

War God 431

Chapter 431: Evil Fiendish Way, What Do I Have to Fear!

"The seventh one!"

In Haiyuan Tiancheng, Lin Mu retrieved a vase-sized jar from the staircase of a building. He smashed it with his foot and then turned his gaze in another direction. There lay the eighth Corpse Raising point. As long as the central pivot of the formation was broken, this Nine Deaths Evil Gathering Formation would collapse on its own.

However, Lin Mu's expression grew grave. He faintly felt that something was amiss.

The Nine Deaths Evil Gathering Formation collected the world's resentment to condense energy for raising corpses. But the feng shui of this place was clearly a superior spiritual nexus. There was no need to choose such a location just to raise corpses. Wouldn't it be far more effective to find a place dense with Evil Qi?

Could it be...

A thought suddenly struck Lin Mu. He leaped onto the roof of a building, his eyes sparkling with divine light as the entire feng shui layout of Haiyuan Tiancheng came into view.

So that's it! Lin Mu's eyes lit up as he instantly understood. It's not just the Nine Deaths Evil Gathering Formation, but also the Soul Sealing Locking Spirit Array. With the two formations reinforcing each other, one within another, it's no wonder I couldn't find Luo Li's Life Soul.

A cold glint shone in his eyes, and a hint of killing intent began to rise.

Humans have three souls and seven spirits. The three souls are the Heavenly Soul, the Earthly Soul, and the Life Soul. The seven spirits are the first, Heavenly Charge; the second, Spirit Wisdom; the third, Qi; the fourth, Strength; the fifth, Central Pivot; the sixth, Essence; and the seventh, Heroism.

The soul is Yang, while the spirit is Yin. Among them, each is further divided into Yin and Yang. Within the three souls, the Heavenly Soul is Yang, the Earthly Soul is Yin, and the Life Soul is also Yang. Among

the seven spirits, the Heavenly Charge and Spirit Wisdom spirits are Yin, forming the Heavenly Spirits; the Qi, Strength, and Central Pivot spirits are Yang, forming the Human Spirits; and the Essence and Heroism spirits are also Yang, forming the Earthly Spirits.

The reason Qin Luoli lay unconscious was that her Life Soul was trapped elsewhere. If Lin Mu's Cultivation Level were higher, summoning her soul from a thousand miles away would be a simple matter. Awakening Qin Luoli would take no effort at all. But he had not yet reached Foundation Establishment, and he wanted to avoid any accidents during the soul-summoning process, so he had come to search for it himself.

However, Lin Mu wasn't too worried. He knew that the protective bracelet he had given Qin Luoli was now guarding her Life Soul, so ordinary methods couldn't harm it. Still, he needed to find it quickly. If a Life Soul remained separated from its body for too long, it would cause irreversible damage.

Heavenly Charge, Spirit Wisdom, Central Pivot... what I just destroyed corresponded to the seven spirits of the human body. This person raises corpses with souls and spirits and uses resentment for power. They must be an expert, Lin Mu muttered to himself. "But since you dared to touch my woman, don't blame me for being ruthless when the time comes!"

A fierce glint flashed in his eyes as he made a slight gesture with his palm.

CRACK!

Qiankun Lightning Descent!

A dark green bolt of lightning landed in Lin Mu's palm, transforming into a gleaming ancient sword.

Dragon Tamer!

Dragon roars echoed as Sword Qi surged to the sky!

"Slash!" Lin Mu commanded, wielding the Yulong Sword and slashing toward a nearby villa.

CRACK!

The villa was split in two, collapsing with a deafening roar. Within the gash created by the sword light, a fist-sized bead spun, emitting a faint glow.

"Break!"

Lin Mu flicked his wrist. A sliver of Sword Qi shot out and shattered the bead. A streak of black light flew out from within, attempting a swift escape. But Lin Mu was a step ahead, slashing down with his sword.

"AIIIEE!"

With a piercing scream, the black light was instantly shredded, not even a wisp escaping. Only then did Lin Mu turn his gaze to the tallest tower in the center.

It seems Luo Li's Life Soul is here.

He slowly walked over, his eyes coldly surveying the tall tower.

BOOM! BOOM!

As if sensing the terrifying killing intent from Lin Mu, the tower began to shake violently, causing the entirety of Haiyuan Tiancheng to tremble with it. Lin Mu raised his hand without hesitation, preparing to strike with his sword.

"Stop!"

Just as Lin Mu was about to act, a voice thick with anger and urgency cried out. He looked up sharply to see a black-robed elder hurtling toward him, his face an open mask of killing intent.

Stop?

Lin Mu let out a cold laugh, and the Yulong Sword slashed down without hesitation.

CRACK!

With the Yulong Sword unleashed, who could stand against its edge! A brilliant streak of sword light cleaved the tower in two. As the tower split apart, an oil lamp was revealed within. Lin Mu instantly grabbed it and stored it in the Mountain and River Cauldron.

"AHH!" the elder screamed in agony. Seemingly driven mad, he charged at Lin Mu with blood-red eyes. "My life's work! It was only a step away from success, and you destroyed it!"

With eyes nearly bursting from their sockets and a ferocious expression, the elder spat, "Boy, I will grind your bones to dust and refine your three souls and seven spirits into puppets!"

As his words fell, he casually flicked his wrist, sending three bottles hurtling toward Lin Mu.

BANG! BANG! BANG!

With three muffled explosions, the bottles shattered, and three dark shadows shot toward Lin Mu. Each of these shadows radiated an intense, malevolent aura, their forms saturated with a brutal, bloody scent. Clearly, they had recently consumed a great deal of lifeblood.

"Seizing souls and draining lifeblood... With such methods of the Evil Fiendish Way, you must be the mastermind behind the Nine Deaths Evil Gathering Formation and the Soul Sealing Locking Spirit Array!" Lin Mu's gaze was icy as he stared at the black-robed elder.

This elder was, indeed, the one who had felt the disturbance from the basement. As the one who set up the formations, he was naturally alerted when they were disrupted. At first, he didn't realize what was happening. By the time he did, Lin Mu had already destroyed eight of his Corpse Raising points. To his shock, the final pivot of the formation was then destroyed by a sword strike right before his eyes.

"Boy, for destroying my formation, you must die!" the elder said with a sinister hiss. "If I don't kill you today, the hatred in my heart will never be quenched!"

"Kill!"

At the elder's command, the three dark shadows transformed into three snarling faces and lunged at Lin Mu.

"Petty tricks of an evil art dare to act so brazenly before me!" Lin Mu snorted. With a light flick, the Yulong Sword shot from his hand.

SHIIING!

A dragon's roar filled the air as the Yulong Sword became a streak of faint light, weaving through the air.

HSSST! HSSST! HSSST!

With three soft hisses, the shadows were cleanly sliced in two by the sword.

What? the elder thought, his face changing as shock flooded his heart. This boy's strength is terrifying! He destroyed my three puppets with a single sword strike! There's no one like him in the world today! Could it be...

Glancing at the Yulong Sword as it flew back into Lin Mu's hand, the elder's pupils shrank as he cried out, "Are you Sword Body Shen Lang?!"

"Shen Lang? I don't know him," Lin Mu said indifferently. "But for daring to lock away my woman's Life Soul, you deserve to die a thousand times over!"

As his words fell, Lin Mu raised his longsword high and brought it slashing down toward the elder.

"No!" the elder shrieked, his face contorting in panic as he retreated rapidly. "I am the Sect Leader of the Corpse Raising Sect! If you kill me, my disciples will hunt you for the rest of your life!"

Lin Mu only sneered with disdain. "A mere sect of the Evil Fiendish Way. What have I to fear!"

The Yulong Sword flared to life and descended in a single slash

Chapter 432: Sword Slaying the Nine Child Ghost Mother!

"You forced my hand!"

Seeing Lin Mu's overbearing attitude, the elder flew into a rage, slamming his hands onto the ground.

"Rise for me!"

With a great pull of his hands, it was as if he were heaving something up from the depths of the earth.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM! The ground trembled, and a massive fissure cracked open where the tower had shattered.

"ROAR!"

A roar echoed from the fissure as a pair of desiccated, scale-covered hands reached out from below. They clawed at the soil on either side and violently tore the earth apart.

BOOM! A colossal creature, three meters tall, burst forth from the ground. It was a monster composed of countless heads. Its main head was that of a woman, but the rest of its body was a grotesque fusion of infants' heads. A football-sized head protruded from its abdomen, its eyes like copper bells, radiating an overwhelming aura of resentment.

The moment the creature appeared, it swiped a claw toward Lin Mu.

A cold smirk touched Lin Mu's lips. Without even turning his head, he slashed backward with his sword. The blade's light whistled through the air, striking the creature's claw directly.

CLANG! A sharp noise rang out. Astonishingly, the creature's claw wasn't severed. Instead, the impact sent a shower of sparks flying.

"A Nine Child Ghost Mother!" Lin Mu's eyebrows rose slightly, clearly surprised.

The legendary Mother of Myriad Ghosts, capable of birthing all the ghosts in the world, was immensely powerful! To think the Corpse Raising Sect had actually found such a ferocious beast.

