

War God 321

Chapter 321: All the Big Shots in River City Bow Down!

"Gasp!"

Everyone drew in a sharp breath.

Make them kneel outside? These were some of the most prominent CEOs in River City. Their companies might not be the largest in the city, but their combined power definitely represented every major field. Not to mention the other forty-nine companies, just Qiao Tianhao alone, the richest man in River City, was an existence no one could afford to ignore.

And Lin Mu was actually making him kneel outside?

Most importantly, he had said it with an extremely calm tone, as if he were discussing some insignificant trifle.

"Also, tell them that for everything they took from the Qin Corporation, they are to return it tenfold!" Lin Mu's indifferent voice echoed throughout the hall. "If anyone disobeys, tell them to prepare for their funerals."

At that moment, it wasn't just Qin Hao and the others; even the Old Madam trembled, staring at Lin Mu in utter disbelief.

Has this man lost his mind, or was his head kicked by a donkey? Prepare for their funerals? Are those words that a live-in son-in-law like him should be saying?

"Lin Mu, you are outrageous!"

Just as expected, the moment Lin Mu finished speaking, Qin Hongbo couldn't stop himself from roaring, "Do you have any idea what you're saying? Every single one of the CEOs from those fifty companies is your elder! They don't just represent themselves, but the entirety of River City! By doing this, you are bringing disaster upon the Qin Family!"

Qin Hongshu also couldn't help but add, "Lin Mu, I know you feel wronged, but your actions are truly disappointing."

"Hmph, I think he's just putting up a desperate, final struggle!" Coldness filled Qin Hao's eyes. He didn't believe a single word Li Xiaotian had said.

"Insolence!"

With a sudden, booming shout, Li Xiaotian drew his blade. A terrifyingly sharp aura radiated from it, instantly plunging the hall's temperature into a wintry chill.

SWISH!

The blade flashed, carving a deep gash into the floor right in front of Qin Hao and the others.

"Such disrespect toward my master. Are you tired of living?" Li Xiaotian's cold gaze swept over Qin Hongbo's family, the killing intent in his eyes completely undisguised.

Qin Hongbo and the others jumped in fright. If that blade aura had struck them, they would have been killed instantly.

"Lin Mu, what are you trying to do? Are you trying to kill us all?" After the initial shock, Qin Hongbo exploded with rage.

"Kill you?" Li Xiaotian scoffed. "As if you're worthy of my master dirtying his own hands."

"That's enough," Lin Mu said, intervening. "You can go outside first."

Lin Mu was certain that if he hadn't stopped him, Li Xiaotian would have undoubtedly slain Qin Hongbo's family of three on the spot.

"Yes, Master!" Li Xiaotian answered respectfully, sheathing his blade before turning to leave. Before he departed, however, his icy gaze lingered on Qin Hongbo and the others, sending an uncontrollable shiver down their spines.

"Lin Mu, you've gone too far!" Qin Hongshu said. "No matter what, we are your elders. Even if you truly lost, there was no need to escalate things to this point."

"Thinking he can do whatever he wants just because he has some brute strength. I see some people are nothing special after all," Qin Hao sneered, his eyes filled with venom. He had been genuinely terrified just a moment ago.

"If you don't want to die, I suggest you say a little less," Lin Mu said, glancing dispassionately at Qin Hao. He then continued, "You all keep talking as if I've already lost, but I'm telling you now, a week is too long. I can't wait."

"We can't wait for your guaranteed loss either!" Qin Hao retorted with unapologetic mockery.

SLAP!

The instant the words left his mouth, a figure appeared before him and delivered a vicious slap, sending him flying across the room. Qin Hao cried out as he hit the ground, half of his face swelling up immediately.

Lin Mu looked down on him, his tone grim. "You really are in a hurry to die."

Meeting Lin Mu's gaze, Qin Hao couldn't help but shudder. When Lin Mu had beaten him into a near-imbecile, it had taken a great deal of effort for him to recover. His hatred had made him forget the fear Lin Mu had once instilled in him. Only now did he remember that the man before him was not only a capable fighter, but also utterly ruthless.

"Lin Mu, what do you think you're doing?" Chen Xinlan's expression changed drastically as she rushed to block Lin Mu's path, roaring, "You already put Qin Hao in the hospital once! If it weren't for Qin Ming, he would have been crippled for life! And now you want to attack him again?"

As soon as Chen Xinlan finished, Lin Mu suddenly turned his gaze toward Qin Ming.

The latter's eyes narrowed slightly before he forced a smile. "We're all family. There's no need for this."

Lin Mu nodded and smiled back. "Cousin Qin Ming has a point."

"However..." Lin Mu's smile widened into a grin. "I am rather curious. Your medical skills must be quite impressive, Cousin Qin Ming, to be able to cure an imbecile."

Hearing his son called an imbecile, Qin Hongbo's chest heaved with fury, but he didn't dare say a word. In truth, he was still very much afraid of Lin Mu.

Qin Ming's smile vanished. "Medicine in the West is naturally quite advanced. I've learned a great deal over the years."

"Well, then congratulations are in order, Cousin," Lin Mu said meaningfully. "As it happens, I also know a little about medicine. Perhaps we could compare our skills when we have the chance?"

"The Way of Medicine is not the Martial Way; there is no need for competition," Qin Ming said, his tone slightly unnatural.

"As you just said, Cousin, the Way of Medicine is not the Martial Way. It would just be a friendly comparison. No one would die," Lin Mu replied with a slight smile, revealing a set of white teeth.

At his words, however, everyone present couldn't help but shiver. It was only at this moment that they recalled—didn't Lin Mu also have the identity of a Divine Doctor?

They exchanged glances, a flicker of dawning comprehension in their eyes. That's right! They remembered that not long ago, Divine Doctor Sun Tianyang himself had admitted his skills were inferior to Lin Mu's, and Elder Luo had even brought his grandson to the Qin Family Old Residence to apologize...

Qin Hongbo shuddered.

Could it be...

A sudden unease gripped him, and he strode quickly toward the exit.

"Dad, I just got hit! Where are you going?" Qin Hao cried out, clutching his face, but Qin Hongbo paid him no mind at all.

"Luo Li, accompany me outside for a look," the Old Madam declared, suddenly rising to her feet and heading for the door. Qin Luoli and Jin Fu hurried to support her, afraid she might fall.

As the Old Madam walked past Lin Mu, she gave him a profound look. "Lin Mu, you come as well."

Heeding the Old Madam's command, and with her now leading the way, the others could no longer restrain their curiosity. They rushed out of the hall and toward the main gate, eager to see if what the one-armed man had said was true—that Qiao Tianhao, Huang Tianxiang, and the others were right outside.

Watching everyone leave, Qin Hao was dumbfounded.

"Cousin Qin Ming..."

Before he could finish, Qin Ming cut him off with a cold rebuke, "Shut up. You idiot!" With that, he too hurried to follow the others.

When the group stepped out of the main gate, the scene before them left them utterly astounded.

Kneeling at the entrance of the Qin Family Old Residence were row upon row of people.

At the very front was none other than the richest man in River City, Qiao Tianhao!

In that moment, they bore no trace of their usual status as River City's tycoons. All of them knelt on the ground, their faces filled with terror, their bodies drenched in cold sweat.

Upon seeing Lin Mu emerge, they all began to kowtow in unison.

"Divine Doctor, spare our lives!"

"Master Lin, spare our lives!"

"Miao King, spare our lives!"

Every member of the Qin Family who witnessed this was petrified on the spot.

Chapter 322: Who Dances in the Sky with Colorful Ribbon!

Divine Doctor!

Lord Miao King!

Master Lin!

These titles, one after another, emanating from the mouths of these powerful men, made every member of the Qin Family feel as if they were standing in a freezing wind, chilled to the bone.

All eyes converged on Lin Mu.

He was the Divine Doctor; everyone knew that. But Lord Miao King? What did that mean? And where did Master Lin come from?

Question marks flooded everyone's minds. They were dying to crack open Lin Mu's head and find the answers within. At this moment, however, no one dared to speak. Even their breathing grew subconsciously fainter. The scene before them was simply too astonishing.

