

War God 481

Chapter 481: Some Things, You Can't Cover!

"What do you think you're doing?"

Su Yumei hadn't recognized Lin Mu and simply treated him as a nosy interloper. Pointing at him, she snarled, "I'm telling you, mind your own business!"

"My own business?" With eyes as sharp as blades, Lin Mu advanced toward Su Yumei. "My mother came to pay respects to her father," he said coldly. "That is a matter of basic human decency. As a daughter visiting her father's grave, it's a show of filial piety. And you want to stop her? What are your intentions?"

Lin Mu's words made the people around them nod in agreement; they all felt the young man was right.

Su Yumei's expression changed, and she snorted. "So you're the vile brat of that wretched woman, Su Rou. No wonder you're so ill-bred! Like mother, like son, indeed!"

Her words were like a sharp blade stabbing directly into his mother's heart.

"What? Am I wrong?" Seeing Su Rou's complexion shift and her expression fill with pain, a hint of satisfaction flashed in Su Yumei's eyes. "Everyone in the Su Family knows you eloped with some wild man back in the day. When you returned, you were even carrying a bastard child. That's this little mongrel, right?" she said, her gaze fixed on Lin Mu, dripping with scorn.

SLAP!

No sooner had she finished speaking than a figure appeared before her and slapped her across the face.

"AAH!"

With a scream, Su Yumei was sent flying several meters, crashing to the ground. The one who had struck her was none other than Lin Mu.

"You little bastard, how dare you hit me?" Half of Su Yumei's face swelled up, the five-finger imprint clearly visible on her cheek. The intense pain twisted her features. Pointing at Lin Mu, she shrieked, "You dare hit me? Do you have any idea who I am? In Wufeng County, I can have you killed in minutes—"

SLAP!

Before Su Yumei could finish, the other half of her face was struck again.

PFFT!

This time, the blow sent several of her teeth flying.

Rubbing his wrist, Lin Mu spoke without expression, "If you dare to spout any more filth, believe me when I say I'll kill you right here, right now."

"You..." Su Yumei wanted to retort with something harsh, but Lin Mu's gaze made her shiver involuntarily. For some reason, she found his eyes utterly terrifying.

Everyone else was shocked speechless by the scene.

Lin Mu actually dared to slap Su Yumei? Not only was she his aunt, but her status in Wufeng County alone meant that ordinary people would never dare to offend her.

"Ah, young people acting impulsively will end up suffering for it," an old man lamented, shaking his head, clearly anticipating the consequences.

"Hmph, I think he did the right thing. For an eldest sister, an elder, to treat her own sister and nephew like that is completely unreasonable," someone else disagreed, even thinking Lin Mu's actions were befitting of a passionate young man.

"Still, youthful exuberance and hot-headedness are sure to lead to great suffering." Despite this, many people were still not optimistic about Lin Mu's prospects.

"Kid, you just wait!" Su Yumei hissed venomously as she was helped to her feet. Glaring fiercely at Lin Mu and Su Rou, she added, "Su Rou, I won't forget this!"

Lin Mu, however, was unfazed by her threats and helped his mother up.

"Xiao Mu, you..."

Lin Mu cut his mother off. "Mom, good people are bullied, and gentle horses are ridden. I promised you I wouldn't cause trouble, and I don't care what they say about me, but... I will not tolerate them insulting you in the slightest!"

An icy chill emanated from Lin Mu, and his emotionless words made everyone shiver.

"Not a single word!"

Hearing him, Su Rou sighed. Knowing his personality, she felt a mix of worry and pride. Her son has grown up. He can protect her now.

"Second Sister, Xiao Mu, you two should leave," Su Xiaomei said as she approached. She looked at Lin Mu with a strange expression that was mostly fear. Grabbing Su Rou's arm, she urged, "Second Sister, you don't understand. Eldest Sister's husband is the deputy director of the Wufeng County Public Security Bureau. After Lin Mu hit her, he definitely won't let you off."

