation with her father, just a few of his words were incredibly enlightening, revealing his profound understanding of the Martial Way. He had earned her utmost respect.

Now, this is what a Martial Way expert should look like, she thought.

But the thought that such a Martial Way senior addressed that Lin Mu fellow as "Master" was incredibly jarring to her.

"Mr. Lin, I've already informed the medicinal herb supplier. They will be here shortly to meet us," Liang Sheng said to Lin Mu after making a phone call.

"Good." Lin Mu nodded. Along the way, he had been enjoying the scenery.

The scenery in Xijiang Town is quite pleasant. With its unique cultural environment, it would be nice to bring Qin Luoli here for a visit sometime, he thought.

As they were speaking, a few men and women dressed in local attire came walking toward them from across the street.

"Uncle Liang, you've arrived," said the young man at the head of the group as he approached them.

"Ah, it's Little Ping." Liang Sheng quickly stepped forward, smiling at the young man. "I can't believe you're all grown up. It's been so many years."

The youth, Zhao Ping, didn't seem very enthusiastic. He merely said politely, "It's good to see you, Uncle Liang. My father asked me to wait here for you all. Please, follow me."

"Alright, thank you for your trouble."

Liang Sheng expressed his thanks, then explained to Lin Mu, "The Zhao Family, our partner here, holds significant local influence. They're essentially the local magnates of medicinal herbs, with channels to acquire many materials that are normally difficult to find."

Lin Mu nodded, but the look he gave Zhao Ping was somewhat strange.

"That's Zhao Hedong's son," Liang Sheng said in a low voice. "I met him a few times on previous trips to buy medicinal herbs. He's considered the successor that Zhao Hedong has high hopes for."

As they spoke, the group followed the street to the entrance of a shop.

Forgotten River Hall.

Inside the shop, numerous medicinal materials were piled high, and several people were busy sorting them. An overwhelmingly pungent odor filled the air.

"Please come inside, everyone. My father is currently discussing something with someone, but he'll be with you shortly," Zhao Ping said, leading the group further in.

Once inside, Lin Mu discovered that while the front of Forgotten River Hall was an herb shop, it had a large courtyard in the back. The yard was filled with vast quantities of drying medicinal herbs. It seemed Forgotten River Hall truly lived up to its reputation as Xijiang Town's foremost medicinal herb merchant. An ordinary merchant couldn't possibly procure the herbs displayed here.

This made Lin Mu even more eager about his trip to Southern Sky.

"Please wait a moment, everyone. My father will be out shortly," Zhao Ping said, guiding them to sit in a parlor before turning and leaving.

As he exited, Zhao Ping nodded to two assistants standing by the door. The two men exchanged a covert glance and remained standing at the entrance. They looked like they were accompanying the guests, but it was more like they were standing guard.

"Master, something seems off," Qing Yu Daoist said in a low voice.

"What seems off, Daoist Master Qing Yu?" Liang Sheng asked curiously.

Daoist Master Qing Yu replied, "Logically, even if Zhao Hedong didn't have time to meet us, the goods should have been prepared. We could have just taken our things and left without taking up much time. Why would he insist we wait here?"

Liang Sheng's brow furrowed. "Indeed. They usually have the goods ready, and after inspection, it's a simple exchange of money for product. I've never seen them do this before."

"So you think there's a problem, Daoist Master Qing Yu?" Liang Shanshan asked.

"It's not a matter of thinking there's a problem," Daoist Master Qing Yu stated. "I'm certain of it."

Hearing this, Liang Sheng chuckled. "Daoist Master Qing Yu, you're being overly concerned. It's been many years since I last came here. It's possible Zhao Hedong simply wants to see me." He added, "In the

past, I always came to Southern Sky alone and dealt with Zhao Hedong many times. He's a trustworthy man."

"One can never be too careful," Lin Mu said. "It's always better to be cautious."

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Liang Shanshan couldn't help but retort, "You're just being paranoid. With my dad here, what could possibly happen?"

"Shanshan!" Liang Sheng shot his daughter a dissatisfied look before quickly explaining, "Mr. Lin, please don't mind her. She's always been this way."