Fifty corporate bosses and dozens of River City's most powerful figures were all kneeling before them. There were easily over a hundred people! The spectacle was magnificent, yet what they saw on the faces of these kneeling men was pure terror. It was the despair of those facing imminent death.

Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes widened, unable to believe what she was seeing. She recognized Huang Tianxiang, who had just been thoroughly humiliated by Lin Mu earlier today, even having her company acquired. She knew Qiao Tianhao, the richest man in River City! And there were the chairmen of East China Technology and Xinglong Real Estate, Patriarch Fan of the Fan family...

Each one was a titan in their respective field. These people were all old foxes of the business world, celebrities who often appeared on television and in magazines. But now, all of them were groveling before Lin Mu like dogs, begging for their lives.

Qin Luoli could understand Huang Tianxiang's actions. She could even understand Qiao Tianhao's. But how on earth had Lin Mu done this? The chairmen of East China Technology, Xinglong Real Estate, Patriarch Fan... although they had business dealings with the Qin Corporation, and many of the recently canceled orders were theirs, how had Lin Mu gathered them all here and forced them to their knees?

This is impossible to understand! Completely impenetrable!

Qin Hongbo's face was ashen, and his whole body trembled. Qin Hongshu's limbs were so weak that he had to be supported by Qin Yan. The Old Madam's lips quivered, as if she wanted to speak but couldn't find the words. The entire Qin Family was petrified, with no one daring to utter a sound.

"Master, how should we deal with these people?" Li Xiaotian asked, holding the Heavenly Punishment Blade, his very being emanating a murderous intent. No one doubted that if Lin Mu gave the word, he would decapitate several of them without the slightest hesitation.

"Lord Miao King, please don't kill me! Don't kill me, I beg you!" Huang Tianxiang crawled forward, her swollen face a mask of terror. She sobbed, "I was blind! I never should have taken advantage of the situation to target the Qin Corporation. Please, I beg you, spare my worthless life..."

Everyone was left speechless by Huang Tianxiang's pitiful pleas. They recognized this powerful businesswoman of River City, known for being domineering and ruthless. Yet here she was, begging for mercy from a live-in son-in-law of the Qin Family.

"Lord... Lord Miao King, please, don't kill me, please..." Seeing Lin Mu's silence, Huang Tianxiang grew even more terrified, her face a mess of tears and snot.

"Huang Tianxiang, do you admit your guilt?" Lin Mu asked, stepping forward and looking down at her with an indifferent gaze.

"I do, I admit it!" Huang Tianxiang kowtowed frantically, her voice filled with regret. "I was wrong, Lord Miao King! I truly know that I was wrong."

Huang Tianxiang was consumed with regret. She must have been blinded by greed to have ever targeted the Qin Corporation.

"Since you admit your guilt, you know what to do," Lin Mu said, his tone devoid of any emotion.

"I know, I know." Huang Tianxiang hastily produced several documents and handed them to Lin Mu.

"This is the share transfer contract for Tianxiang Group. I... I will unconditionally transfer all my shares to President Qin Luoli!"

As soon as her words fell, the crowd gasped in shock. The Tianxiang Group was nearly as powerful as the Qin Corporation. And now, Huang Tianxiang was giving all of it away? To Qin Luoli?

"You're smarter than you look," Lin Mu said with a faint smile. "Is there anything else?"

Huang Tianxiang shuddered. She glanced up at the Qin Family and gave a bitter smile. "No, there's nothing... Ugh!"

Suddenly, she let out a pained groan. A trickle of black blood flowed from the corner of her mouth, and she collapsed limply to the ground.

Dead!

People cried out in shock. Huang Tianxiang was dead!

"Auntie..." Kneeling nearby, Huang Wei was so frightened that his limbs gave out. He collapsed to the ground and began convulsing.

"He's gone mad!" someone shouted.

"Master, the woman took poison," Li Xiaotian reported after a quick inspection.

"If she's dead, she's dead. An insignificant pawn," Lin Mu said dismissively. He then turned his head to glance at Qin Ming, a meaningful smile on his face.

Qin Ming maintained his own smile until Lin Mu turned away. Then, his smile vanished, and a grim shadow fell over his eyes.

"Divine Doctor, here is thirty percent of East China Technology's shares," the president of the company stammered, holding out a contract. "I-I will unconditionally transfer them to President Qin. I hope the Divine Doctor will be magnanimous and not extend his anger to the Hua family..."

"This is a property from Xinglong Real Estate. From today on, it belongs to the Qin Corporation..."

"This is..."

Following Huang Tianxiang's death, the powerful figures kneeling on the ground began presenting their own shares and properties, offering them all unconditionally to the Qin Corporation or Qin Luoli.

Witnessing this, the members of the Qin Family were too shocked to speak. They had gone numb.

Looking at the bosses holding out their contracts, Lin Mu said coolly, "Take them all."

Li Xiaotian collected the contracts and presented them to Qin Luoli. "Madam, please review these. If you're not satisfied, I'll have them offer more."

Qin Luoli was stunned. Staring at the dozens of contracts before her, she felt weak in the knees.

Lin Mu smiled gently. "Take them. You've earned it."

"But..." Qin Luoli hesitated. These were other people's assets, after all.

"Rest assured, Madam," Li Xiaotian said. "These men are hardly saints. The recent crisis at the Qin Corporation was instigated by someone pulling strings, and they fanned the flames from behind the scenes, causing your company to suffer great losses!" His voice turned sharp with killing intent. "If you ask me, even if we made them hand over all their assets, I'd like to see who would dare say no!"

Li Xiaotian's murderous words made those bigwigs who still harbored some reluctance cry out that they wouldn't dare object.

"Just take the contracts for now," Lin Mu told Qin Luoli, before turning back to the crowd. His cold voice fell clearly into every person's ear. "I just needed to see their attitude."

"No one bullies my woman! I won't allow her to suffer even the slightest grievance! If one person bullies her, I will eradicate that person. If ten people bully her, I will eradicate all ten!"

In that moment, Lin Mu was dominant and overbearing, like an unsheathed sword, daring to face any foe in the world!

Everyone present, whether kneeling or standing, did not dare to look directly at that imposing figure.

Qin Luoli's beautiful eyes shone brightly, her heart swelling with emotion and happiness.

Staring at his back, a line of poetry surfaced in her mind: Who dances through the sky with colorful ribbons? Who stands atop the tide to sing of great winds?

It was him.

Lin Mu.

Her man.

Chapter 323: Turning Clouds with the Flip of a Hand, Turning Rain with the Cover of a Hand!

"I seem to have warned you before."

Only after everyone else had apologized did Lin Mu look at Qiao Tianhao, his face an emotionless mask.

Qiao Tianhao knelt on the ground, saying nothing. But everyone could see that the richest man in River City was afraid.

"Your son deserved to die. You could have sought revenge against me," Lin Mu's voice carried a hint of icy murderous intent. "But I told you, do not touch my woman!"

"Qiao Tianhao, tell me, how do you want to die?"

How to die?

Everyone's eyes widened, staring at Lin Mu in disbelief. Was he really going to kill Qiao Tianhao? This was the richest man in River City! If he was killed, could Lin Mu possibly survive?

Yet, seeing the massive crowd kneeling before him, no one dared to speak.

"I... do not regret it!" Qiao Tianhao clenched his teeth, a hoarse voice escaping his lips. "My son is dead, and not even a complete corpse was left behind. I have failed as a father."

He looked up at Lin Mu, his eyes devoid of hatred, fear, or any intention of backing down. "So, I do not regret it!"

His son had been killed by Lin Mu, his funeral ruined by Lin Mu. Even his son's body had been blasted to dust. Qiao Tianhao was filled with an immeasurable hatred for Lin Mu. He wished he could tear him limb from limb.

However, the moment Li Xiaotian appeared at his door, Qiao Tianhao knew it was all futile.

But he didn't regret it. If he didn't do something for his son, he would be failing his duty as a father.