"A pity you haven't truly mastered the technique," Lin Mu said, shaking his head slightly. "The Nine Child Ghost Mother you've raised is merely a pale imitation."

Lin Mu had encountered the true Nine Child Ghost Mother in the Nine Nether Lands. Its power was so formidable that it could rival a True Immortal! The one before him was merely an empty shell.

"Nevertheless, to have raised such a creature in this day and age is truly a remarkable feat," Lin Mu added, a hint of admiration in his tone.

"Kid, I'll tell you the truth! This Nine Child Ghost Mother is the Corpse Raising Sect's most powerful fiend! If you know what's good for you, you'll retreat at once. Otherwise, you can stay and become food for my precious!" the elder cackled, his face a mask of wild joy.

"Hmph. The height of foolishness," Lin Mu snorted in disdain. "To raise a Nine Child Ghost Mother, one must feed it with the essence blood of infants every nine days. Judging by this beast, it must have devoured no fewer than a hundred infants. Such acts are an affront to the heavens and a violation of human decency!"

Most importantly, the infants the Nine Child Ghost Mother devoured had to be freshly torn from their mothers' wombs. This meant the elder from the Corpse Raising Sect had killed over a hundred pregnant women, taking their children just to feed this monster. By doing so, he had also torn apart hundreds of families! Such cruelty was unforgivable!

"Hmph! Becoming nourishment for the Nine Child Ghost Mother is the good fortune they've cultivated over several lifetimes!" the elder retorted coldly, completely unconcerned.

"Boy, I gave you a chance. Since you refuse to leave, then you can stay forever!"

He took out an ocarina crafted from a human skull and began to play a soft tune.

WOOOO... A mind-numbing sound spread out, and the Nine Child Ghost Mother suddenly became agitated. It clutched its head and let out a shrill, furious screech.

"Kill him!" the elder commanded, pointing at Lin Mu.

With a low growl, the Nine Child Ghost Mother kicked off the ground and lunged straight for him.

BANG! The ground cracked. With terrifying speed, the Nine Child Ghost Mother appeared instantly before Lin Mu, its sharp hands stabbing toward his neck. The infants' heads on its body opened their mouths, revealing sharp teeth and letting out piercing, wretched shrieks.

Lin Mu's gaze turned frosty as he threw a straight punch.

Deicide Fist!

The punch unleashed a furious gale.

THUD! Before the Nine Child Ghost Mother's hands could even touch him, the punch sent it flying backward.

CRACK! The creature crashed through a building, which collapsed around it. It let out an angry roar and charged at Lin Mu once more.

"Hahaha! Boy, I've raised this Nine Child Ghost Mother for decades! Its body is impervious to any weapon. You can't possibly beat it!" the elder laughed maniacally, continuing to play the ocarina in his hands.

"Is that so?" Lin Mu flexed his arm and brought the Yulong Sword up horizontally before him. He ran a finger lightly across the blade.

VMMMM!

The roar of a dragon echoed as the sword's light gleamed sharply. A murderous Sword Qi shot straight toward the heavens.

The elder's face fell. Realizing he could delay no longer, he blew into the ocarina with frantic haste. The Sword Qi emanating from the Yulong Sword grew more and more intense, gradually filling the entire Haiyuan Tiancheng with a thin veil of its power.

SWISH! A leaf drifted down from a tree, only to be shredded to pieces by the ambient Sword Qi.

The Nine Child Ghost Mother burst from the ruins, charging toward Lin Mu as fast as lightning.

CRACKLE! CRACKLE! Streams of Sword Qi struck its body, leaving deep gashes and causing the infants' heads to wail in agony. The creature's body was covered in layers of scales that appeared exceptionally hard. But the Yulong Sword's Sword Qi was the sharpest weapon in the world. *Nothing could withstand its edge!*

"Go!"

Lin Mu tapped the sword lightly with his finger. The Yulong Sword instantly whistled through the air like a Thunder Dragon bursting from the water.

"ROAR!"

The draconic roar shook the heavens, its Sword Qi murderously sharp!

"This is..." The elder's face was a picture of shock. "Sword Control Technique!" he cried out.

The Yulong Sword transformed into a streak of lightning, charging directly at the Nine Child Ghost Mother. Lin Mu's fingers moved in a blur of gestures, causing the sword to shift its trajectory.

ZING!

Suddenly, a piercing sword cry that echoed for miles rang out, and the Yulong Sword vanished. In its place, however, a faint and invisible Sword Qi remained.

Punishing Immortal Sword Qi!

"Slash!" Lin Mu flicked his finger. The Punishing Immortal Sword Qi whistled forth, stabbing directly into the Nine Child Ghost Mother's abdomen.

"ROAR!"

The creature's forward charge came to an abrupt halt, its body stiffening. It lowered its head slightly. A fist-sized hole had appeared on the infant head on its abdomen, the edges scorched as if by a lightning strike.

CRACKLE! Then, fissures began to spread across the infant's skull until it finally shattered into pieces.

"AARGH!"

With the death of the infant, the Nine Child Ghost Mother let out a heart-wrenching scream. It threw its arms wide as a violent wave of resentment erupted from its body, as if it had been driven into a crazed frenzy.

"Rather than live on, suffering under someone's control, allow me to grant you liberation," Lin Mu said, his gaze cold. He hooked his finger slightly, and the Sword Qi from the surrounding air converged, instantly engulfing the Nine Child Ghost Mother.

"No!" the elder shrieked, but he was far too late to stop it. The Nine Child Ghost Mother was pierced by innumerable streams of Sword Qi.

THWIP! THWIP! THWIP!

The Sword Qi crisscrossed, dicing the Nine Child Ghost Mother's body into countless fragments.

WHOOSH! A gust of wind blew past, and the fragments turned to dust, scattering into the air.

The Nine Child Ghost Mother was slain.

CRACK! The bone ocarina in the elder's hand developed countless fractures before crumbling into a fine powder.

As the Nine Child Ghost Mother perished, the elder suffered a backlash. He spat a mouthful of fresh blood, and his face instantly turned deathly pale.

Lin Mu slowly walked over to the elder and looked down at him, his face devoid of expression.

"Who... who in the world are you?" the elder stared blankly at Lin Mu, his heart flooded with terror. This man's cultivation level was so high that even the Nine Child Ghost Mother was no match for him. He had single-handedly destroyed a plan years in the making. He had never encountered such a formidable opponent in his entire life.

"I am Lin Wudi!"

As soon as the words left his mouth, Lin Mu waved his hand. The elder's head flew from his shoulders in a spray of blood.

"Ah!"

Suddenly, a scream shattered the silence.

Lin Mu looked up and saw a woman staring at him in horror. It was Lu Jia.

Chapter 433: The Mountain Rain Is About to Fall, the Wind Fills the Tower!

"Don't come any closer!"

Lu Jia saw Lin Mu approaching and immediately retreated in fear, her face paling. But Lin Mu's steps didn't stop; in fact, they quickened.

"Don't!"

Lu Jia screamed and turned to run. However, the moment she turned, her entire body went rigid, as if struck by lightning. She was frozen to the spot. Before her appeared a baby with a basketball-sized head and a deformed body, watching her with a pair of blood-red eyes. Its body was also covered with various strange patterns, looking extremely fierce and terrifying, like a ghost baby from a horror movie.

"Ah!" Lu Jia stared dumbfounded for three seconds before letting out a shrill scream and falling backward, stiff as a board.

The instant she lost consciousness, all she knew was that a pair of large hands seemed to have caught her. What happened after that, she had no idea.

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Looking at the fainted Lu Jia, Lin Mu shook his head helplessly. This woman is truly reckless. If I weren't here, she would have died long ago.

After placing Lu Jia on the ground, Lin Mu glanced at the ghost baby. It appeared to have developed intelligence and watched Lin Mu with some fear. More accurately, it was watching the Yulong Sword before it as it quietly retreated.

"If you dare to run, I will ensure your soul is scattered and destroyed."

As Lin Mu's words fell, the ghost baby's body stiffened. It shrank back and didn't dare to move. Curled up on the ground, the shivering baby looked rather pitiful, but Lin Mu felt not a drop of sympathy.

He knew this ghost baby was the greatest calamity here, the very being that the Nine Deaths Evil Gathering Formation and the Soul Sealing Locking Spirit Array were meant to suppress. It was born from the resentful qi that the Nine Child Ghost Mother had gathered in Haiyuan Tiancheng. If it were allowed to escape, it would surely bring massive disaster to the outside world.

When a ghost baby is born, it devours people and slaughters entire cities!

Lin Mu looked indifferently at the ghost baby, knowing it could understand him. "Although you were manipulated, your resentful energy is too heavy, your Evil Qi is too dense, and you have fed on too many innocent people. I will not let you live."

The ghost baby seemed frightened, but a hint of spite and cruelty flickered in its eyes. Its gaze remained fixed on Lin Mu, carrying an almost imperceptible greed. It had an intuition that devouring this person would bring enormous benefits. However, it also sensed that he was dangerous. It chose to respond with silence.

"I know you can understand," Lin Mu's voice grew colder. "So don't play dumb. Otherwise, killing you would only take a single swing of my sword!"