Lin Mu just smiled slightly, not at all bothered. This, however, only made Liang Shanshan feel more indignant.

What a jerk, just putting on an act. If something really were to happen, he wouldn't be any help at all, she fumed internally.

While they waited, a bustle of noise came from outside. Liang Shanshan saw people coming and going in Forgotten River Hall, seemingly moving something large. She didn't pay it much mind.

After a while, however, all the noise disappeared, and the entire Forgotten River Hall fell eerily silent.

Liang Shanshan's heart skipped a beat.

Is something really about to happen?

Just as she began to grow nervous and Liang Sheng's expression started to turn grim, a man's voice called from outside.

"Boss Liang, long time no see!"

Chapter 250 - It's None of Their Business, Come at Me if You Have an Issue!

A middle-aged man walked into the hall, with Zhao Ping following behind.

In addition to them, there were four imposing men, each with a sharp glint in their eyes and bulging foreheads—clearly experts of the Martial Way. Upon their arrival, the four immediately fixed their gazes on Lin Mu and his companions.

The middle-aged man was none other than Zhao Hedong, the owner of Forgotten River Hall and the Patriarch of the Xi Jiang Zhao Clan.

"So it's Patriarch Zhao." Liang Sheng hurriedly stood up and clasped his fists. "Patriarch Zhao, it has been a long time."

With a smile that didn't reach his eyes, Zhao Hedong replied, "Yes, it has been a long time indeed."

Sensing the coldness in Zhao Hedong's tone, Liang Sheng felt a sense of foreboding. "Patriarch Zhao, we have come this time to..."

Zhao Hedong interrupted him. "Boss Liang, let's talk about business later. Right now, someone wants to meet you."

"Meet me?" A trace of unease crept into Liang Sheng's heart.

Zhao Hedong stepped aside to clear a path. "Lord Sang Tu, you may come out now."

THUD! THUD!

Heavy footsteps resounded as a tall, bare-armed man walked in.

The man's body was covered in tattoos resembling a black dragon. Its tail and claws seemed to wrap around his limbs, with the dragon's head positioned on his chest. Although they were just tattoos, the black dragon gave off a sinister and ferocious aura, lending the man a menacing air.

This person was none other than Sang Tu, Ma Liuye's subordinate.

"Lord Sang Tu, please take a look. Are these the people?" Zhao Hedong asked respectfully.

Sang Tu's eyes swept over Lin Mu's group before finally settling on Qing Yu Daoist. He sneered, "Not bad, Zhao Hedong. You've done well and secured your Zhao Family's lineage."

"Lord Liu will surely remember this."

Overjoyed, Zhao Hedong quickly responded, "It is an honor for my Zhao Family to serve Lord Liu."

Liang Sheng's expression finally changed. He pointed at Zhao Hedong and snapped, "Zhao Hedong, what is the meaning of this?"

"What do you mean?" Zhao Hedong let out a cold laugh. "Boss Liang, are you still going to play dumb with me?"

Liang Sheng's face fell, his heart pounding with alarm. "They are..."

Zhao Hedong sneered, "That's right. They're with Ma Liuye!"

"Zhao Hedong, my Liang Family has worked with your Zhao Family for so many years! You'd sell us out over such a minor issue?" Liang Sheng demanded. "If word of this gets out, who will dare do business with your Zhao Family again?"

"A minor issue?" Zhao Hedong said with a look of pity. "Boss Liang, it seems you still don't realize who you've provoked."

"The Huang's Three Brothers you killed were all Lord Liu's men. Not only did you kill them, but you also burned down Lord Liu's dogfighting ring. Are you tired of living?"

At this, Zhao Hedong sighed. "Boss Liang, we've done business for many years, so I know the kind of person you are. If you just tell me who really did this, I can plead with Lord Liu to spare your life."

This was a sincere offer. He truly didn't believe Liang Sheng had the strength or the audacity to touch anything belonging to Lord Liu.

"Impossible!" Liang Sheng flatly refused. "Zhao Hedong, it seems I misjudged you. But if you think you can frame me, you'll have to get through me first!"