"Lin Mu, I was responsible for everything. It has nothing to do with anyone else," Qiao Tianhao said with a deep sigh. "You... don't involve the others."

Hearing this, the crowd was moved.

"To dare to act and take responsibility... Truly worthy of his title as River City's richest man." Lin Mu said with a nod. "Since that's the case, I can promise you this: as long as they don't provoke me again, I can let bygones be bygones."

"Tha... thank you!"

Qiao Tianhao kowtowed to Lin Mu, his forehead touching the ground.

The others kowtowed even more fervently in gratitude. "Thank you, Divine Doctor, for your mercy! Thank you, Master Lin, for sparing our lives!"

As long as Lin Mu didn't kill them, everything else was negotiable.

"But..."

However, Lin Mu suddenly spoke again, and everyone's hearts, which had just begun to settle, leaped back into their throats.

"You may be spared death, but you cannot escape punishment," Lin Mu said blandly, looking at the crowd. "Qiao Tianhao was planning to hold a charity gala. Since all of you are here, why don't you show a little goodwill?"

"My Fan family is willing to donate twenty million!"

"My Huadong Group is willing to donate thirty million!"

"My Xinglong Real Estate is willing to donate fifty million!"

"..."

Figure after figure was announced by the various magnates, leaving the Qin Family utterly shocked. In just a few minutes, these people had pledged donations totaling hundreds of millions.

"I..."

Just as Qiao Tianhao was about to speak, Lin Mu cut him off. "Rich Master Qiao, you're so wealthy and influential, you should contribute a bit more. Donate your entire family fortune."

The crowd: "..."

Donate all of it?

How much money did Qiao Tianhao have? Nobody knew. Perhaps not even he himself knew. If such a vast sum were truly donated, it would be an astronomical figure! But would Qiao Tianhao agree? This was his entire life's savings. If he donated it all, he would be left with nothing.

"Yes!"

However, Qiao Tianhao agreed without hesitation.

Lin Mu nodded with satisfaction. "I will establish a foundation with Qin Luoli as president, and you can be the vice president. If a single penny of the donated money goes missing, I will hold you accountable!"

Qiao Tianhao looked at Lin Mu in shock, stammering, "You... you're not going to kill me?"

"Why would I kill you?" Lin Mu smiled. "It was your son who provoked me. While you sought revenge for him, your actions are understandable. I can spare you this once."

"Ma... many thanks, Master Lin!" Qiao Tianhao knelt on the ground, weeping uncontrollably.

A smirk played on Lin Mu's lips. "Don't worry. A son can be replaced. Don't forget, I am also the Divine Doctor."

Qiao Tianhao's body jerked, and a flicker of life returned to his once-hollow eyes. Tears streamed down his old face as he cried, "Thank you, Master Lin! Thank you, Master Lin!"

However, a deep shiver ran down everyone else's spines. Qiao Tianhao's son had been killed, yet he now had to show gratitude and serve his son's murderer. This outcome made everyone sympathize with Qiao Tianhao, but it also instilled in them an even deeper fear of Lin Mu's methods.

Making Qiao Tianhao manage the foundation was a spur-of-the-moment idea for Lin Mu. After all, Qiao Tianhao was a tycoon with both ability and influence. Most importantly, a man like him would not betray someone easily.

If his desire to kill me truly hasn't died, then there's no reason to let him live.

I believe that, over time, Qiao Tianhao will only become more grateful to me.

With the matter more or less settled, Lin Mu waved a hand. "You may all leave."

Hearing this, no one dared to linger. They bowed deeply to Lin Mu and left in a hurry, not wanting to stay a second longer. They all promised that their pledged donations would be delivered as soon as possible.

Although Lin Mu hadn't acted personally, the mere mention of any one of his identities was enough to ensure no one dared to refuse or object. Setting Lin Mu aside, Li Xiaotian alone was enough to make them despair. When that one-armed old Daoist had entered their companies or homes, he had killed many people without a second word. He had been accompanied by Cheng Bugui and other powerful figures. Therefore, while they were not entirely willing to come and apologize to Lin Mu, they didn't dare resist.

Seeing everyone slowly depart, the entire Qin Family couldn't help but breathe a deep, collective sigh of relief. They couldn't help it. The scene they had just witnessed was simply too stunning.

But just as they breathed that sigh of relief, someone's heart leaped into their throat once more.

THUD!

Qin Hao abruptly collapsed to the ground, his face deathly pale. He had watched the entire scene unfold. Even the city's richest man, Qiao Tianhao, didn't dare seek revenge for his murdered son and was now forced to work for Lin Mu. What about him? Could he dare compare himself to Qiao Tianhao?

He understood better than anyone why Qiao Tianhao's son had died—it was because Qiao Zishan had coveted Qin Luoli and ordered his men to break Lin Mu's limbs.

"Lin Mu, you've won," Qin Hongbo said, his expression one of dejection.

Everyone glanced at the thick stack of documents in Qin Luoli's hands, a sense of powerlessness washing over them. With so many stock agreements, the Qin Corporation's market value would rise to unimaginable heights. Not only would all their previous losses be recovered overnight, but they would also gain an unimaginable fortune.

Everyone could imagine that the future of River City belonged to the Qin Corporation, and to Qin Luoli.

The person who had created this miracle was none other than Lin Mu. Such methods were like playing God—he could turn the tide and reverse any desperate situation at will. Therefore, it was both rational and wise for Qin Hongbo to admit defeat.

"Alright, since Big Brother has admitted defeat, let's just drop the matter," Qin Hongshu said with a nod, intending to close the subject.

"Drop the matter?" Lin Mu suddenly laughed, his tone indifferent. "I recall Second Uncle saying something quite different before, didn't he?"

Qin Hongshu's expression stiffened. Furious from the humiliation, he snapped, "Then what more do you want?"

"Nothing much," Lin Mu responded, his gaze sharp. "I'm just taking back what's mine!"

Chapter 324: Banished from the Qin Family, Expelled from the Family Register!

"Take back what's yours?" Qin Hongbo flew into a rage. "What belongs to you? As the Qin Family's son-in-law, everything you eat and use comes from our Qin Family. What else could possibly be yours?"

Chen Xinlan added her own accusation. "Lin Mu, don't think you can do whatever you want just because of your status. In front of us, you're just a junior!"

"Exactly!" Qin Hongshu chimed in, his face stern. "Lin Mu, you have certainly surprised us, and you've proven yourself worthy of Luo Li, but..." He paused and let out a sigh. "Lin Mu, you are still a son-in-law of the Qin Family. It is only right that you show us the proper respect."

His words were dripping with condescension for Lin Mu's status. After all, the Qin were a great and prestigious family. A commoner like Lin Mu should be grateful to have married into it.

Qin Luoli's expression turned ugly. Her uncles' words were too much. Just as she was about to protest, Lin Mu suddenly burst out laughing.

"Hahaha!" His laugh was thick with disdain. "Is this your answer?" he asked. "And as for status..."

Lin Mu's gaze swept around the room, but no one dared to meet his eyes.

"Status?" Li Xiaotian snorted. "Never mind my Master's identity as the Divine Doctor and Miao King, the company he owns is hardly weaker than your Qin Corporation!"

A company? The crowd exchanged puzzled glances. When did Lin Mu start a company?

"Boheng Pharma!" Li Xiaotian declared proudly. "That is my Master's business!"

At his words, most of the Qin family members exchanged strange looks. Isn't that just a small pharmaceutical company? And doesn't Boheng Pharma belong to the Su Family?

Qin Hongbo scoffed. "Don't try to scare us, Lin Mu. I know all about Boheng Pharma; it's the Su Family's business. You're just a kid. If you're going to bluff, at least make it believable!"

"What an idiot."

Li Xiaotian's single, mocking sentence made Qin Hongbo livid.

Li Xiaotian stared coldly at Qin Hongbo. "Su Weiye gifted Boheng Pharma to my Master long ago," he sneered. "If you don't believe me, check for yourself."

"Fine, I'll check!"