As he spoke, the Yulong Sword emitted a sharp, formidable sword intent.

Fear finally replaced greed in the ghost baby's eyes.

Lin Mu said dispassionately, "Do one thing for me, and I can give you a chance to reincarnate."

The ghost baby looked at him, its eyes full of confusion.

Lin Mu's tone turned menacing. "You don't have the right to refuse. Otherwise, I will kill you right now!"

The ghost baby hurriedly nodded, afraid Lin Mu would kill it if it was too slow to agree. And it was right to be afraid; if it had hesitated for even one more second, Lin Mu would have acted.

"Good." Lin Mu nodded. "You've made a wise choice."

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"Where am I?" Lu Jia woke to a deep, piercing ache in her head. Looking around, she discovered she was in a hospital. She felt like she'd forgotten something, but she couldn't remember what.

Just then, Qin Luoli walked in. "Lu Jia, you're awake?" she asked with concern. "Are you okay?"

"Luo Li, you're better?" Lu Jia was just as surprised to see Qin Luoli up and about.

Qin Luoli smiled. "You've been unconscious for two days. Of course I'm fine by now."

"Two days?" Lu Jia was startled. "How did I fall into a coma?"

"You were in a car accident," Qin Luoli said. "Don't you remember?"

Lu Jia clutched her head, wincing in pain. "I don't seem to have any memory of it at all. The more I try to think, the more my head hurts."

"Then don't think about it," Qin Luoli comforted her. "The doctor said you forgot about the incident because you went into shock. It's for the best. As long as you're okay, that's all that matters."

"Hmm." Lu Jia gave a noncommittal nod, but deep down, she felt that something was very wrong.

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In a tea room, Lin Mu sat across from Sun Tianyang. "Is the investigation complete?"

Sun Tianyang quickly put down his teacup. "Young Master Mu," he said respectfully, "it is." He took out several photos and placed them before Lin Mu. The photos showed Gao Xing meeting with a man: Qin Luoli's class monitor, Feng Yang.

"Young Master Mu, this person is Feng Yang, a senior executive at a subsidiary of the Jiangling Fang Group, and—"

"I know him," Lin Mu cut in.

Sun Tianyang smiled. "But Young Master Mu might not know that Feng Yang's background isn't simple."

Lin Mu raised an eyebrow. "Go on."

"The Martial Arts World has countless ancient martial sects," Sun Tianyang began. "Not many have survived from ancient times to the present, but who knows how many operate in secret." Pointing at Feng Yang's photo, he continued, "And this Feng Yang, rumor has it he has some connection with a heretical sect."

"The Corpse Raising Sect?" Lin Mu asked.

"Nothing gets past you, Young Master Mu." Sun Tianyang explained, "The Corpse Raising Sect originated from the Xiangxi Corpse Chasing faction, which was once powerful. However, after the new nation was founded, the practice of Xiangxi Corpse Chasing fell into decline, and the Corpse Raising Sect branched off to become independent. This sect has very few members and operates mysteriously, so not many outsiders know about them."

Lin Mu recalled the Sect Leader of the Corpse Raising Sect he had previously slain, wondering what relationship he had with this Feng Yang. He said indifferently, "It seems this man was deliberately sent by the Fang Family to target me."

Sun Tianyang nodded. "Exactly. I've already confirmed that Feng Yang is a pawn sent by the Fang Family. He was preparing to set a trap with Gao Xing to frame your wife, Young Master Mu."

A cold glint flashed in Lin Mu's eyes. If it weren't for the powerful Defensive Magical Artifact I gave Qin Luoli protecting her Life Soul, the Fang Family would be playing me for a fool right now.

"It seems the Fang Family is in a real hurry to die," Lin Mu said coolly. "But since I've come to Jiangling myself, I'm curious to see what tricks they have up their sleeve."

"With you here, Young Master Mu, the Fang Family can't possibly stir up any trouble," Sun Tianyang said, taking out an invitation. "This is for a business gathering tonight. Many corporations and celebrities will attend, and the Fang Family is one of the organizers."

Taking the invitation, Lin Mu's lips curled into a cold smile. "Excellent. This time, I'll make sure the entire Fang Family is annihilated!"

Sun Tianyang shivered, looking at Lin Mu in shock. Annihilate the Fang Family? Provoking Young Master Mu might leave a slim chance of survival. But daring to harm his woman? That's a death sentence. It's over for the Fang Family.

Lin Mu looked out the window. Dark clouds were gathering, and a chill breeze stirred the air. A storm was coming to Jiangling. The winds of change are blowing. Let's see if the Fang Family can withstand the tempest.

Chapter 434: Don't Want to Marry a Cripple!

Xingchen Clubhouse.

It was the largest clubhouse in Jiangling, second to none, because it was owned by the Fang Family.

「Eight o'clock in the evening.」

The grounds in front of the clubhouse were filled with countless luxury cars, enough to make anyone feel inadequate. An endless stream of well-dressed, successful individuals walked into the clubhouse, their expressions full of confidence.

Lin Mu and Qin Luoli also arrived, entering the clubhouse together.

"Luo Li, you're here too?"

No sooner had they entered than Lu Jia and Wenwen came running over to greet them, their faces alight with excitement.

However, when Lu Jia saw Lin Mu, her expression changed slightly. For some reason, she always felt an inexplicable fear whenever she saw him.

"Lu Jia, what's wrong?" Wenwen nudged her. "You look so pale. Didn't you get enough rest?"

Lu Jia shook her head. "I'm fine."

Wenwen complained, "I told you to stay in the hospital for observation for a few more days, but you just wouldn't listen."

"Alright, I'm fine now, aren't I?" Lu Jia took Qin Luoli's hand. "Let's go over there. I'll introduce you to some of my friends."

"Okay."

Qin Luoli whispered to Lin Mu, "I'll go over first. Don't cause any trouble."

Lin Mu gave a bitter smile. "What trouble could I possibly cause?"

Qin Luoli glared at him. "I don't care. You better keep a low profile today."

"Fine, fine, as you wish."

Resigned, Lin Mu found a quiet spot to sit down.

Meanwhile, Qin Luoli was chatting happily with a few wealthy young ladies, thanks to Lu Jia's introductions. Seeing this, Lin Mu could only smile ruefully. This woman is truly a social butterfly.

Bored, Lin Mu observed the main hall, noticing that the guests all seemed to have extraordinary identities; each one was dressed in a sharp suit, speaking with an air of sophistication. Only Lin Mu, dressed plainly, seemed out of place. Fortunately, his nature was rather indifferent, and he didn't care much for these things.

However, someone did take notice of him.

A girl in an evening dress approached, holding a glass of red wine, a mischievous smile on her face.

It was Yang Zi.

"Yo, isn't this our Young Master Lin? What a rare guest." Yang Zi was dressed exquisitely that day, her entire demeanor exuding a sense of superiority.

"Is there something you want?" Lin Mu's brows furrowed upon seeing her. He didn't have the slightest bit of affection for this woman.

"Can't I come over for a chat?" Yang Zi pursed her lips in a smile, her gaze carefully assessing Lin Mu. "With all your money, why don't you dress better? You should know, people here are very judgmental about appearances."

Lin Mu said flatly, "Are you finished? Then get lost."

Yang Zi's smile instantly stiffened, her expression turning incredibly ugly. "What gives you the right to be so arrogant?" she snarled. "You think you're something special just because you have some dirty money?"

A slight curl formed on Lin Mu's lips. "Apologies, but my 'dirty money' is more wealth than you could earn in several lifetimes."

"You..."

Yang Zi was choked speechless, but she knew he was telling the truth. He was the holder of the Nine Dragons Supreme Emperor Card, and that card alone represented an astronomical sum.

"Hmph, what's there to be so proud of!" Yang Zi snorted coldly. "You probably don't know yet, but my sister is about to marry Young Master Bin of the Fang Family. Once that happens, your little bit of money will mean nothing."

"What does that have to do with me?" Lin Mu said impatiently. "Besides, are we that close?"

Yang Zi took a deep breath, clearly incensed. She had only wanted to show off in front of Lin Mu, but he had rebuffed her so harshly. It felt like she had just offered up her own face to be slapped.

"Sis, what are you doing over here?"

Just then, a clear voice rang out as a girl in a white dress walked over. However, when she saw Lin Mu, her expression changed drastically, and her whole body trembled as if she had seen something inconceivable.

Yang Zi, not noticing her sister's reaction, grabbed the girl's arm. "This is my sister, Yang Qing. She's about to marry Young Master Bin of the Fang Family. Soon, she'll be the young mistress of the Fang Family. So what if you're rich?"

Yang Qing tugged at Yang Zi, trying to get her to stop talking.

Yang Zi continued, "What are you afraid of, sis? It's not like he can eat you. Today's gathering was specially arranged by the Fang Family to announce your joyous engagement to Young Master Bin."

"What?" Yang Qing seemed to finally process her words, looking at Yang Zi in disbelief. "Marry Young Master Bin? How come I didn't know?"

Yang Zi pulled her closer. "My silly sister, are you speechless with joy? Let me tell you, you're about to become the envy of every woman in Jiangling, so you can rejoice in your good fortune."