"Second Sister, Xiaomei is right," an elderly bystander kindly advised. "You should take your son and leave quickly. That Lei Chengjun is incredibly petty and vengeful. If you stay, it won't end well for you."

"Second Sister, you can't delay any longer," Su Xiaomei pleaded, full of worry and inwardly blaming Lin Mu for his impulsiveness. "Once Lei Chengjun gets here, you won't be able to leave."

"I..." Su Rou was clearly worried about Lin Mu, but she had come to pay her respects to Old Master Su. How could she leave? Yet, if they waited any longer, she knew Su Yumei's temperament meant she would never let Lin Mu go.

"Mom, tell me the truth. Do you want to pay your respects to Grandfather?" Lin Mu asked, holding his mother's hand with a gentle smile. "If you do, then I'll stay with you."

"I do!" Su Rou's eyes welled up with tears as she choked out, "I'm his daughter, after all."

"Alright." Lin Mu nodded. He glanced around and said in a level voice, "Then we'll stay. Let's see who dares to stop you from paying respects to Grandfather!"

"Such big words for a young man. Aren't you afraid you'll bite your tongue?" a sarcastic voice cut in just then.

The crowd parted to let a chubby, middle-aged man in a trench coat walk through. He oozed authority, and at his side was Su Yumei, her face a mask of hate. This was Lei Chengjun, the deputy director of the Wufeng County Public Security Bureau and Su Yumei's husband.

Su Yumei's gaze was icy, as if she could devour Lin Mu whole. "You little bastard, go on, be arrogant now! This time, I'm going to break every bone in your body!"

"Eldest Sister, Brother-in-law, Xiao Mu is young and doesn't know any better. Please don't hold it against him," Su Xiaomei pleaded, stepping forward to beg for mercy on their behalf.

"He's young and doesn't know any better?" Su Yumei retorted viciously. "Then what about these two slaps? Am I supposed to have gotten them for nothing?"

"I..." Su Xiaomei was at a loss for words, blaming Lin Mu even more for his rashness.

"Since the child doesn't know any better, surely the adult does?" Lei Chengjun spoke up, squinting at Su Rou. "Your son is reckless, so it's only right for you, his mother, to suffer in his place." He was clearly targeting Su Rou.

Turning to his wife, Lei Chengjun said coldly with his hands behind his back, "Yumei, go on. Hit his mother exactly how that brat hit you. Don't worry about the consequences. I've got your back."

"Alright!" Su Yumei sneered and slowly advanced on Su Rou, raising her hand to slap her.

It's over! The same thought crossed everyone's mind as they watched the scene unfold.

SLAP!

A crisp slapping sound echoed as Su Yumei's body was sent flying once again, crashing down right in front of Lei Chengjun.

"OUCH!" Su Yumei cried out, her eyes rolling back as she fainted.

"You've got her back?" Lin Mu asked, slowly approaching Lei Chengjun. His voice was indifferent. "There are some things you truly can't handle."

Chapter 482: Come at me if there's a problem!

Everyone was shocked. They could never have imagined that Lin Mu would dare to strike someone right in front of Lei Chengjun.

This was the Bureau Chief's wife, after all! She had been slapped three times, one after another.

If word of this got out, Lei Chengjun would lose all face.

"Are you fucking courting death!"

As expected, Lei Chengjun erupted. His wife had been slapped right in front of him, and by a young man, no less.

"Hold him down!"

With a wave of his hand, Lei Chengjun's two subordinates immediately stepped forward, preparing to restrain Lin Mu.

"Second Sister, Xiao Mu, hurry and leave!" Su Xiaomei shouted as she rushed forward, preparing to block Lei Chengjun's men.

"Get out of the way!" Lei Chengjun grabbed Su Xiaomei and shoved her aside.

Su Xiaomei fell to the ground, tears of pain welling up in her eyes.

"Mom!"

A young girl with a white cloth wrapped around her head rushed over and helped Su Xiaomei to her feet. She yelled at Lei Chengjun, "Uncle, what gives you the right to push my mom?"

"Shut the hell up!" Lei Chengjun roared, his eyes fierce. The girl trembled and huddled beside Su Xiaomei.