Naturally, Qin Hongbo didn't believe a word of it and immediately made a call to inquire. When the call ended, his face was ashen. The call had confirmed his worst fears. Not only had Lin Mu become the chairman of Boheng Pharma, but the company's current strength now rivaled that of the Qin Corporation.

"Lin Mu, is it true? Boheng Pharma is yours?"

Compared to the other members of the Qin Family, Qin Luoli had a much better understanding of the major enterprises in River City. While Boheng Pharma had been somewhat well-known before, it was never particularly powerful. Recently, however, it seemed to be expanding constantly and had landed several huge deals. In fact, Qin Luoli herself had tried to contact Boheng Pharma just a few days ago, hoping to acquire some resources from them, but she had been rejected.

"It is," Lin Mu said. "I was planning to grow the company a bit more before gifting it to you. But since certain people have their doubts, there's no reason to hide it any longer."

"Gift... gift it to me?" Qin Luoli was stunned, her mind reeling.

Li Xiaotian chuckled. "Mistress, it seems there are things you don't know. Whatever the Master has, he would give to you. If you wished for the very stars in the sky, he would pluck them down for you."

Being called 'Mistress' by someone old enough to be her grandfather made Qin Luoli slightly uncomfortable. But seeing the serious look on Li Xiaotian's face, she knew he wasn't lying.

Half of River City's industries... are mine? Qin Luoli still found it hard to believe.

Unwittingly, she had become the richest woman in River City. And the man by her side, Lin Mu, was of a status far more distinguished than she could have ever imagined.

"So what if Boheng Pharma is yours, Lin Mu?" Chen Xinlan snorted. "Does that change the fact that you're the Qin Family's son-in-law? You should always remember your place!"

"You wretched woman! If not for the fact that you are my Mistress's elder, I would have killed you with a single slash for that remark!" Li Xiaotian's hand shot to the hilt of his saber, drawing the blade partway from its sheath. A fierce aura burst forth, sending a chill through everyone present.

Chen Xinlan was so frightened that she staggered back several steps, her face deathly pale.

"I just want to tell you one thing: my Master and Mistress are a match made in heaven. They don't need anyone's approval!" Li Xiaotian's icy gaze swept over the crowd. "But if anyone dares bring up my Master's status as a son-in-law again, don't blame me for being ruthless!"

At that moment, everyone felt a tangible, suffocating killing intent.

"Lin Mu, that's enough," the Old Madam finally spoke, her voice cutting through the chaotic scene.

The moment she spoke, everyone collectively sighed in relief. It was no wonder; the events of the day had been simply too shocking.

"As the Old Madam wishes," Lin Mu said with a smile. "But what is owed must be taken in full! Isn't that right, Old Madam?"

The Old Madam looked at Lin Mu, her expression complex. "It is what is due to you."

"Old Madam!?" Qin Hongbo's expression changed drastically at her words, his eyes laced with fear.

"What?" the Old Madam challenged. "When all of you were clamoring for Lin Mu to leave the Qin Family, demanding that Luo Li give up her position as president and hand over her shares, did you ever consider this moment?" She slammed her cane on the ground in anger. "Or do you expect me to turn a blind eye and go back on my word?"

"We wouldn't dare!" Qin Hongbo flinched, his eyes filled with resentment.

"Old Madam, we are all family, after all. I think..."

Before Qin Hongshu could finish, Qin Luoli cut him off coldly. "Second Uncle, you yourself said you would honor the bet. Are you trying to go back on your word now?"

Qin Hongbo opened his mouth, but words failed him. "I..."

"Uncle, it's time to hand over the shares you're holding," Lin Mu said with a grin. "I won them fair and square. Surely you're not going to renege, are you?"

"No, I disagree!" Chen Xinlan shrieked before Qin Hongbo could answer. "By what right, Lin Mu? You think you can just demand shares and get them? Who do you think you are!"

"By what right?" the Old Madam thundered. "By the right that I am the head of the Qin Family!"

"Old Madam, you can't be so partial to Lin Mu and his wife!" Chen Xinlan protested vehemently.

"Partial?" The Old Madam pointed at the slumped form of Qin Hao on the ground, her voice filled with both fury and pain. "You raised a fine son! He dared to conspire with Qiao Zishan to assassinate Lin Mu! For that crime alone, you can all be expelled from the Qin Family, your names struck from the family records forever!"

Her words sent a shockwave through the room. Qin Hao conspired with Qiao Zishan to assassinate Lin Mu? When did that happen?

"Impossible!" Chen Xinlan screamed. "My son would never do such a thing!"

"Impossible!" the Old Madam roared back. "Do you take me for a senile old fool? Why do you think Lin Mu was late to the last family banquet? It's because someone lured him out, broke all his limbs, and left him for dead on a desolate mountain! If he hadn't been so lucky, he would be dead right now! To lay a hand on his own family... the one you raised isn't a son, he's a man-eating Poison Snake!"

Chen Xinlan stared at the Old Madam, her mouth agape, gasping for air like a fish out of water. The Old Madam knew. She knew everything.

As for Qin Hao, his face was ashen, a mask of complete despair.

Chapter 325: Only You Alone, On the Path of the Great Dao!

"Qin Hongbo, you have three days to transfer all your shares to Qin Luoli!"

Ignoring the crowd's shock, the Old Madam declared forcefully, "And as for Qin Hao, for harming his own kin with despicable means, from this day forward, he is expelled from the Qin Family and struck from the family records!"

To harm a kinsman is to be expelled from the family records!

This was a rule of the Qin Family!

The moment she spoke, everyone shuddered.

The Old Madam had issued the command herself!

"No!" Chen Xinlan suddenly threw her arms around Qin Hao, crying, "Old Madam, you can't do this! My son is innocent!"

"Innocent?" the Old Madam scoffed. "To raise a child without teaching is the mother's fault. As a mother, for you to have raised such a vile creature is to bring nothing but shame to the Qin Family!"

"Leave. From this moment on, you have no relationship with the Qin Family."

The Old Madam closed her eyes, her face etched with pain and exhaustion.

"Old Madam!" Qin Hongbo dropped to his knees, pleading, "For a son to be without instruction is the father's fault. I am willing to surrender all my shares, if only you... will retract your decision!"

His son was to be expelled from the family records and his wife sent back to her maiden family. For a father and a husband like Qin Hongbo, this was the ultimate humiliation.

"You fool!"

The Old Madam suddenly struck Qin Hongbo on the head with her cane. The blow was so forceful that it split his skin, and blood began to gush out.

Yet, Qin Hongbo clenched his jaw and did not flinch.

"I beg the Old Madam to spare Hao'er this once and not expel him from the Qin Family." Qin Hongbo kowtowed repeatedly to the Old Madam, his forehead growing bloody from the impacts.

"Hongbo, do you still not understand?" The Old Madam gave a bitter smile. "I am protecting your family of three. Qin Hao tried to assassinate Lin Mu. With Lin Mu's current status, do you really think your son has any chance of survival?"

Qin Hongbo froze.

His face turned deathly pale.

That's right.

Lin Mu was now the revered Divine Doctor, the Miao King, Master Lin, and the chairman of a major corporation. Half the powerful figures in River City knelt before him, yet his son had actually tried to kill him.

If outsiders learned of this, Qin Hao would die without a proper burial, and Lin Mu wouldn't even have to lift a finger.

At this realization, it was as if all strength had been ripped from Qin Hongbo's body. He collapsed onto the ground, his lips trembling as tears streamed down his face.

"Thank you, Old Madam!"

Qin Hongbo kowtowed to the Old Madam, then turned to Lin Mu and kowtowed again in repentance. "Lin Mu, my son has done wrong, and as his father, I share the responsibility. I kowtow to you in apology!"

Lin Mu stepped aside.

Although he had no good feelings toward Qin Hongbo, he was still Luo Li's elder, after all.

Lin Mu said indifferently, "You may go. I promise to spare Qin Hao's life."

"Thank you, thank you."

Qin Hongbo helped his wife and son to their feet, an extremely bitter smile on his face.

I've struggled for half my life, only to be brought down by a junior in the end.