"I..." Yang Qing started to panic. "I don't—"

At that moment, a group of people entered the clubhouse. The middle-aged man in the lead had an imposing aura, his face carrying the authority of one long accustomed to power.

It was none other than the Family Head of the Fang Family, Fang Tang.

"Good evening, everyone!" Fang Tang announced in a booming voice as soon as he appeared. "At tonight's gathering, I have a piece of good news to share."

With that, he beckoned to Yang Qing.

"Quick, go! Patriarch Fang is calling you!" Yang Zi pushed Yang Qing forward, walking excitedly with her.

Fang Tang smiled. "My son, Shao Bin, will be taking Yang Qing of the Yang Family as his wife. I hope everyone will come to celebrate with us when the time comes."

"Ah? Congratulations, congratulations!"

"Congratulations, Patriarch Fang!"

"Tsk, tsk. The Yang Family is about to soar to new heights."

"Indeed. With the backing of a powerhouse like the Fang Family, it would be hard for them not to prosper."

Every face in the room wore a different expression of shock and surprise. Some were disappointed, others frustrated. A few even began blaming their own daughters for not being able to win out over Yang Qing.

The Patriarch of the Yang Family was so excited he could barely contain himself, repeatedly giving Yang Qing pointed looks.

"Aren't you going to thank Patriarch Fang?" Yang Zi nudged her sister, her tone slightly reproachful.

"I..."

With so many people watching, Yang Qing was too nervous to speak. She turned her head to glance at Lin Mu and, drawing courage from somewhere, shouted, "I disagree!"

"WHOA!"

Her words sent the entire room into an uproar.

She disagreed? Had Yang Qing really refused? How could she turn down such an incredible offer? Marrying into the Fang Family would have been a meteoric rise.

"Yang Qing, shut your mouth!" the Patriarch of the Yang Family barked before hurriedly turning to Fang Tang. "Patriarch Fang, my granddaughter must be overwhelmed with excitement and misspoke. Please, don't hold it against her."

Fang Tang's smile slowly faded. He looked at Yang Qing and said in a deep voice, "Why do you refuse? Is my son not good enough for you?"

"No... it's not that." Yang Qing shook her head frantically, extremely nervous. "I didn't mean it like that."

"Then what did you mean?" Fang Tang's voice was cold.

Yang Qing was so frightened that tears welled up in her eyes.

"She meant nothing."

Just then, a quiet voice cut through the tension.

"She probably just doesn't want to marry a cripple."

Chapter 435: The Richest Man Takes the Stage, Shocking Everyone!

Don't want to marry a cripple?

What did he mean by that? Was he cursing Fang Tang's son, calling him a cripple?

How outrageous! Wouldn't this make an enemy of the Fang Family? Who was so bold?

Everyone followed the sound of the voice and saw a young man sitting in a corner, looking at them with a mocking expression.

Facing the stares of so many, the young man's expression bore a hint of derision, utterly unconcerned that this was the Fang Family's territory.

"Such audacity in this youngster!"

"Get over here now!"

"Apologize to Patriarch Fang immediately!"

The crowd was instantly furious, and two young men walked directly toward Lin Mu, intending to make him come over and apologize.

Lin Mu's expression remained unchanged as he merely gave the two young men a faint glance. His gaze was placid, but a divine light flickered in the depths of his profound eyes.

The two young men's minds shuddered, and they froze in place, utterly intimidated by a single look from Lin Mu.

The Patriarch of the Yang Family was furious. He pointed at Lin Mu and said, "Boy, you've got some nerve!"

Lin Mu glanced indifferently at the Patriarch of the Yang Family. "I may have some nerve, but at least I'm not selling my granddaughter, am I?"

His words were laced with undisguised mockery.

"You..." Patriarch Yang was so enraged that his face turned red, and he was left speechless.

It was well known that the Yang Family, as a vassal of the Fang Family, naturally hoped for one of their women to marry into the Fang clan. This would not only improve their relationship but also secure more resources and support for the Yang Family. But for someone to upset the apple cart and verbally insult him at such a critical moment...

Selling his granddaughter? In any era, that was something that would earn him public scorn. How could Patriarch Yang tolerate it?

"Bring him to me!" As the head of the Yang Family, Patriarch Yang held some status in Jiangling. He couldn't just swallow this public humiliation.

"Yes, sir!" The two young men from the Yang Family finally snapped out of it. They approached Lin Mu and reached for his shoulders.

"Kid, let's go... AHH!"

Before their hands could even touch Lin Mu, they retracted them as if electrocuted, their faces contorting in pain.

Just now, Lin Mu had merely pricked them with his Sword Qi, causing their bodies to go weak without truly harming them.

"You want to fight me?" Lin Mu gave his shoulders a slight shake and glanced at Fang Tang. "Why don't you all ask Patriarch Fang how his son is doing now?"

"So, it was you!" Fang Tang's expression immediately darkened. "It was you who crippled my son!"

The moment he spoke, the crowd was in an uproar once again.

Fang Tang's son was crippled by someone? And it was this young man right in front of them? Where did he get such guts?

Lin Mu, however, shook his head. "Your son brought it upon himself. But you... you dared to send people to River City to destroy my company and harm my woman. How should we settle that score?"

Lin Mu hadn't come today to attend some party. He had come to cause trouble for the Fang Family.

"You're Lin Mu!" Fang Tang's eyes narrowed slightly in apparent surprise.

This kid... When did he arrive in Jiangling? How did I not receive any news?

"That's right. It's me." Lin Mu slowly rose to his feet and walked toward Fang Tang. "I warned you repeatedly not to provoke me. Why didn't you listen?"

"Stop right there!" seeing Lin Mu draw closer, Patriarch Yang barked. "Who do you think you are, speaking to Patriarch Fang like that?"

Lin Mu looked at Patriarch Yang, a smirk playing on his lips. "To be a dog to this extent, it must have been hard on you."

At his words, the expressions of the onlookers changed slightly.

Did he just publicly call Patriarch Yang a dog? This Lin Mu's audacity is truly off the charts.

At that moment, Qin Luoli hurried over, glaring anxiously at Lin Mu.

This guy... I told him not to cause trouble. How long has it been? He's already offended so many powerful figures in Jiangling. Even if you want revenge, you don't have to be this rash, do you? However, since things had already come to this, Qin Luoli resolved to follow Lin Mu's lead, as she always had.

"Impudent!"

As expected, Patriarch Yang was furious. He pointed at Lin Mu and shouted, "Seize him! I'm going to personally shatter every tooth in his mouth!"

At his command, the two bodyguards behind him moved toward Lin Mu, their faces like ice.

"Stop!" Just then, a resonant, powerful voice cut through the hall. "Let's see who dares touch him today!"

The crowd parted as a group of people walked in from outside. Everyone looked, their faces filled with shock.

"Zheng Mingwang!"

"Elder Zheng! What is he doing here?"

"Is he... standing up for that young man?"

The man who had arrived was none other than Zheng Mingye, the wealthiest man in Jiangling.

Zheng Mingwang, the richest man in Jiangling!

Wearing a traditional Tang suit, Zheng Mingye walked with a steady gait, his presence naturally commanding. As he entered, everyone in his path cleared a way.

"Elder Zheng, what brings you here?" Even Fang Tang had to show respect. After all, in front of Zheng Mingye, he was merely a junior.

"What? Am I not welcome here?" Zheng Mingye said with a cold snort. "If I'm not welcome, this old man will leave immediately."

"This junior would never dare," Fang Tang said with a strained smile. "Elder Zheng, please."

"Hmph!" Zheng Mingye snorted again. Seeing the two Yang Family bodyguards still standing their ground, his displeasure grew. "What? Do I have to personally tell you to scam? The Yang Family's etiquette is getting worse and worse!"

His scolding tone made Patriarch Yang flush red with shame, but he didn't dare utter a single word in protest. After all, even with the Fang Family's backing, the Yang Family would never dare oppose Zheng Mingye. His connections in Jiangling were simply too deep for an ordinary person to risk offending.

"Stand down," Patriarch Yang said to his bodyguards with a helpless wave of his hand, his heart filled with unwillingness and humiliation.

Only after the bodyguards retreated did Zheng Mingye walk over to Lin Mu. Then, under everyone's stunned gaze, he performed a deep, ninety-degree bow.

"I, Zheng Mingye, greet you, Mr. Lin! Thank you for your life-saving grace!"

His words sent a shockwave through the entire hall.

Mr. Lin? Life-saving grace? The richest man in Jiangling was bowing so deeply to Lin Mu and addressing him so respectfully. What on earth was happening? When had Lin Mu ever saved Zheng Mingwang?

"Mr. Lin, thank you!" Zheng Junyi also bowed to Lin Mu with a sincere attitude.

Lin Mu simply nodded, unfazed.

"Elder Zheng, what is all this...?" Fang Tang was also baffled. When had Lin Mu saved Zheng Mingye? This was a major event. Why did he know nothing about it?

"Haven't you seen enough?" Zheng Mingye scanned the room, his voice rising. "I came today to inform you all of one thing: Mr. Lin is my, Zheng Mingye's, benefactor. He is the benefactor of the entire Zheng Family! Anyone who dares to move against him will be making an enemy of me!"