"Drag that little bastard over here!"

Lei Chengjun took off his overcoat and rubbed his wrists as he walked toward Lin Mu. With a vicious look in his eyes, he said, "Today, I'm going to show him what true cruelty is!"

"Yes, sir!"

Lei Chengjun's two subordinates advanced slowly on Lin Mu, their eyes also glinting with menace.

"Xiao Mu, what do we do?" Su Rou was worried. After all, these were police officers.

"Mom, don't be afraid," Lin Mu said, patting his mother's back. "I'm here."

"Kid, you've got some nerve," one of Lei Chengjun's men said coldly as he reached out to grab Lin Mu.

He was extremely fast, a clear sign of his skill.

BANG!

In the next moment, the man's expression changed. His hand had been seized.

CRACK!

Lin Mu lifted his foot and kicked the man squarely in the knee, sending him flying.

The man let out a piteous scream, his face instantly turning deathly pale.

The other subordinate's expression changed as he instinctively reached for his lower back. There was a bulge there; he was clearly carrying a gun.

Sure enough, the subordinate drew his pistol and pointed it at Lin Mu. "Don't move! Move again, and I'll shoot!"

The rest of the crowd was startled. Many of them scattered, and the more timid ones fled the scene entirely. A spectacle was one thing, but getting caught in the crossfire was no fun at all.

"Kid, you've got some serious guts, attacking a police officer!" Lei Chengjun strode forward, took the gun from his subordinate, and pointed it at Lin Mu's head. He sneered, "In Wufeng County, you're the first person to dare touch one of my men!"

"Xiao Mu!" Su Rou's face went pale, her eyes filled with terror.

"Don't move!" Lei Chengjun suddenly swiveled the gun to point it at Su Rou.

Su Rou trembled, not daring to make a single move.

A cruel smirk played on Lei Chengjun's lips. "Weren't you acting so tough? Scared now, are you?"

However, he failed to notice the dazzling, cold, murderous intent gleaming in the eyes of Lin Mu, who was standing beside him.

"You are courting death."

The utterly emotionless words left Lin Mu's mouth as he took a step toward Lei Chengjun.

"Xiao Mu, don't!" Su Rou, Su Xiaomei, and the others blanched.

Lei Chengjun had a gun! People have an innate fear of guns. No matter how skilled someone was, could they really be faster than a bullet?

"Kid, don't move!" Lei Chengjun bellowed. "Take one more step, and I'll shoot you dead!"

"Shoot me dead?" Lin Mu's lips curled into a wicked smirk as he tilted his head. "Do you dare to shoot?"

"You really think I don't dare?" A cold light flickered in Lei Chengjun's eyes. "In Wufeng County, there is nothing I don't dare to do!"

"Then go ahead and shoot." The smile on Lin Mu's face grew wider. With his hands behind his back, he said provocatively, "I'll stand right here today. Let's see if you have the guts to open fire."

"You're fucking looking for death!" Lei Chengjun's arm trembled; he was clearly a bit rattled by Lin Mu.

"Chengjun, shoot him!" At that moment, Su Yumei came to and shrieked, "Shoot that little beast dead!"

"I..." Lei Chengjun's face twitched as he silently cursed Su Yumei up and down. Although he was the Deputy Bureau Chief, he truly didn't dare to shoot Lin Mu dead. That was a major crime!

"What's wrong? Don't have the nerve?" Lin Mu said with a look of disdain. "If you don't dare, then get out of my way!"

As his icy words rang out, Lei Chengjun instinctively took a step back. Realizing his mistake, he quickly raised his hand again, pointing the gun at Lin Mu.

"Lei Chengjun, are you even a man? Your woman gets bullied, and you don't even dare let out a peep!" Su Yumei screamed. "I must have been blind to marry you!"

Her words stabbed into Lei Chengjun's heart like a knife, and his eyes instantly turned bloodshot.

"Chengjun, don't be rash!"