He gave the Qin Family Old Residence one last, desolate look, then kowtowed three times to the Old Madam. "Old Madam, Hongbo has disappointed you. Please forgive your grandson for his lack of filial piety. I can no longer be by your side to serve you. I hope you take good care of yourself."

Looking at Qin Luoli, Qin Hongbo said, "I'll have my lawyer deliver the shares. From now on, the Qin Family depends on you. Also, you've found a good husband. Much better than me."

With a bitter smile, Qin Hongbo left the Qin Family with Chen Xinlan and Qin Hao.

His figure was forlorn, his steps unsteady.

Before leaving, however, Chen Xinlan glanced back at Lin Mu and Qin Luoli, a flash of venom in her eyes.

Lin Mu, Qin Luoli... you two wretches! Just you wait!

Watching Qin Hongbo's family of three depart, the remaining Qin Family members sighed to themselves. No one could have imagined things would come to this.

But truth be told, Qin Hao got what he deserved, and Chen Xinlan had brought this humiliation upon herself. There was no one else to blame.

Thinking this, they all felt a mixture of lingering fear and relief. Thankfully, they hadn't moved against Lin Mu or pushed Qin Luoli too far; otherwise, they might have been the ones leaving today.

"I'm tired. Help me back inside."

After Qin Hongbo's family was far away, the Old Madam sighed deeply and turned to leave, her body trembling. "Lin Mu, Luo Li, come to my room in a little while."

Qin Luoli quickly agreed and hurried to support the Old Madam as she walked through the main gate.

"Master, should we...?" Li Xiaotian glanced at the retreating figures of the three and made a throat-slitting gesture.

Lin Mu shook his head. "Forget it. They're just insignificant nobodies."

He turned to follow the Old Madam, but his next words drifted back to the crowd.

"We should at least give the Old Madam that much respect."

Everyone exchanged glances, seeing a flicker of fear in each other's eyes.

Could it be that Lin Mu had originally intended to...?

At that thought, their fear of Lin Mu deepened once more.

Once the Old Madam was gone, the others also departed in a hurry. Tonight's events had been a rollercoaster, terrifying to the extreme.

Qin Yan glanced at the old residence, sighed, and left silently.

"Qin Ming, let's go."

Qin Hongshu walked over, patted Qin Ming on the shoulder, and sighed. "I don't care what you had in mind for this visit, but it's best not to make a move against Lin Mu. More importantly, don't even think about getting any ideas about the Qin Corporation."

The meaning was clear. From this day forward, the Qin Corporation belonged to Qin Luoli, and no one should dare to covet it. Provoking Lin Mu might not be a death sentence, but provoking Qin Luoli would have unimaginable consequences.

"Dad, what are you talking about?" Qin Ming chuckled. "I'll just stay for a few days to spend time with you and Mom before I leave."

"Mm, that's good, that's good."

Before he left, Qin Ming glanced at the old residence, his eyes glinting with some unknown thought.

"Luo Li, you can go out first. I have something to say to Lin Mu."

Leaning against her bed, the Old Madam looked exhausted, her face having grown even paler.

"Great-grandma..." Qin Luoli's eyes began to redden at the sight.

"You silly girl," the Old Madam said with a chuckle, patting Qin Luoli's hand. "I'm not dead yet, so what are you crying for?"

"Great-grandma, don't say such things." Qin Luoli held the Old Madam's hand, feeling a pang of guilt.

Lin Mu spoke up. "Luo Li, go on outside. I'll talk with the Old Madam."

After a glance at Lin Mu, Qin Luoli nodded silently, left the room, and closed the door behind her.

"Lin Mu, you don't blame me for being partial to Hongbo's family, do you?" the Old Madam asked, her expression serious.

Lin Mu knew the Old Madam had expelled Qin Hongbo's family only to prevent him from taking matters into his own hands and killing them.

Lin Mu said, "Old Madam, what are you saying? We are all family. I only wanted to take back what was mine."

"It's good that you think that way." The Old Madam sighed heavily. "I'm tired. You may go now."

"Old Madam, please rest well."

After tucking the Old Madam in, Lin Mu turned to leave.

"Young Lin Mu."

"Hm?"

The Old Madam's faint voice called out to him. "Take good care of Luo Li. I can rest easy, leaving her in your care."

Lin Mu paused for a moment, then smiled warmly. "Don't worry, Great-grandma. As long as I'm here, no one will dare harm a single hair on her head!"

To him, Qin Luoli... stood above the Great Dao itself.

Chapter 326: Chen Ruoping Got Furious to Death!

「River City.」

「The Chen Residence.」

Chen Ruoping was having breakfast.

"Master, something terrible has happened!" The butler rushed in, his face etched with panic.

"What's all the commotion about?" Chen Ruoping loathed being disturbed during breakfast. Seeing the usually composed butler looking so distraught angered him, and he slammed his chopsticks onto the table.

"Master, the Young Miss... the Young Miss has returned," the butler said, anxiously wiping sweat from his brow.

"That defiant girl, where has she been running wild this time?" Chen Ruoping had two daughters and three sons. His elder daughter, Chen Xinlan, was married to Qin Hongbo of the Qin Corporation, while his younger daughter was in her thirties and still unmarried. This was a constant source of headaches for Chen Ruoping. The thought of the Qin Family inevitably led to thoughts of Lin Mu, and he instantly lost his appetite.

"No, not her." The butler, realizing his master had misunderstood, clarified, "It's... it's the Eldest Miss."

"Xinlan?" Chen Ruoping was stunned for a moment, then overjoyed. "Quickly, let her in."

Seeing the butler still frozen in place, Chen Ruoping roared, "What are you waiting for?! Go!"

"Yes! Right away!" The butler scurried out.

"That won't be necessary." The words had barely faded when Chen Xinlan walked in.

Upon seeing his daughter, Chen Ruoping hurriedly ordered the butler, "Go, close the door. No one is to enter without my permission!"

"Yes!"

The butler, though perplexed, did not dare to question the order. He closed the door and retreated.

"Xinlan, how did it go? Did you get it?" Chen Ruoping asked eagerly as soon as the butler left.

THUD!

Chen Xinlan's eyes reddened as she suddenly dropped to her knees.

"Dad..." She burst into tears, her cries filled with grievance and humiliation.

"Xinlan, what is it?" Chen Ruoping was alarmed. "Get up. Even if we failed this time, don't we still have a few days left?"

"Dad, it's not that..." Chen Xinlan shook her head. "We've lost."

"What?" Chen Ruoping's entire body trembled. "How could we have lost? It's only been..."

"Dad..." Chen Xinlan could only weep, unable to form a complete sentence.

Chen Ruoping's face darkened. "Get up and tell me exactly what happened!"

Holding back her sobs, Chen Xinlan recounted the events of the previous night in full detail.

Dozens of tycoons kneeling at the entrance of the Qin Family Old Residence to confess their crimes, Tianxiang Group's chairman Huang Tianxiang committing suicide by poison, Qiao Tianhao becoming Lin Mu's subordinate... She didn't dare to omit the fact that the Old Madam had driven them from the Qin Family.

"Dad, we have nothing now! That old witch of the Qin Family has already thrown me out!" Chen Xinlan began to cry again, her voice full of anguish. "Dad, you have to stand up for me!"

Wiping her tears, she continued, "What right does the Old Madam have? On what grounds did she expel me from the Qin Family? Was it all because of Lin Mu and that little bitch Qin Luoli?"

He seemed not to hear Chen Xinlan's words, murmuring to himself, Lost? How could we have lost? It was a foolproof plan. How did we lose?

"Dad, I can't accept this!" Chen Xinlan's eyes shone with malicious venom as she spat bitterly, "I, Chen Xinlan, have never been so humiliated. I want revenge!"

Chen Ruoping's fingers trembled slightly. "You're saying that half of River City's most powerful figures knelt before Lin Mu to confess their crimes?"

"That's right. I saw it with my own eyes."

"Huang Tianxiang is dead?"

"Yes."

"And Qiao Tianhao has now been subdued by Lin Mu?"