"Mr. Lin, I have some family matters to attend to, so I must head back. Once this period of business is over, I hope you will do me the honor of joining me for a simple meal at my home." Zheng Mingye looked at Lin Mu with great anticipation, desperate for him to accept.

"Alright."

Hearing Lin Mu's affirmation, Zheng Mingye was overjoyed and departed with a light spring in his step.

But the people left in the great hall were in a complete uproar. Zheng Mingye was backing Lin Mu.

Chapter 436: The Layout!

"What on earth is going on?" someone uttered, long after Zheng Mingye had departed.

All eyes turned to the speaker, looking at them as if they were a fool.

What's going on? Isn't it obvious? That man is no ordinary individual; he has a powerful backer. Didn't you see that even the city's richest man came out to support him?

The illustrious Fang Family Head and the Patriarch of the Yang Family were berated by the richest man as if they were his own sons, yet they didn't dare utter a single word in response.

Everyone stared at Lin Mu in shock.

Qin Luoli was no exception.

When did Lin Mu save Zheng Mingye? Could it have been that time, when Zheng Mingye asked Lin Mu for help?

At this, Lu Jia and Wenwen's faces also filled with shock.

Lin Mu can heal people? Was everything he said before true?

The two women exchanged glances, each seeing a trace of disbelief in the other's eyes.

The Nine Dragons Supreme Emperor Card, the ability to cure illnesses, and the respect of Zheng Mingwang... Luo Li's man is truly mysterious and terrifying.

As for Yang Zi, she began to feel a vague sense of fear.

"HMPH..." Fang Tang exhaled a long breath, a hint of coldness deep in his eyes as he looked at Lin Mu.
"Lin Mu, you really surprised me."

After a pause, Fang Tang added coldly, "But do you really think that with Zheng Mingwang's support, you can do whatever you want in Jiangling? What a joke!"

He raised his voice, his tone heavy. "For my Fang Family, crushing you would be as simple as stepping on an ant!"

"Oh, is that so?" Lin Mu smiled. He looked at Fang Tang indifferently and said, "I feel the same way. To me, your Fang Family isn't even worth as much as an ant."

Taking two steps forward, Lin Mu whispered in a voice only Fang Tang could hear, "I came here this time to personally tell you to prepare for the Fang Family's extinction."

"Exterminate my Fang Family?" Fang Tang sneered ominously. "Lin Mu, you're quite full of yourself!"

"You don't believe me?" Lin Mu watched Fang Tang with a warm smile. "Then let's make a bet. Within three days, I'll make you regret this. In one week, I'll have you come to me and beg."

"Beg you?" Fang Tang laughed, enraged. "Young man, don't be so arrogant, or you'll suffer bitterly for it."

"I've always been arrogant. If you can't accept it, feel free to come find me."

With that, Lin Mu gave Fang Tang one last, deep look, then turned and left the Xingchen Clubhouse with Qin Luoli.

Once the two of them were gone, the crowd erupted.

"Such insolent arrogance!"

"Too overbearing! He has no regard for anyone!"

"Patriarch Fang, you must teach this man a lesson! Does he really think there's no one in Jiangling who can stop him?"

"Exactly! This is simply intolerable!"

Everyone present was either a vassal family of the Fang Family or had close ties to them. Seeing Lin Mu openly challenge the Fang Family filled them with a burning rage, making them wish they could tear him to shreds.

"Hmph. There's no rush," Fang Tang said, surprisingly calm in the face of their anger. "I'm actually curious to see what tricks this kid can play."

He glanced at Patriarch Yang. "In three days, it will be my family's Old Master's eightieth birthday. At that time, we will also hold the engagement banquet for Shao Bin and your granddaughter."

"Yes, thank you, Patriarch Fang!" Patriarch Yang exclaimed, overjoyed, as the others quickly offered their congratulations.

Yang Qing, however, turned ashen, her expression dejected.

「...」

After leaving the Xingchen Clubhouse, Lin Mu and Qin Luoli drove back to the hotel.

"Lin Mu, are you really confident you can exterminate the Fang Family in one week?" Qin Luoli asked, a hint of worry in her voice.

Warfare in the business world isn't like fighting and killing on a battlefield. It requires time and strategic planning. They had only just arrived in Jiangling when she ran into trouble. A week was far too short.

Lin Mu said calmly, "Don't worry. I'll arrange everything from here on out. Just listen to me."

Qin Luoli glanced at him, hesitating. "Are you really going to destroy the Fang Family?"

Lin Mu looked out the window, his tone indifferent. "From the moment they laid their hands on you, the Fang Family was destined to be destroyed by me."

Hearing his calm words, Qin Luoli was both shocked and deeply moved. Her gaze hardened with resolve.

No matter what Lin Mu was going to do, she would stand by him. She would never leave his side.

「Early the next morning.」

Qin Luoli held a meeting at the Jiangling Hotel. She announced that all matters related to the Haiyuan Tiancheng project were to be handed over to Lin Mu, and that everyone was to obey his orders unconditionally.

"President Qin, shouldn't we consider this more carefully?" someone immediately objected as soon as she finished speaking.

It was Gao Xing.

Qin Luoli gave him a cold look. "I'm not here to ask for your opinion. I am formally notifying you."

"President Qin..." Gao Xing grew anxious, a flicker of worry in his eyes.

Before he could say more, Qin Luoli produced a file. "Furthermore, as of today, Gao Xing is officially dismissed from the Qin Corporation. Therefore, you have no right to offer any opinion."

"On what grounds!" Gao Xing shouted, leaping to his feet. "President Qin, I've served the company with dedication! Even if I haven't earned merits, I've put in the hard work. If you're going to fire me, you at least owe me a reason!"

"A reason?" Qin Luoli sneered, pushing the file across the table. "Is this reason sufficient?"

Gao Xing opened the file, and his face instantly turned pale. His entire body went limp.

The file contained a detailed investigation report on Haiyuan Tiancheng, filled with numerous testimonies claiming it was a haunted building. Not only that, but it also contained several photographs showing meetings between Gao Xing and another man, taken over the last month. The man in the photos was none other than Feng Yang, and the most recent picture was dated just two days ago.

"Do you have anything else to say?" Qin Luoli glared at him, her eyes filled with anger.

If Lin Mu hadn't given this to me, I never would have believed I'd been set up. And by my own class monitor, no less. Feng Yang is one of the Fang Family's people. It was all a set-up, one link after another. The Fang Family had everything prepared, just waiting for me to walk into their trap.

"President Qin, I..." Cold sweat dripped down Gao Xing's face as fear gripped him.

He knew that now that she knew, Qin Luoli would never let him off the hook. Most importantly, Lin Mu was sitting right across from him.

Qin Luoli pointed to the door. "You don't need to say anything else. Now, get out!"

"Ah? Yes, yes, I'll go right now!" Gao Xing snapped back to reality and scrambled out of the meeting room.

Gu Qing and the other Qin Corporation executives watched, dumbfounded.

Gao Xing was a traitor? This was completely beyond their expectations.

"Alright, from today onward, Lin Mu will take full charge of the Haiyuan Tiancheng project," Qin Luoli announced, her gaze sweeping over the room with a cold glint. "Are there any objections?"

"No objections!"

"We trust President Qin's judgment!"

Qin Luoli nodded, satisfied. "Good. Meeting adjourned."

After everyone else had left, Qin Luoli asked, "Why did you let Gao Xing go? I'm worried he'll run to the Fang Family, which will only make things worse for us."

Lin Mu just smiled faintly. "That's exactly what I want him to do."

"Huh?" Qin Luoli stared, her previously cool and stunning image replaced by a somewhat dazed and cute expression.

Lin Mu couldn't help but pinch her cheek. "What do you mean, 'huh'?" he said with a grin. "This is all part of your husband's masterful plan!"

Chapter 437: The Transformation Plan Begins!

"Gao Xing, why have you come?"

At night, Feng Yang was awakened by a knock on the door. When he opened it, he was surprised to see Gao Xing standing outside.

Gao Xing said frantically, "The plan has been exposed. I came to discuss it with you."

"What?" Feng Yang was startled. "You're not saying that Qin Luoli knows we set the trap for her at Haiyuan Tiancheng, are you?"

With a grave expression, Gao Xing nodded. "I've been fired. Haiyuan Tiancheng is now under Lin Mu's management."

"Him?" Feng Yang scoffed. "I thought this was something serious. As for Haiyuan Tiancheng, even the Heavenly King himself would be helpless there."

"I'm still worried..." Gao Xing said.

Feng Yang reassured him, "Relax, I promise you, whoever goes there is a dead man!"

"Are you sure?"

Feng Yang laughed. "What? It's not like you don't know how bizarre that place is. I guarantee that if Lin Mu dares to set foot in there, it'll be a one-way trip!"

Reassured by Feng Yang's promise, Gao Xing sighed in relief. "Good. As long as Lin Mu dies, we can finally rest easy."

Feng Yang sneered. "And that's not all. That brat Lin Mu dared to humiliate Patriarch Fang in public. He's simply courting death!"

The next morning, two shocking pieces of news rocked the city of Jiangling.