Just then, a robust male voice called out. A group of people emerged from the Su Family's main gate. The one in the lead was a man in his fifties, also with a white cloth wrapped around his head in the attire of a mourning son. Two similar-looking men followed him. It was the Su brothers, Su Dahai and Su Dafu, along with Su Xiaomei's husband, Xu Xiaotian.

"Xiaomei, what's wrong?" Seeing Su Xiaomei on the ground, Xu Xiaotian hurried over to help her up.

"Dad, Mom, she..." Xu Yao's eyes reddened, and she was on the verge of tears. She had been truly terrified just now.

"Yaoyao, don't be afraid. It's alright now." Xu Xiaotian was just a simple, honest man and didn't know how to comfort his daughter, so he simply pulled her to stand by his side.

Xu Yao stood behind her father, her gaze occasionally turning towards Lin Mu.

Is that Brother Mu? He's changed so much. He looked so cool just now. But First Uncle and Uncle Lei will never let him get away with this. What should I do?

Su Dahai slowly walked out. His cold, sharp gaze swept over Su Rou before landing on Lin Mu.

"Are you Lin Mu?"

Su Dahai's tone was cold and detached; he clearly did not regard Lin Mu as his nephew.

"Elder Brother, he is Lin Mu." Su Rou stepped forward, shielding Lin Mu behind her.

"Hmph!" Su Dahai snorted coldly. "Su Rou, take your son and get the hell back to wherever you came from. The Su family does not welcome you!"

"Elder Brother!" Su Rou pleaded. "I just want to pay my respects to Dad. For his sake, please just let me kowtow to him one last time."

"Pay your respects?" Su Dafu said angrily. "Do you still have the nerve to come here? You severed ties with the Su family years ago, so don't come and disturb Father's peace now!"

"Elder Brother!" Su Rou suddenly dropped to her knees, crying and pleading, "Please, I'm begging you, just let me see Father one last time!"

"You..." Su Dahai said, feigning reluctance. "It's not impossible for you to pay your respects to Father. But your son struck Yumei and was disrespectful to his elders. How are we going to settle that matter?"

"I..." Su Rou's expression changed, her face a mask of distress.

On one side was the father to whom she felt the deepest guilt, and on the other was her most precious son. How could she possibly choose?

"Don't make things difficult for my mother," Lin Mu spoke up. "If you have a problem, direct it at me."

Chapter 483: Mom's in Trouble!

"The kid's got guts!" Su Dahai remarked. "Second Sister, what do you say?"

"I..." Su Rou hesitated, forcing the words out. "I don't..."

"Mom," Lin Mu said, taking her hand. "I'll be fine. Go pay your respects to Grandpa."

"But..."

Su Rou started to protest, but Lin Mu interrupted, "Don't worry. I'm sure our uncles won't do anything to me."

"That's right, Second Sister," Su Dafu added. "We're all family. What could we possibly do to your son? You want to pay your respects to Dad, don't you? Go on."

Seeing the firm look in her son's eyes, Su Rou hesitated but finally nodded.

"Xiao Mu, you have to be careful. Nothing can happen to you!" Su Rou gripped Lin Mu's hand and whispered, "I'll be back soon. Don't do anything rash."

With that, Su Rou walked through the Su Family's Main Gate. Soon, a grief-stricken cry echoed from within.

"Dad, your unfilial daughter, Su Rou, is here to see you!"

...

Listening to the cries from inside, Lin Mu's eyes narrowed slightly. He looked over at Su Dafu and the others, a faint smile playing on his lips.

"Someone!" Lei Chengjun waved his hand. "Take him away."

A few young men from the Su Family approached, their expressions hostile. "Let's go, kid."

Lin Mu simply smiled and followed them away. As he passed Lei Chengjun, he heard the man mutter under his breath, "I'll deal with you later, kid!"

"Take him away!"

Watching Lin Mu being led off, Lei Chengjun's eyes narrowed, and he ground his teeth. This time, let's see how you die!

Su Yumei spat venomously, "I want that kid dead!"

Lei Chengjun smiled cruelly. "That's easy enough."