"Dad, did you hear me?" Chen Xinlan said impatiently. "I said I want revenge!"

"Revenge?" Chen Ruoping let out a bitter laugh. "How? Even Qiao Tianhao failed. What could I possibly use to get revenge?"

"With the Chen Family's power in River City, as long as we're willing to pay the price, revenge isn't impossible!" Chen Xinlan's eyes shone with pure hatred.

Chen Ruoping fell into deep thought, considering his daughter's proposal. He had also been a hidden force behind the recent attack on the Qin Corporation. Otherwise, how could the company have suffered such massive losses overnight? The Chen Family's influence in River City was not to be underestimated. If they had succeeded, Qin Luoli's shares would have been forfeited. And while they would have gone to Qin Hongbo, that fool was no match for him. With his methods, Chen Ruoping could have easily manipulated him. Then, the Qin Corporation would have been his for the taking. But he had never imagined that they would fail, especially with victory so assured. It had only been three days! Not only had the Qin Corporation reversed its decline, but countless tycoons in River City had been forced to hand over their own businesses. Even Qiao Tianhao had to surrender all his assets and become Lin Mu's subordinate. To turn the tables so completely in just three days! This young man... he was terrifying! Chen Ruoping felt as if he were dreaming.

"My son has been cast out of the Qin Family, so I have no hope left for Qin Hongbo. But if we kill Lin Mu, I refuse to believe Qin Luoli and the Old Madam would dare to do anything to us!" Chen Xinlan sneered. "Once Lin Mu is dead, Qin Luoli will be nothing more than a tiger without teeth or claws, not a threat at all. What 'Master Lin'? In front of our Chen Family, he's not even as good as a dog!"

Chen Ruoping blinked. "Master Lin?"

Chen Xinlan tucked a stray strand of hair behind her ear. "Yes, that's what those people called him. They said Lin Mu is some 'Divine Doctor,' 'Master Lin,' and also the 'Miao King'... Dad, what's wrong?"

As she spoke, Chen Xinlan noticed her father's complexion change. His entire body began to twitch convulsively.

"Gasp... Master Lin... gack... gack..." Chen Ruoping's body trembled violently. It was as if something was lodged in his throat, and his face turned beet red.

"Dad, what's happening to you? Don't scare me!" Chen Xinlan was so panicked that tears started streaming down her face.

"Someone! Call a doctor, quickly!" she cried, holding onto Chen Ruoping, her own face turning deathly pale with fear.

"So that's it... so that's it..." Chen Ruoping finally managed to force the words out. "I was wondering how that man became so powerful... so that was it!"

HAHAHA!

Chen Ruoping jolted violently, spraying a mouthful of blood.

"So that was it... HAHAHA!"

With a final convulsion, Chen Ruoping slumped into his chair, his head dropping heavily forward.

"Dad!"

A commotion erupted outside as people rushed in. When they saw Chen Ruoping slumped in the chair with his head hanging low, their faces turned pale with shock, and they cried out in alarm.

In an instant, the entire Chen residence was plunged into chaos.

Gazing at the chaotic scene, Chen Xinlan felt a wave of dizziness wash over her. Her limbs turned to ice. Her father, the Patriarch of River City's Chen Family, was dead. And it was all because of a conversation with her. Lin Mu! It was all because of that man! Her father had literally been scared to death!

Soon, the news spread.

Chen Ruoping, Patriarch of the Chen Family in River City, had passed away at his home this morning.

He was seventy-nine years old.

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Chapter 328 Doctor!

"This..."

The three people on the boat pointed at the man in the center of the river, speechless for a long moment. They exchanged glances, each seeing the shock in the others' eyes. The most shocked of all was the one who had spoken first. He watched the figure draw closer and closer, his body trembling uncontrollably as immense fear filled his eyes.

"Cousin Qin Ming, it was so hard for you to return. Why are you in such a rush to leave?"

The man on the river spoke. As his voice carried out, the rolling river waters instantly grew still, without a single ripple. The surface became as smooth as a mirror.

Celestial Emperor's Mighty Power! To calm the river and seas with a single word!

He moved lightly, his feet treading upon the water's surface. Though his steps didn't seem fast, he arrived before them in the blink of an eye. With his hands clasped behind his back, a faint smile played on his lips, but an irrepressible aura that seemed to dwarf even heaven and earth emanated from him.

BOOM! BOOM!

In the sky above, dark clouds roiled and thunderbolts gathered, signaling an imminent storm.

"What's the hurry?" Lin Mu suddenly said, glancing up at the sky. "Wait until I'm finished here."

To the onlookers' utter astonishment, the turbulent sky instantly calmed. The thunder vanished, and even the oppressive dark clouds seemed to scatter in flight.

The three men on the boat swallowed hard, a profound weakness spreading through their limbs, leaving them unable to sit or stand steadily.

"What is it? I came personally to see Cousin Qin Ming off, yet you seem rather displeased," Lin Mu said, his gaze fixed on the leader of the group on the boat.

With a long sigh, the man slowly stood up and removed his hat, revealing a handsome face.

This person was none other than Qin Ming—the son of Qin Hongshu, the cousin of Qin Luoli, and a member of the Qin Family's Young Generation.

Qin Ming's face was a deathly white as he stared at Lin Mu on the river, his eyes filled with thick fear. "How did you know I would be leaving from here?" he asked, a bitter smile on his face. "I had someone disguise themselves as me and leave by plane."

Lin Mu smiled faintly. "It's a rare occasion for Cousin Qin Ming to return, and you even promised Luo Li you would visit. I took that to heart. If you really left, wouldn't Luo Li be terribly disappointed?"

The two locked gazes across the water, their expressions complex.

After a moment of silence, Qin Ming suddenly said, "Lin Mu, let me go, and I will never return."

He was confident Lin Mu would agree. After all, Qin Luoli was a woman; she couldn't possibly run the Qin Family forever. As for the younger generation, with Qin Hao already expelled and the others still too young, they posed no threat to her. He, Qin Ming, was the only exception. The implication was clear: if Lin Mu let him leave, he would abandon any future claim to the Qin Family's leadership.

Lin Mu slowly shook his head. "Cousin Qin Ming, don't you think you're overestimating yourself? So what if you stayed with the Qin Family? Do you really think you could contend with me?"

His tone was heavy with disdain. With his current power, who would dare to touch Qin Luoli? Not Qin Hongbo. Not the Chen Family. And certainly not Qin Ming.

"Lin Mu, must you force my hand?" Qin Ming's sharp features twisted. "I know your strength and methods. Did you really think I'd plan my escape without leaving a contingency? By now, my people have probably already stormed your home to make their move on Qin Luoli."

Qin Ming had come well-prepared. But when he realized he was no match for Lin Mu, he had immediately withdrawn, though not without leaving several countermeasures in place.

Lin Mu chuckled. "If you hadn't made a move against Luo Li, perhaps I wouldn't have shown up. But it's a pity you decided to seek your own death. Knowing Luo Li is my Ni Lin, yet you still chose to touch her!"

As he finished speaking, Lin Mu waved his hand. Countless severed heads materialized behind him and flew toward Qin Ming.

THUD! THUD!

Head after head landed on the deck, rolling to a stop at Qin Ming's feet. Each face was a mask of horror and despair, as if they had endured unimaginable torture before their death.

Qin Ming's entire body shuddered, and he staggered back several steps.

These were the very assassins he had sent after Qin Luoli. Lin Mu had even found and killed his deepest sleeper agents, leaving no one alive!

"Is this your contingency plan, Cousin Qin Ming?" Lin Mu stated expressionlessly. "You truly underestimate me." His voice was laced with killing intent. This man had dared to send assassins after Qin Luoli. That alone was enough to earn him a thousand deaths.

"Lin Mu, you..." Qin Ming was genuinely terrified. He knew Lin Mu held immense power in River City, but his men had been hidden there for years. They shouldn't have been found so easily. With this single move, Lin Mu had not only foiled his plan but had also unearthed every one of his organization's secret

operatives. Qin Ming knew that even if he managed to escape with his life, he would face the organization's harshest punishment upon his return.