First, Fang Shaobin of the Fang Family was to marry Yang Qing of the Yang Family, with the engagement ceremony to be held in three days.

Second, the Haiyuan Tiancheng project would officially go on sale in three days, with an average price of 100,000 per square meter.

Each piece of news was more explosive than the last. The marriage alliance between the Fang and Yang families was one thing, but Haiyuan Tiancheng was another matter entirely. It was infamous throughout Jiangling as a haunted property that had already claimed the lives of several developers.

And now it was going on sale? For 100,000 per square meter? Did this developer get their head slammed in a door?

As the news spread, people learned that Haiyuan Tiancheng had recently been taken over by an outside company called the Qin Corporation, a major enterprise in its own right.

"Haha, an outsider? No wonder they dared to take on a hot potato like Haiyuan Tiancheng."

"Exactly. That haunted complex is mostly finished and could be sold immediately, but after so many deaths, who would dare to buy it?"

"And 100,000 per square meter? The Qin Corporation must be insane with greed!"

"Just be patient. Let's just wait and watch the show."

Fang Tang also learned of this news, to which he merely offered a faint smile.

After all this time, have they finally taken the bait?

Gazing at a document on his desk, a cold glint appeared in his eyes. I'd like to see just how many lives you have to play this game with me, Lin Mu!

Meanwhile, Zheng Mingye rushed to find Lin Mu. "Mr. Lin, you can't touch Haiyuan Tiancheng!"

"And why not?" Lin Mu replied.

"Because..." Zheng Mingye hesitated before continuing, "The resentment that latched onto me started after I visited that place. If I didn't have a few tricks up my sleeve, I might not have made it back."

Recalling the incident, Zheng Mingye's face filled with regret.

Lin Mu just smiled faintly. "Don't worry, I have my own plans."

"But..."

Before Zheng Mingye could say more, Lin Mu interrupted, "By the way, I'm a stranger here in Jiangling. Can you help me find a few construction teams? The more, the better. I need to complete all the remaining work on Haiyuan Tiancheng."

The project was already mostly built, but he had damaged some structures previously and needed them restored as soon as possible.

"What?" Zheng Mingye was aghast. "Mr. Lin, I'm not trying to shirk my duties, but there isn't a single construction crew in Jiangling that would dare to take this job."

"Just do it. If anything happens, I'll take full responsibility," Lin Mu said. "When you're looking for people, tell them I'm offering triple the market rate."

"This... All right, then."

Zheng Mingye was speechless. To bring down the Fang Family, Lin Mu was willing to risk his own life.

"Also, help me get in touch with the Jiangling Television Station," Lin Mu added suddenly.

"Mr. Lin, you intend to..."

Lin Mu smiled. "I need a massive promotional campaign for the grand opening of Haiyuan Tiancheng."

Zheng Mingye was highly efficient. By that afternoon, the construction crew had already entered Haiyuan Tiancheng. With the promise of triple the market wage, there was no shortage of willing workers.

At first, the crew members were cautious, worried something might happen. As a notoriously cursed project in Jiangling, they all knew it was haunted. The foreman himself had worked on the project before, and if not for the fact that his company was on the verge of bankruptcy, he never would have agreed to return. Fortunately, Lin Mu was generous and paid half the project fee upfront. Gritting his teeth, the foreman personally led his men to the site.

Having been there before, the foreman knew Haiyuan Tiancheng typically gave off a sinister feeling that made one's skin crawl. This time, however, was different; it felt like any other construction site.

The young man who had taken over the project was also on-site, occasionally directing the workers to make small changes to the property. The changes were minor, but the foreman had a strange feeling. The young man only pointed out a few specific locations, but once the work there was complete, the entire Haiyuan Tiancheng project seemed completely transformed. The foreman couldn't quite put his finger on what had changed. He only knew that the longer they spent on-site, not only were there no supernatural incidents, but he actually felt incredibly comfortable.

The television crew also arrived to photograph the property, preparing video promotions and television reports. This media blitz would continue for three days.

Within two short days, everyone in Jiangling knew that the Haiyuan Tiancheng project was officially underway. Television reports even showed bustling scenes of the renovation in full swing. Many people scoffed at the news, treating it as a joke. They figured it wouldn't be long before the project was halted again and featured on Jiangling's paranormal television channel. After all, it wouldn't be the first time.

By now, Lin Mu had returned to Haiyuan Tiancheng. Stars twinkled in the night sky, and the entire property was silent. After two days of renovations, the complex was nearly finished and ready to be sold.

Lin Mu walked to the largest villa in Haiyuan Tiancheng, a satisfied smile on his face. The overall construction of Haiyuan Tiancheng was actually quite well-conceived and executed. It was divided into four distinct areas, with each building and villa tastefully arranged in a unique style. This largest villa had likely been reserved by the previous developer for his own use.

It was situated at the highest point of the property, backed by a mountain, offering a commanding view of the entire Haiyuan Tiancheng complex and looking out over Jiangling. In terms of location, construction, and privacy, it was the best property in all of Haiyuan Tiancheng.

And this was where Lin Mu planned to live.

Sitting down cross-legged, Lin Mu glanced at the starry sky and murmured to himself, "It's about time."

Chapter 438 How did you do it?

Lin Mu sat down cross-legged, his five centers facing the heavens, his hands forming seals as his mind merged with the sky and earth.

Before long, wisps of azure light began to emanate from his body, illuminating the surroundings.

Suddenly, Lin Mu's eyes flew open, and a divine light shot forth!

"Commanding the wind and rain, I turn scattered beans into soldiers!"

Wind rose—a wind that blew only over Haiyuan Tiancheng.

Rain fell—a rain that circled high above it.

Immediately after, Lin Mu waved his hands, and countless streams of azure light scattered out, landing all around. In the next moment, throughout the entire complex, across a radius of several miles, innumerable flowers and plants began to grow at a speed visible to the naked eye.

A brocade of brilliant flowers bloomed! The once-desolate residential area was instantly transformed as if an Immortal Realm had descended, filled with fragrant blossoms in a riot of color. The dry pools were suddenly filled with clear water, while lush green trees grew wildly, making one feel as if they were in the heart of a primeval forest. The grass was a vibrant, dewy green, and with mist swirling about, the place resembled paradise.

In front of the villa where Lin Mu sat, a lake suddenly materialized. Water flowed, lotuses blossomed, and koi fish frolicked within.

In that moment, the entirety of Haiyuan Tiancheng underwent another drastic change. With Lin Mu's villa at its center, the four directions now reflected the four seasons. To the east lay the verdant warmth of summer. To the south, a spring-like vista unfolded, with lush grass and soaring songbirds. To the west, the golden hues of a fruit-laden autumn prevailed. To the north, snow drifted down as if a winter kingdom had been born into the world.

Everything here resembled a Cave Heaven or a Blessed Land. Or rather, Haiyuan Tiancheng had now been completely transformed. In fact, this was Lin Mu's goal: to gradually change this place, to convert the entire complex into a true Cave Heaven Blessed Land. The perimeter of Haiyuan Tiancheng was now enveloped in a thick fog, while within, the four seasons were distinct.

But the transformation wasn't over.

Lin Mu suddenly pressed his hands to the ground. From his villa as the epicenter, rings of golden patterns spread out violently, and in the blink of an eye, they enveloped all of Haiyuan Tiancheng.

The Eight Gates Golden Lock Formation!

The Eight Gates were: Rest, Life, Injury, Obstruction, View, Death, Fear, and Opening!

After Lin Mu's modifications, the formation integrated both offense and defense. It could even gather the Spiritual Energy of heaven and earth, subtly merging with the area's natural feng shui. With the Azure Dragon and White Tiger as guardians and the Vermilion Bird and Black Tortoise providing suppression, Haiyuan Tiancheng now possessed the basic conditions to become a Cave Heaven Blessed Land.

The instant the formation activated, everyone in Jiangling noticed the stars in the night sky become clearer and brighter. This was especially true above Haiyuan Tiancheng, where it seemed a new Milky Way had appeared. For a place like Jiangling, this should have been impossible. After all, as a crucial transportation hub and an important economic city, its many factories had long since shrouded the sky in waste and exhaust. But tonight, the people of Jiangling who witnessed the brilliant, jeweled sky cheered and jumped for joy as if it were the New Year.

A faint smile touched Lin Mu's lips. The formation was complete, giving rise to the Great Dao. Protected by the formation on the outside and governed by the four seasons cycling within, Haiyuan Tiancheng had become an independent little world. From now on, as long as Lin Mu cultivated here, Spiritual Energy would be generated ceaselessly. For him, this was an absolutely ideal place to cultivate.

Sinking into his consciousness, Lin Mu inhaled like a dragon and exhaled like the sea, causing heaven and earth to tremble. Opening his eyes, he pointed at two trees in front of the villa.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

As azure light shot out, the two trees began to grow at a terrifying speed. In the blink of an eye, they became two soaring, ancient trees. It wasn't just them; the trees along the roads throughout Haiyuan Tiancheng also grew wildly, even faster than before. Only when ninety-nine colossal trees stood tall did Lin Mu finally cease his actions.

Using the vital energy of the Innate Spirit Wood to transform this place truly yields twice the result with half the effort.