"Hmph!" The moment Liang Sheng finished speaking, a figure lunged forward, throwing a punch straight at him.

"You'll agree whether you want to or not!" Sang Tu snarled as his fist descended.

Liang Sheng's expression changed drastically as he moved to block the attack. However, Sang Tu was too fast, and his strength was even more astonishing.

A single punch sent Liang Sheng flying backward.

"Dad!" Liang Shanshan cried out, reaching for him.

But another figure was faster, stepping forward and placing a hand on Liang Sheng's back. A current of True Yuan flowed out, instantly neutralizing the force that had invaded his body.

"COUGH! COUGH!" Liang Sheng steadied himself and said gratefully, "Thank you, Daoist Master Qing Yu."

If Daoist Master Qing Yu hadn't intervened, he would have been seriously injured. Even so, Liang Sheng's face was pale.

"Dad, are you all right?" Liang Shanshan rushed to support him, her face etched with worry.

"I'm fine." Liang Sheng caught his breath and stared at Sang Tu. "It seems you're one of that Ma Liu's men as well."

Sang Tu glanced at Qing Yu Daoist, a dangerous glint in his eyes. This man's cultivation level is not to be underestimated. He easily dispelled my Internal Energy... So, it really is these four!

Sang Tu said in a sinister tone, "That's right. Lord Liu has ordered me to take you all back. If you know what's good for you, you'll come quietly."

"We didn't kill anyone! Why should we go with you?" Liang Shanshan's face flushed with anger. "You attack and try to kidnap people for no reason. I'll call the police right now!"

"Call the police?" Sang Tu scoffed. "In Thunder Mountain, Lord Liu is the law. Who would dare to touch him?"

Zhao Hedong sighed and tried to persuade him. "Boss Liang, listen to my advice. I don't believe you're the real murderer, but Lord Liu's men were killed and his property was destroyed. Someone has to answer for it. You should just tell us who did it."

"Lord Sang Tu is right. In Thunder Mountain, if Lord Liu wants someone dead, they won't live to see the next day. If you don't want to bring disaster upon yourself, I hope you'll make the wise choice," Zhao Hedong urged, his tone full of sincerity.

Liang Sheng sneered. "Hmph. Zhao Hedong, do you really think I'd believe you?"

"You ungrateful fool!" Zhao Hedong snapped angrily. "In that case, the cooperation between our two families is over!"

At these words, Liang Sheng's expression changed dramatically. The Liang Family sourced most of its medicinal herbs from the Zhao Family. If their partnership was severed, their business would suffer a devastating blow.

"And let me be frank," Zhao Hedong continued with a cold smile, "without Lord Liu's permission, no one in all of Southern Sky will cooperate with the Liang Family. Let's see how long your family can last without the supply channels from Southern Sky."

"You..." Liang Sheng was furious, but he would never betray Lin Mu.

"We didn't kill them, so why are we being dragged into this?" Liang Shanshan interjected. "It was clearly..."

"Shut up!" Seeing his daughter was about to say Lin Mu's name, Liang Sheng's face went white. He clapped a hand over her mouth. "Do you want to bring complete ruin to our Liang Family?"

Losing a business partner is one thing. But offending Lin Mu could truly make the Liang Family vanish from River City.

"Dad, I..." Rebuked by her father, Liang Shanshan felt deeply wronged.

Zhao Hedong smiled faintly. "Boss Liang, it seems you do know what happened."

Liang Sheng's face was a mask of grim determination. He said nothing.

Sang Tu grew impatient. "Why waste time talking to them? Just take them all back! I have my ways of making them talk!"

To deal with someone like Liang Sheng, Sang Tu had a hundred methods to loosen his tongue.

"As you command, Lord Sang Tu," Zhao Hedong said at once.

"Men, take them all away!" Sang Tu commanded with a wave of his hand. The four burly men stepped forward, ready to seize them.

"I killed the men. It has nothing to do with them."

A calm voice cut through the tension.

Everyone looked up to see a young man slowly rising from his seat. It was Lin Mu.

Lin Mu took a few steps forward, met Sang Tu's gaze, and said, "Let them go. If you want someone, come for me."