He shot a meaningful glance at someone in the crowd, who nodded and hurried after them.

「Su Family Courtyard」

In front of the mourning hall, Su Rou knelt on the ground, her expression grief-stricken as she burned joss paper for Old Master Su. Su Dahai and the others watched with cold indifference.

"Su Rou, you've kowtowed and you've burned the paper. You can leave now," Su Yumei said impatiently. After getting rid of Su Rou, she still had to go deal with Lin Mu.

"Second Sister... could I please wait until Dad is properly buried before I leave?" Her lips were cracked and her voice was hoarse from weeping. She looked at her brothers pleadingly. "Big Brother, Second Brother, I'm begging you. Let me see Dad to his final resting place, please?"

"Impossible!" Su Yumei said coldly. "Su Rou, don't push your luck. Otherwise, your son can forget about living!"

"You dare!" Su Rou's eyes turned blood-red, like a tigress protecting her cub. "If any of you dare to touch my son, I will never forgive you!"

Su Yumei laughed cruelly. "It's already too late."

「Elsewhere」

Lin Mu was taken to a small room.

BOOM!

The door slammed shut. Three young men from the Su Family stared at him with cold smiles. They were Su Mingze, son of Su Dahai; Su Mingli, son of Su Dafu; and Lei Xinyang, son of Lei Chengjun.

"You've got some nerve, kid!" Lei Xinyang shoved Lin Mu into a chair, his eyes glinting coldly. "Do you have any idea who I am?"

Lin Mu sat calmly, a faint smile on his lips. "Sorry, I really don't."

"Looks like I'll have to teach you a painful lesson!" Lei Xinyang cackled. "Ming Ze! Ming Li! Tie him up! I want him to learn his place!"

"You got it!"

Su Mingze and Su Mingli brought a rope and tied Lin Mu to the chair.

Lei Xinyang chuckled, his eyes full of icy malice. "You've got some nerve, kid, causing trouble on my turf. You don't even know your own place!"

The Su Mingze brothers wore identical cold sneers. Although they didn't dare do any real harm to Lin Mu, making him suffer a bit was a piece of cake, wasn't it? Besides, Su Dahai and the others had handed Lin Mu over to them precisely to teach him a lesson.

Lei Xinyang picked up a chair and stalked toward Lin Mu, his expression frigid. "I heard you were pretty arrogant earlier. Let's see how tough you are now!"

WHOOSH!

Raising the chair high, Lei Xinyang smashed it down toward Lin Mu's head. He used his full strength, not caring in the slightest if the blow killed him.

Though tied to the chair, the smile never left Lin Mu's face. As the chair came crashing down, his eyes narrowed slightly.

CRACK!

The chair slammed down violently, but it missed Lin Mu completely. He had already snapped the ropes and planted a foot squarely in Lei Xinyang's abdomen.

"ARGH!" Lei Xinyang howled as he was sent flying.

"Hold him down!" he roared, clutching his stomach. The Su Mingze brothers finally snapped out of their shock and rushed toward Lin Mu.

"I'm going to cripple you, kid!" Lei Xinyang scrambled to his feet, a dagger now in his hand. He advanced on Lin Mu, his face a ferocious mask. It was clear he intended to inflict a grievous injury.

"Grab him! I'm turning him into a cripple today!" Lei Xinyang shouted, stabbing the dagger directly at Lin Mu's groin. He was really trying to emasculate him.

A cold glint flashed in Lin Mu's eyes. In a blur of motion, he grabbed both Su Mingze and Su Mingli and threw them aside. With a twist of his hand, he seized Lei Xinyang's wrist and gave it a sharp turn.

CRACK!

Lei Xinyang screamed in agony. His hand went limp, dropping the dagger, which Lin Mu deftly caught.

SHLICK!

The dagger plunged viciously into Lei Xinyang's groin.

"AAAAAAAAGH!"

With a bloodcurdling shriek, Lei Xinyang went limp and crumpled to the ground, his face contorted as he writhed and wailed like a cooked prawn.