Lin Mu smiled slightly. If he hadn't obtained the Innate Spirit Wood, transforming this place would have required much more effort. As it was, he had saved himself a great deal of time.

"That should do it."

Lin Mu stretched lazily and surveyed his handiwork, a satisfied smile gracing his face. In the future, this villa would be his and Qin Luoli's residence. The other properties would be sold off within a short time for an astonishingly high price.

I believe everyone will be quite stunned.

「The next morning.」

When the crew from Jiangling Television Station arrived at Haiyuan Tiancheng, they were all completely shocked.

"This..."

The person in charge of the crew was a woman in her thirties who looked exhausted and uninterested. For her, reporting on Haiyuan Tiancheng was merely a task assigned by her superiors. What could she do? In this day and age, money called the shots.

The woman, Xu Bing, had been coming here for two days straight. The effort had left her not only exhausted but also deeply on edge. Everyone knew Haiyuan Tiancheng was a ghost complex; no one would ever come here, let alone buy a property. So, for the past two days, she had been staying up until the small hours of the morning, desperately trying to craft pleasant-sounding descriptions for the broadcast, which had left her mentally and physically drained.

But today, the moment she stepped out of the car, Xu Bing sensed something was wrong.

"Director Xu, are we in the wrong place?" her assistant asked, swallowing hard. The scene before them was completely different from what they had seen yesterday.

Yesterday, this place had been nothing more than several rows of high-rises surrounded by overgrown weeds, exuding an aura of death. But now, it was a land of shady green trees and flowers scattered everywhere. More importantly, entering the complex felt like stepping into a primeval forest, yet it lacked the sense of solitude and fear one might expect. It was like arriving in...

An Immortal Realm? Yes, only Immortal Realm could describe this place!

It had the pure, natural feeling of being far from the city's hustle, bustle, and dust. The river that had once sluggishly circled Haiyuan Tiancheng was now a vibrant, clear green, with fish and shrimp frolicking in its depths. Above, white clouds drifted across a spotless, azure sky.

"What... what in the world happened here?" Xu Bing was just as astonished.

She had been standing there for only two minutes, yet she felt all her fatigue vanish. This place was like an Immortal Realm. It wasn't so much that Haiyuan Tiancheng had some new landscaping to make it feel more natural; it was more accurate to say that a residential community had been built inside nature itself, with shady trees and verdant hills surrounded by clear waters.

"Quick, start taking pictures!" Xu Bing shouted, urging her assistant to hurry.

She immediately called her superior. "Chief, I need all of Jiangling Television Station's airtime to do a full report on... Coiling Dragon Bay! Yes, that's it, Coiling Dragon Bay!"

Xu Bing's gaze fell upon the three striking, powerfully written characters on the entrance gate, and she instantly swallowed the name she had been about to say. Because the three grand characters emblazoned on the gate read: Coiling Dragon Bay!

"Coiling Dragon Bay, Coiling Dragon Bay..." Xu Bing murmured, her eyes drawn to the river that encircled the entire community. A shock ran through her.

Isn't this river like a great dragon, coiling to embrace the community?

Xu Bing had a strong feeling. Once people see footage of Coiling Dragon Bay, they will go absolutely crazy. They'll do whatever it takes to buy a house here!

But a huge question immediately surfaced in her mind.

How on earth had Coiling Dragon Bay been transformed into this?

Chapter 439 Kill Lin Mu!

「Xingchen Clubhouse.」

The clubhouse was festively decorated, with a wide array of drinks and snacks available for the taking.

Today, the Fang Family had invited numerous prominent figures from Jiangling. The occasion was the engagement party for Fang Shaobin, the son of Fang Tang, the Fang Family Head. Countless tycoons and

magnates gathered at the Xingchen Clubhouse, joy evident on every face. To be invited by the Fang Family was, in itself, a great honor.

Fang Tang wore a red Tang suit, looking spirited and beaming with a wide smile. Beside him, Fang Shaobin sat in a wheelchair, also smiling.

Yet, a flicker of darkness passed through the depths of his eyes. The reason was simple: one of his legs was crippled. From this day forward, he was a disabled man. The position of Fang Family Head could never be passed on to a cripple.

Besides, Fang Tang had two other sons who were already helping manage the family's businesses.

"Haha, thank you all for gracing us with your presence."

Once most of the guests had arrived, Fang Tang stood up, clasped his fists in salute, and addressed the crowd. "Today is my father's eightieth birthday, and it is also the engagement ceremony for my son, Shaobin."

Fang Tang spoke cheerfully, "My father is getting on in years, so he won't be joining us. I hope you all understand. With all of you as witnesses, I'm certain they will cherish each other and grow old together."

As Fang Tang offered these auspicious words, the crowd responded with joyous laughter and a chorus of congratulations.

The members of the Yang Family were also beaming. Yang Qing marrying into the Fang Family was a monumental piece of good fortune for them. From this point on, the Yang Family would become an influential family in Jiangling.

"Hmph. Three days have passed. I wonder how that Lin Mu fellow is doing."

Someone in the crowd suddenly muttered this.

"How is he doing? I bet he scurried back to his hometown ages ago."

"Exactly. That's what you get for daring to offend the Fang Family. He was asking for a death wish."

As the crowd buzzed with discussion, the large screen that had been displaying photos of Fang Shaobin and Yang Qing suddenly flickered to a new image. It depicted a Cave Heaven Blessed Land, a scene so beautiful it looked like an Immortal Realm on Earth. The trees were lush and green, with vines draping down gracefully.

Three eye-catching characters blazed on the screen, dazzling to behold.

Coiling Dragon Bay!

A collective gasp went through the crowd, and people began pointing at the screen, chattering excitedly.

"Where is this? Could it be where the new couple took their photos?"

"I think so! The Fang Family lives up to its reputation as a Jiangling powerhouse, finding such a paradise on Earth for their photos. How remarkable."

"Coiling Dragon Bay? Is that Jiuzhaigou or somewhere else? I don't think I've ever heard of it."

Fang Tang's expression, however, darkened slightly. But after hearing the crowd's comments, he forced a faint smile and said, "Indeed. This is the special place I found for the new couple. After they're married, I plan to acquire some property there for them."

"Patriarch Fang is so generous!"

"The new couple is truly blessed."

Faces all around showed unconcealed envy. Some of the women, in particular, were inwardly fuming.

Why wasn't it me who was engaged to Fang Shaobin?

"Sister, look! This place is gorgeous!" Yang Zi tugged on Yang Qing's arm, her face full of envy. "After you two get married, you have to take me there to visit."

"She's right, Yang Qing! It looks like an Immortal Realm. It's breathtaking!"

Listening to the fawning comments, Yang Qing wore a bittersweet smile, unsure how to respond.

"Everyone, check your phones! Jiangling's Top Ten Most Beautiful Real Estate Developments—Coiling Dragon Bay!" someone shouted.

People quickly pulled out their phones. Instantly, they saw that their news feeds were dominated by stories about Coiling Dragon Bay's upcoming launch sale. There was even a detailed introduction to the development. Furthermore, it was reported that Coiling Dragon Bay was formerly the Haiyuan Tiancheng project.

"What's going on?!"

"Why is it Haiyuan Tiancheng?!"

"One hundred thousand per square meter? Are they insane?"

Shocked exclamations erupted from the crowd, but many were still tempted. They saw the descriptions and pictures of Coiling Dragon Bay, and even some aerial footage. Captivated by the picturesque scenery, they secretly decided they had to buy a property there.

Fang Tang was also reading the news about Coiling Dragon Bay, and the more he read, the more sinister his expression became.

"Lin Mu, I underestimated you!" Fang Tang spat through clenched teeth.

The Haiyuan Tiancheng project had indeed been his deliberate trap, laid and waiting for Lin Mu to fall into it. He had spent a considerable sum to set it up. But he had never expected Lin Mu to transform Haiyuan Tiancheng into this and even rename it Coiling Dragon Bay.

Staring intently at the photos of the new development, Fang Tang muttered to himself with an icy demeanor, "But do you really think this means you can rest easy?"

Fang Tang gestured with his hand, and Feng Yang hurried over.

"Tell that person to destroy Coiling Dragon Bay!"

Feng Yang nodded and rushed off.

A cold smile spread across Fang Tang's lips.

Challenge me? You're still too green! That person is the Sect Leader of the Corpse Raising Sect, a man of immense power. You can remodel Haiyuan Tiancheng all you want, Lin Mu, but I'll just have it destroyed!

Just as people were excitedly discussing buying a home in Coiling Dragon Bay, the butler rushed in, flustered.

"Patriarch, it's terrible!"

Fang Tang's face turned cold. He snapped, "What's so terrible? Has the sky fallen?"

"No..." The butler wiped a bead of cold sweat from his brow. "Someone... someone sent a coffin."

"What?!"

When Fang Tang led his men outside to look, they saw it immediately. A coffin was placed right at the entrance of the clubhouse. A piece of paper was pasted on it, with a line of text: Congratulations to Old Master Fang on His 80th Birthday—Lin Mu.

The guests stared at the coffin in disbelief, a palpable sense of fear creeping into their hearts.