"What? Are you scared?" Lin Mu laughed. "The famous 'Doctor' from the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps can feel fear?"

"You..." Qin Ming trembled violently. "You know my identity?"

"I don't just know your identity. I know the identities of those other two as well," Lin Mu said, casting a scornful glance at the two men sitting on the deck.

Qin Ming was indeed a member of the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps, codenamed 'Doctor.' This was information Cheng Bugui had uncovered. He was the one who had cured Qin Hao of his idiocy, and he had then used Qin Hao as a pawn to target Lin Mu and Qin Luoli, all with the aim of completely ruining her. As for Lin Mu himself... at the time, Qin Ming hadn't paid him any mind. He had prepared far too many schemes for this trip. But after learning Lin Mu's true identity, Qin Ming knew that all those schemes were useless.

"Doctor, why are you wasting breath on him?" one of the men suddenly shouted, leaping to his feet with a powerful aura. "Instead of blathering on, let's just kill him and be done with it!"

"Die, boy!" the man roared. An imposing air exploded from him as he stomped on the deck and launched a ferocious punch at Lin Mu. This man was also a Martial Artist!

Qin Ming retreated two steps, a look of anticipation in his eyes. The next moment, however, his expression changed completely.

Just as the attacker reached Lin Mu, his fist was caught in mid-air by a single hand.

"The Blood Rat Mercenary Corps sent a few wastes like you to kill me?" Grasping the man's fist, Lin Mu shook his head in disappointment. "It seems Jack has really gotten old."

The man's pupils contracted. Jack was the name of the leader of the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps.

"You're courting death!" the man bellowed, trying to yank his fist back, but it was held in an unbreakable grip. While he was still reeling in shock, an immense force slammed into his chest.

He was sent flying backward, landing with a sickening thud on the deck.

THUD!

A loud crash echoed as the entire boat shook violently. The man twitched twice, then fell silent.

Lin Mu took a step forward, landing on the deck and fixing his gaze on Qin Ming.

Terrified, Qin Ming stumbled backward before collapsing to his knees.

"Lin Mu, I was wrong," he pleaded, his face a mask of pure terror. "Please, for the sake of us being family, spare me. I'm begging you, just this once..."

The infamous 'Doctor' from the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps, a man whose name inspired dread, was now kneeling and begging for his life.

The third man, his face hidden behind a mask, could only stare in utter disbelief.

Chapter 329: Easterners are too powerful!

"Cousin, what are you doing?" Looking at the kneeling Qin Ming, Lin Mu offered a faint smile. "If my Second Uncle saw you like this, he'd scold me for being disrespectful."

Lin Mu stepped forward as if to help Qin Ming up. "Get up, Cousin. People are watching."

However, just as Lin Mu reached for him, a cold, murderous intent flashed from beneath Qin Ming's lowered eyelids.

"Lin Mu, die!"

Two scalpels slid from Qin Ming's sleeves as he slashed toward Lin Mu's neck. The extremely sharp blades flickered with a cold, eerie light, and they seemed to be coated in a deadly poison. The smile on Qin Ming's face widened, twisting his features into a ferocious mask.

He attacked so suddenly! Even with Lin Mu's quick reflexes, there's no way he could react in time, right?

The other person on the deck was stunned.

A surprise attack from Qin Ming... Even I didn't expect that.

But a moment later, joy filled their heart. As long as Lin Mu is killed, Lord August will become the Corps Leader!

BANG!

A hand appeared from nowhere and seized Qin Ming's wrist. With a light twist, Qin Ming cried out in pain as the scalpels flew from his grasp. Before they could clatter onto the deck, another hand snatched them from the air.

"Tsk, tsk." Lin Mu toyed with a scalpel. "Cousin, were you planning to discuss medical techniques with me?"

But there wasn't a trace of a smile on his face.

Dumbfounded, Qin Ming stared at Lin Mu, too stunned to process what had just happened.

My surprise attack... and Lin Mu still managed to disarm me? Is this guy a monster?

"Don't look at me like that, Cousin," Lin Mu said with a grin. "We're both grown men, after all. What are you implying with that look?"

"Pfft!"

The other person let out a sudden snort of laughter. Judging by the crisp sound, it was a woman. Seeming to realize how inappropriate it was, she quickly covered her mouth, her blue eyes wide with panic. When she saw Lin Mu hadn't noticed her, she breathed a sigh of relief.

"Lin Mu, I have no regrets about being defeated by you," Qin Ming said, gritting his teeth, seemingly aware that he was doomed. "Kill me or torture me. Do as you wish."

Lin Mu nodded. "At least you have some self-awareness."

"However..." Lin Mu patted Qin Ming's shoulder. "Wouldn't killing you just like that be letting you off too easily?"

Qin Ming's pupils dilated in terror. "Lin Mu, what are you going to do?" he stammered.

"Nothing much," Lin Mu chuckled. "Just a small gift for you."

His palm landed lightly on Qin Ming's shoulder.

CRACK!

Qin Ming let out a shrill scream, his face contorting and flushing red as he endured an unimaginable agony. With that single palm strike, Lin Mu had sent his Spiritual Energy into Qin Ming's body, shattering most of his bones. Now, Qin Ming lay on the deck like a boneless man, completely limp.

"Cousin Qin Ming, your medical skills are so profound you could even heal an idiot like Qin Hao. Surely a minor issue like having all your bones shattered is a trivial matter for you, right?"

The woman standing nearby couldn't help but shiver as she watched the cruel smile play on Lin Mu's lips.

This guy... he's a Devil.

Qin Ming lay on the deck, unable to move, only able to let out miserable howls. The pain of having every bone in his body shattered was comparable to the most extreme forms of torture. And as long as he remained alive, that pain would torment him endlessly.

"Lin Mu, just kill me! I'm begging you, please kill me!" Qin Ming howled, his voice echoing across the river's surface.

"Kill you?" Lin Mu sneered. "I told you not to touch my woman. Why didn't you listen?"

Ever since returning from abroad, Qin Ming had been plotting to kill him. If not for Lin Mu's status and power, and people like Li Xiaotian and Cheng Bugui working for him to root out all the spies hidden across River City, Qin Luoli might have been harmed. So, Qin Ming deserved worse than death. But Lin Mu wasn't going to kill him. He wanted his cousin to endure the most excruciating torture in the world before slowly dying.

Ignoring Qin Ming's pleas, Lin Mu slowly walked toward the last person remaining. The person wore baggy clothes and a face mask, keeping their features well hidden. But in Lin Mu's eyes, their identity was crystal clear.

"Alice? That is your name, isn't it?" Lin Mu stood before the foreign woman, his eyes devoid of emotion.

"You... how do you know my name?" Alice trembled, pulling off her mask to reveal a classic oval face and blue eyes flickering with shock.

This Easterner is terrifying! He even knows my name! I changed my name and identity before coming to Huaxia. How did he find out?

"It was easy enough to find out who you are," Lin Mu smiled mockingly. "It seems Jack has really gotten old. He must be over sixty by now. It's rare to see someone last so many years in the Mercenary World."

Alice grew more and more shocked as Lin Mu spoke.

This Easterner, Lin Mu... Is he God? How can he know so much?

"In the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps, besides old Jack, only Ba Di and August are contenders for the position of corps leader," Lin Mu said in a low voice. "Who are you working for?"

Alice's mouth fell open in terror as she stared at him, incredulous. "Oh my God, who are you? You not only know about Commander Jack but also about Lord Ba Di and Lord August!"

"So you're working for August." Lin Mu nodded. "Go back and tell old Jack that if I don't see August's head within three days, he can offer his own in its place."

"Why should I listen to you!" Alice retorted, feeling deeply humiliated.

"You will."

With a gentle wave of Lin Mu's hand, Alice felt as though an invisible hand was gripping her throat. Her face flushed red as her mouth fell open. Lin Mu flicked his finger, and a black insect shot into her mouth.

Alice gagged, her stomach churning violently as she desperately clawed at her throat. "Damn you! What did you make me swallow!"