The Su Mingze brothers turned pale with fright. "Lin... Lin Mu, you... you dare to be so vicious!" one of them stammered.

Toying with the dagger, Lin Mu didn't even glance at the whimpering Lei Xinyang. He walked toward the two brothers, a faint smile on his lips. "Trying to mess with me?" he asked softly. "Are you three pieces of trash even worthy?"

Su Mingze and Su Mingli scrambled backward, panic flashing across their faces. "Lin Mu, what are you trying to do?"

"What am I trying to do?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed. "What, you think I'm an easy target? That you can all just step on me?"

"Lin Mu, I'm warning you, don't do anything crazy! Lei Xinyang's father is the deputy director of Wufeng County! You hurt him, there's no way you can escape!" Su Mingze said, gritting his teeth. "If you come with us and apologize to our uncle-in-law right now, maybe he'll spare your life!"

"When has my life ever been for someone else to spare?" Lin Mu squatted down, looking at the two brothers with a mocking smile. "You know, if it wasn't for my mom wanting to pay respects to her father, I wouldn't have bothered coming here to look at your miserable faces."

"You... what do you want?" Su Mingze was terrified. He never imagined Lin Mu would be this ruthless.

"I don't want anything," Lin Mu said indifferently. "After my mom is done paying her respects, I'll leave. The premise is that you all stop courting death!"

SWISH!

With a flick of his wrist, the dagger flew from his hand, embedding itself deep into the wall, right up to the hilt.

Seeing this, fear flooded the eyes of the three young men.

Lin Mu dusted off his hands. Without another glance at them, he walked out of the room, running right into a girl.

It was Xu Yao.

"Lin Mu... Cousin." Xu Yao's expression first changed to shock, then to urgent surprise. "Brother Mu, hurry! Something happened to Second Aunt!"

BOOM!

An overwhelming Evil Qi erupted from Lin Mu.

"You are courting death!"

Chapter 484: Fury!

Su Family Courtyard.

"You can't touch my son!"

Su Rou lay on the ground, her cheeks covered in red marks and blood trickling from the corner of her mouth. She had clearly suffered inhuman torture. But despite it all, her face was filled with defiant determination.

"Su Dahai, if you dare hurt my son, I swear I won't let any of you off!" Su Rou clenched her teeth, a crazed look in her eyes.

"Heh, still acting tough, are we?" Su Yumei stepped forward, grabbed Su Rou's hair, and sneered, "Did you really think I'd let that little bastard off after he hit me?"

"Let me tell you the truth, that little bastard is probably a cripple by now!" A triumphant smile spread across Su Yumei's face as she laughed brazenly. "Ah, Second Sister, it was one thing for you to run off with some wild man."

She yanked Su Rou's hair hard and said viciously, "But you never should have come back to the Su Family, especially not with a big belly!"

"Do you know that because of you, our family became the laughingstock of the entire county?"

"You don't!"

"Do you have any idea how much we sacrificed for the Su Family? And what about you? You severed all ties and ran off alone. Since you already left, why did you bother coming back?"

Tears streamed down Su Rou's face, her pain immeasurable. It wasn't the pain of her body, but the pain in her heart—the weight of what she owed the Su Family, the guilt she felt toward her father.

"Eldest Sister, please let go of Second Sister!" Su Xiaomei rushed over, trying to push Su Yumei away. "Eldest Sister, I'm begging you, please spare her."

"Get away!" Su Yumei slapped Su Xiaomei across the face. "You two have been joined at the hip since we were children. Are you still defending her now?" she said venomously. "Su Xiaomei, you fool, do you know why you ended up marrying a failure? It's because you were too close to Su Rou. To our family, that's a disgrace!"

Her words instantly made everyone's expression shift.

"Xiaomei..." Su Rou looked at Su Xiaomei, her face etched with guilt. "Xiaomei, I'm sorry. I dragged you down with me."

"No!" Su Xiaomei sobbed, shaking her head. "Second Sister, you've always been good to me, really. I don't blame you. I've never blamed you."