Lin Mu had actually sent Old Master Fang a coffin! Was this a declaration of war or a provocation?

Holding the piece of paper, Fang Tang swayed on his feet, his face draining of all color.

"Lin Mu, you whelp! You've gone too far!"

Fang Tang bellowed, then abruptly coughed up a mouthful of blood and collapsed, unconscious.

The esteemed head of the Fang Family had actually been so enraged that he spat blood and fainted. The onlookers exchanged glances, a hint of pity in their eyes. For the Fang Family to be targeted by a young man to this extent... how pathetic.

Seeing the Fang Family in utter chaos, no one dared to linger. They hastily made their excuses and left.

By the time Fang Tang came to, his eyes were vacant, as if his mind hadn't fully returned. Just then, a pale-faced Feng Yang approached. "Chairman, that person is unreachable."

"What?" Fang Tang asked blankly. "How is that possible? Isn't Master Feng always at Haiyuan Tiancheng?"

"I don't know either!" Feng Yang said, panicking. "What I'm worried about now is that my grandfather might be in trouble too!"

Feng Yang had made several calls but couldn't get through to anyone. An unsettling feeling grew in his heart.

A horrifying thought seemed to strike Fang Tang. His pupils suddenly contracted, and a surge of murderous intent washed over him as he snarled, "Go! Contact the Fire Cloud Sect and the Martial Alliance! I want Lin Mu dead!"

Chapter 440: Fang Tang's Killing Intent!

"President Lin, is this really our property?"

The people from the Qin Corporation were shocked as they looked at the introduction on the screen.

Even Qin Luoli had an incredulous expression on her face.

It had only been a few days, and Haiyuan Tiancheng had transformed into this. It was truly an Immortal Realm!

Just one glance, and Qin Luoli had fallen in love with the place.

"Correct," Lin Mu said, leaning back in his chair. "Now, are you still worried you won't be able to sell it?"

"How could we not sell it?" the sales manager said, his face flushed with excitement. "Forget 8,000, even at 10,000 per square meter, people would be fighting to buy it!"

Lin Mu looked at him. "Ten thousand?"

The sales manager lowered his voice. "Is that too high?"

Lin Mu let out a laugh. "Too low!"

"At least 100,000!" Lin Mu declared, holding up one finger and wagging it at the group.

"Are they all villas?" the sales manager asked. If they're all villas, we could try for 100,000 per square meter, although even that price is outrageously high.

"No." Lin Mu shook his head. "The 100,000 I'm talking about is for the standard apartments. The price for the villa area hasn't been set yet."

"What? Standard apartments, 100,000 per square meter?" The sales manager was stunned. "President Lin, isn't that price a bit too high?"

Lin Mu smiled. "Is it? The 100,000 price is only for the first three days of sales. Starting from the fourth day, the price will increase by 10,000 each day. Take it or leave it!"

After his modifications, the Spiritual Energy in Coiling Dragon Bay would only become more abundant, and the environment would continue to improve. Over time, the residents here would realize what an incredible bargain they had gotten.

Everyone stared at Lin Mu, dumbfounded. They all thought he had gone mad.

An increase of 10,000 a day? Do you take everyone in Jiangling for a fool? Who in their right mind would buy it!

Qin Luoli glanced at Lin Mu and announced, "We'll do as President Lin says. For the first three days, standard apartments will be 100,000 per square meter. Starting from the fourth day, the price will increase by 10,000 each day!"

"President Qin..." The sales manager's face turned pale as he tried to dissuade her.

"This is a company directive. Are you objecting to it?" Qin Luoli's tone turned icy.

The sales manager's expression shifted. Gao Xing had only just been fired, and he had no desire to follow in his footsteps. "Rest assured, President Qin! I will do my absolute best to sell as many properties as possible!"

Lin Mu nodded. "Good. I'll leave the sales to you. As for the villa area, we won't sell it for now. I'll make separate arrangements."

No one present objected to Lin Mu's words. This President Lin was like a divine figure. In just a few days, he had transformed Haiyuan Tiancheng—no, Coiling Dragon Bay—into its current state, as if by magic. How could they possibly dare to object?

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"My god, have I walked into Jiuzhaigou or Shenlong Jia?" Zheng Mingye stood at the entrance of Coiling Dragon Bay, gaping at the scene before him.

Sun Tianyang smiled. "Young Master Mu's methods are beyond what we mortals can imagine."

Despite his words, his heart was still reeling from the shock. In just a few days, Lin Mu had turned decay into a masterpiece—truly a feat worthy of a Heavenly Being.

At that thought, Sun Tianyang quickly pulled out his phone. "Young Master Mu, save a unit for this old man!"

"I'll give you a twenty percent discount. Eighty thousand per square meter," Lin Mu's voice came through the phone.

"Eighty thousand per square meter?" Sun Tianyang exclaimed in astonishment. "Why don't you just rob me?"

"Take it or leave it!"

Fearing Lin Mu would hang up, Sun Tianyang hastily replied, "I'll take it, I'll take it! I want two!"

"There's a limit of one unit per person!" Lin Mu said before hanging up.

Sun Tianyang stared blankly at his phone, silently kicking himself. I shouldn't have tried to bargain with Young Master Mu.

Zheng Mingye's jaw dropped even further. "You really bought one?"

"Yep."

"For eighty thousand per square meter?"

"Yep!"

"HISS!" Zheng Mingye sucked in a sharp breath, feeling his teeth ache.

Sun Tianyang chuckled. "If I buy now, I can still get a good location. Later on? Eighty thousand a square meter? Dream on!"

Coiling Dragon Bay was now protected by a Great Array. In terms of both its abundant Spiritual Energy and its location, it was considered the best in Jiangling. Once people realized its value and started scrambling to buy, even if they could afford one, they wouldn't get a good spot.

Zheng Mingye carefully studied Coiling Dragon Bay, and a shiver ran through him. "No, I have to buy one right now!"

However, after he made the call, Zheng Mingye was left speechless.

Lin Mu had told him the price was one hundred thousand per square meter, non-negotiable.

"Son of a...!"

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As Coiling Dragon Bay's properties went on sale, all of Jiangling was rocked by the news.

One hundred thousand per square meter? That was too expensive! It was an astronomical price!

And that was just for the standard apartments! The villa area wasn't even for sale!

Who does business like this?

The Qin Corporation paid no mind to the public outcry, simply executing the rules Lin Mu had established. As a result, while there were many inquiries on the first day, very few people actually made a purchase.

Lin Mu wasn't bothered by this at all. He had more important things to do.

「Night.」

Gao Xing was drinking himself into a stupor at a bar. Being handsome, he had no shortage of women trying to strike up a conversation.

However, Gao Xing wasn't interested in the slightest. He had heard what happened with the Qin Corporation. Haiyuan Tiancheng had been renamed Coiling Dragon Bay and transformed into a paradise, a Cave Heaven and Blessed Land. He had gone to see it for himself and was just as shocked as everyone else.

Gao Xing had tried to see Qin Luoli, but he was thrown out before he could even get a glimpse of her. Frustrated, he had come to the bar to drown his sorrows alone. At this moment, a pang of regret pierced through his drunken haze.

"Lin Mu, Qin Luoli, don't get happy too soon!" Gao Xing snarled, slamming back a large glass of liquor. "Do you really think you can cover the sky with one hand? The Fang Family is still in Jiangling! You'll regret this!"

「At this very moment, in the Fang Family Mansion.」

Four men were seated in Fang Tang's study. One was Fang Tang himself, another was Lu Tong, the head of the Jiangling Martial Alliance, and a third was Liu Xiu from the Military Department. The last was an old man dressed in a fiery red robe, from whom a searing heat seemed to radiate.

"Gentlemen," Fang Tang began, "the reason I've invited you here is to ask for your help in dealing with someone."

He looked utterly exhausted, his eyes bloodshot. It was clear he had a terrible day. All he could think about was how to eliminate Lin Mu.

Lu Tong spoke up. "You're referring to that young man named Lin Mu, aren't you?"

"That's right!" Fang Tang hissed, clenching his teeth. "That whelp humiliated my Fang Family in front of so many people. This insult must be avenged!"

Liu Xiu spoke nonchalantly. "Just for a young whippersnapper like him, you felt the need to summon all three of us? Fang Tang, you're making a mountain out of a molehill."

"Major General Liu, I assure you, I am not exaggerating," Fang Tang said urgently. "This man's methods are uncannily effective; we must be on our guard."

"Mm," Lu Tong added. "I also heard he transformed Haiyuan Tiancheng into an Immortal Realm in just three days. He certainly has some skill."

Liu Xiu, however, scoffed at the notion. "Such a trivial matter doesn't require us to act personally. I can just send a few of my men to take care of it."

He chuckled. "And since that so-called Coiling Dragon Bay has become an Immortal Realm, it's hardly something an ordinary person should be allowed to possess!"

"Thank you, Major General!" Fang Tang exclaimed, overjoyed. "As long as Lin Mu is dead, the Fang Family will reward you handsomely."

"Of course, of course."

Just then, the phone belonging to the old man who had been silent the entire time began to ring. He pulled it out and answered.

"What? Someone has broken into my Fire Cloud Sect?!"