Her eyes were wide with terror.

"It's just a Gu Insect," Lin Mu said nonchalantly. "If you disobey, it will devour your internal organs until you die, your body rotting from the inside out."

The image made Alice tremble so hard she nearly burst into tears.

What woman doesn't cherish her beauty? Even in death, I want to be beautiful! And a Gu Insect... one of the most mysterious creatures of the East, a thing whose name strikes fear across the world.

"I'll do it! I'll do whatever you say! Just get it out of me, please!" Alice screamed, tears of panic streaming down her face.

"Don't worry, the Gu Insect won't eat you without my permission. But if you disobey," Lin Mu finished with a cold smile, "don't blame me for being ruthless."

He never went easy on women.

"Okay, I'll obey! I'll do as you say, Master!" Alice knelt, kowtowing repeatedly to Lin Mu.

"Good. Now take Qin Ming and leave."

Lin Mu turned and leaped off the boat, his voice carried back by the wind.

"Remember, if you want to live, you'll be obedient."

Startled, Alice hurried to the side of the boat, but when she looked out over the vast expanse of the river, there was no trace of Lin Mu.

BOOM!

At that moment, a deafening clap of thunder echoed through the heavens, and a torrential downpour finally began to fall.

The rain had dared to fall only after Lin Mu had departed.

Alice stared blankly at the scene, her face instantly paling with fright.

Huaxia is too terrifying. Easterners are too powerful.

She broke down sobbing.

I want to go home!

Chapter 330: Only He Can Save You!

These past few days, Qin Luoli was incredibly busy. "Utterly swamped" would be an apt description.

She hadn't returned home for several days. Regarding this, Lin Mu felt both helpless and a little guilty. After all, Qin Luoli held shares in half of River City's enterprises. On top of that, Tianxiang Group was nominally her company now. Coupled with the foundation Lin Mu had established, the workload she had to handle was simply overwhelming.

Throughout these days, Qin Luoli was either in a meeting or on her way to one. Initially, it was manageable with Lin Mu by her side, massaging her with Spiritual Energy every day to relieve her fatigue. But as time went on, neither of them could handle it. So, Lin Mu had no choice but to ask the Liang Family to prepare some medicinal herbs and refine a few Elixirs for Qin Luoli.

These Elixirs were far superior to the so-called revitalizing brain tonics on the market. Not only did they alleviate exhaustion, but they could even improve her physique.

Lin Mu knew his future path would be long. As his power increased, so would his lifespan, but Qin Luoli was a Mortal. Though the Ever Youth Pill prevented her appearance from aging, her lifespan was predetermined and wouldn't be extended. Therefore, Lin Mu decided to start improving Qin Luoli's constitution now. Once his strength reached a certain level, he would help open her meridians and teach her to cultivate. Only with longevity could they remain together for a long time.

So, Qin Luoli had no idea that the reason she didn't feel tired at work recently was because someone had done a lot for her behind the scenes. What she did know was that she was constantly full of vigor, as if she were on steroids. She was not only more efficient when handling her work, but she also displayed

a more acute judgment in many corporate decisions. As a result, after several consecutive days, every task she handled was in perfect order, without a single mistake.

This left her subordinates both shocked and speechless. President Qin seemed to have taken some magical elixir, brimming with energy, but they were just ordinary people. How could they keep up? In the end, while Qin Luoli was fine, her subordinates were complaining bitterly, and many were on the verge of resigning. The most amusing part was that when they resigned from Qin Corporation and joined new companies, they discovered that President Qin was there too, as a shareholder. It was only when they finally put two and two together that people realized Qin Luoli held shares in half of the enterprises in River City. They had no choice but to accept their fate.

Of course, Qin Luoli wasn't someone who only knew how to work without caring for her employees. Anyone who worked overtime with her had their salary doubled, and their other benefits were also improved significantly. This made everyone feel that while the work was grueling, Qin Luoli was a good boss.

As for Lin Mu, he now seemed to have nothing to do. After handing over two prescriptions to the research and development department, he became a hands-off manager. Two days later, the R&D department brought him exciting news: the prescriptions had been successfully tested, and the medicine they developed was extremely effective and could be mass-produced. This left the entire R&D department elated, and Lin Mu was quite gratified as well.

Next, Lin Mu prepared to enter seclusion. His Cultivation Level had reached the tenth layer of Qi Refinement, but there was still some way to go before Foundation Establishment. He needed to calm his mind and cultivate seriously for a period. With only ten months left until his challenge with Zhang Daoyun, Lin Mu had to speed up his progress. He aimed to successfully achieve Foundation Establishment before heading to Dragon Tiger Mountain.

「...」

While Lin Mu was preparing for his seclusion, deep within the mountains along the Amazon River, a figure with tattered clothes and disheveled hair gazed at a nearby mountain and nearly wept with joy.

"I'm here. I'm finally here." The woman knelt, crying out to God.

"Don't move!"

Just then, several heavily armed men emerged from the dense forest, pointing the dark muzzles of their guns at her. If she moved an inch, they would open fire immediately.

Instead of being afraid, the woman broke into a happy smile. "I'm Alice. Take me to see August... No, never mind. Take me to see the leader." Alice hesitated for a moment but decided it was best to report this matter to the leader.

"You're... Alice? My God. What on earth happened to you on your trip to Huaxia?"

"Is this really the goddess I remember? God, can someone tell me what happened?"

"Alice, tell me who did this to you! I swear I'll blow his head off with my sniper rifle!"

Thinking of that mysterious and powerful Eastern man, Alice couldn't help but shiver. "You aren't even worthy of carrying his shoes," she said expressionlessly. "How could you possibly kill him? Stop wasting time and take me to the leader!"

Although the burly men were annoyed, Alice's status was special, so they didn't dare press her and could only follow her orders.

"Right, the doctor is on the border. Send some people to pick him up," Alice added, suddenly remembering something.

"The doctor? What's he doing on the border?" one of the mercenaries exclaimed.

"Don't ask questions you shouldn't. Just get him and hurry back!" Alice snorted coldly and strode straight into the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps' base.

「...」

「An hour later.」

Jack, the leader of the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps, sat dejectedly in his chair, his face a mixture of shock and terror, with even a hint of despair.

"Leader, do you know this man?" Seeing Jack so distraught, Alice was also deeply shaken.

Jack shook his head with a bitter smile. "Heaven help me... How could I possibly know someone who is like a god? But..." As if remembering something, he asked, "Alice, you haven't told anyone else about this, have you?"

Alice shook her head blankly. "No. I came straight here after returning from the East."

"And the doctor? Where is he?" Jack asked nervously.

"I sent people to pick him up..."

Before Alice could finish, Jack shot to his feet. "No! The doctor must not fall into August's hands!"

"Then what do we do..." Alice's expression turned frantic. She wasn't worried about whether the doctor lived or died; she was afraid she would lose her own life if she failed to complete Lin Mu's mission.

"I'll go personally!" Jack said, his eyes revealing a look of sheer horror. "Alice, I'll arrange for someone to take you away. Never come back. From now on, you'll have no connection to the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps whatsoever!"

"Uncle Jack, are you kicking me out? My parents are dead! You're the only family I have left," Alice said, her eyes reddening as she fought back tears. She only appeared to be working for August; in reality, she was an undercover agent Jack had placed by his side. Her true identity was that of Jack's distant niece.

"Child, the Blood Rat Mercenary Corps is no longer safe for you. Staying here will get you killed!" Jack suddenly said, "Didn't you say you were afflicted with a mysterious Eastern poison? Go back to the East and find that man. Since he let you come back, he won't kill you!"

"What?!" Alice was startled.

Return to that devil's side? No!

Jack took a deep breath. "He's the only one who can save you now. It's the only way."

"But Uncle Jack, what about you?"

"I have to stay and handle things within the corps," Jack said somberly.

Alice knew Jack intended to kill August, but...

Knowing what she was about to say, Jack scoffed. "Don't worry, I'll have Ba Di work with me... but you must go back to the East and find that man. Only he can save you!"