"What pretty words!" Su Yumei scoffed. "Why don't you ask her how her life has been these past few years? No money, no house, reduced to selling breakfast on the street. It's utterly shameful!"

"Su Yumei, that's enough!" a voice roared. Xu Xiaotian strode forward, his face flushed crimson. With reddened eyes, he approached Su Yumei. "You venomous woman, do you really think I don't know? Before Dad passed away, he divided the family assets. Not only did Xiaomei get a share, but Second Sister did too!"

"Xu Xiaotian, shut your mouth!" Su Dahai stepped forward and grabbed Xu Xiaotian. "When did my family's affairs become any business of an outsider like you?"

"Ah, Xiaotian, isn't Yaoyao about to go to college?" Lei Chengjun said with a chuckle. "I heard it's a prestigious university. The tuition for a year is no small sum."

Xu Xiaotian's expression changed. Lei Chengjun had grabbed him by his weak spot. It was a clear threat, using his daughter's future to tell him to keep his mouth shut.

"You..." Even a proud man like Xu Xiaotian was so furious his eyes turned blood-red. He gritted his teeth and said, "You'll all get what you deserve!"

Pulling Su Xiaomei with him, Xu Xiaotian moved to stand far off to the side. Su Xiaomei didn't dare say another word, her heart aching with a profound sense of injustice.

For years, their life had been incredibly difficult. They toiled from dawn till dusk just to make a living. Without a permanent stall, they were constantly chased away by city management and bullied by local thugs. The stubborn pair, Xu Xiaotian and Su Xiaomei, were unwilling to ask the Su Family for help, let alone beg Lei Chengjun, which only made their lives harder. Their only daughter was their sole motivation, the reason they strived so hard. Now that Lei Chengjun and the others were using her future to threaten them, what more could they say? They knew all too well that with the Su Family's and Lei Chengjun's influence, a single phone call could ruin their daughter's chance to attend university.

"Are... are you even human?" Tears streamed uncontrollably down Su Rou's cheeks as she cried in agony. "To treat your own family like this, you're worse than animals!"

Gazing at the coffin in the memorial hall and the black-and-white photo of Old Master Su, Su Rou's sobs became inconsolable.

"This is a Su Family matter, so it's none of your concern," Su Dahai said coldly. "Since you've paid your respects, you should leave."

"Leave? It's not that easy." Su Yumei sneered. "That beastly son of yours dared to hit me. It's only right that I collect some interest. Let's settle all our scores, new and old, today!"

Grabbing a burning candle from the altar, Su Yumei let out a sinister laugh. "Second Sister, if this hot wax drips onto your face, how long do you think you can last?"

"Su Yumei, you beast!" Su Xiaomei roared, about to charge forward. "How can you do this to Second Sister? She's your own sister!"

"My own sister?" Su Yumei scoffed. "I have no such sister!"

As she spoke, she tilted her hand, the molten wax about to drip onto Su Rou. Su Dahai and the others watched with emotionless faces, their silence a form of consent.

BANG!

Just then, a heavy thud echoed as several figures were thrown in from outside, crashing hard onto the floor. The three figures were a mangled mess of blood and flesh, their features unrecognizable. Yet, the faces of Su Dahai and the others twisted in horror.

Because they were their sons!

"Ming Ze!"

"Ming Li!"

Lei Chengjun scrambled over, embracing the third person and bellowing, "Whoever did this to my son, get the hell out here! I'm going to kill you!"

Lei Xinyang's upper thigh was a bloody ruin; he was already crippled. Su Mingze and Su Mingli were in a similar state, both utterly ruined.

"You want to kill me?"

An ice-cold voice came from outside. Lin Mu walked slowly into the Su Family Courtyard, his eyes filled with undisguised murderous intent.

"I'd like to see you try."

The moment he set foot in the courtyard, the entire surrounding wall instantly collapsed, burying Su Mingze and Su Mingli under a shower of bricks and stone.

"No!" Su Dahai let out a harrowing scream and rushed forward, trying to dig his sons out.

"Lin Mu!" Lei Chengjun stared at Lin Mu with bloodshot eyes. "This is your doing, you little beast!"

Ignoring Lei Chengjun, Lin Mu walked straight to Su Rou, gently lifting his mother and setting her down on a chair. After a quick check, he let out a slight sigh of relief. Thankfully, she wasn't seriously harmed.

However, the sight of the wounds on his mother made his blood boil.

"Xiao Mu, you..."

Lin Mu cut his mother off. "Mom, leave this to me, alright?"

Su Rou looked at her son's calm expression and gave a slight nod.

Lin Mu slowly stood up and walked toward Su Yumei, his tone as piercing as a winter wind.

"A quiet life isn't so bad. Why did you have to choose death?"

In a flash, he appeared before Su Yumei, his hand gripping her throat.

"Settle the score, is it?" Lin Mu tilted his head slightly to look at Su Dahai and the others, a corner of his mouth curling up. "Then let's settle it properly!"

Chapter 485: Charges!

"How dare you!"

Everyone was shocked to see Lin Mu grab Su Yumei by the neck. They never imagined he would be so bold.

"Of course I dare," Lin Mu said coldly, his hand tightening around Su Yumei's neck. "My mother came back with good intentions to pay respects to her father. That you didn't welcome her is one thing. I can even overlook the verbal insults. But you should never have laid such a heavy hand on my mother!"

As he slowly tightened his grip, Su Yumei struggled painfully, her face contorting with terror.

"Brat, let her go now!" Su Dahai roared. "That's your Second Aunt!"

"Second Aunt?" Lin Mu scoffed. "I have no such aunt. Besides, none of you have ever treated my mother and me as family. Since that's the case, what does it matter if I, Lin Mu, refuse to acknowledge her?"

"You..." Lei Chengjun grew anxious and turned to Su Rou. "Su Rou, look at this fine son you've raised! Tell him to let her go, now! Otherwise, I won't let him walk out of the Su Family Courtyard alive!"

Lei Chengjun had barely finished speaking when he pulled out a handgun and aimed it at Lin Mu. If Lin Mu made one wrong move, he would absolutely pull the trigger.

"Are you threatening me?" Su Rou, who had now composed herself, stared calmly at Lei Chengjun, her voice laced with ice. "Lei Chengjun, if you dare fire that gun at my son, don't blame me for disregarding our family ties."

"Family ties, my ass!" Su Rou retorted, her anger flaring. "When have any of you ever treated me as part of the Su family? When Dad passed away, did any of you inform me? Or were you afraid I'd come back to fight over the inheritance? Su Dahai, Lei Chengjun, you truly underestimate me!"

"Even if I starve to death, even if I die in poverty, I will never beg you for a single cent!"

Su Rou stood up. "Xiao Mu, let's go."

Lin Mu frowned slightly. He had intended to teach these people a lesson, but seeing the look on his mother's face, he realized she didn't want to waste another breath on them. When he saw the flash of pain in her eyes, Lin Mu understood. Still, he didn't release Su Yumei. Instead, he said coldly, "You may be spared death, but you cannot escape punishment!"

"I will treat you exactly as you treated my mother!"

As soon as the words left his lips, Lin Mu shoved Su Yumei down, forcing her face toward the candles on the floor. Countless candles burned on the floor, wax pooling around them.

"No... don't..." Su Yumei shook her head in terror, trying to wrench herself from his grip. But Lin Mu's hand was like an iron pincer, holding her fast.

"Lin Mu, you dare!" Lei Chengjun's finger twitched on the trigger.

"You little beast, unhand her!" At that moment, a furious roar echoed as Su Dafu entered the courtyard with a dozen men in tow. Leading them was an old man with a wrinkled face and an unmistakable air of authority.

"The Clan Leader?" A flicker of panic crossed Su Rou's face when she saw the old man. It was the Su family's old Clan Leader, Su Qing.

The Sus were a large and prosperous clan in Wufeng County, whose affairs were managed by the Clan Leader—in this case, Su Qing. He was known for his severity and for not tolerating an iota of disrespect. Everyone in the Su family feared him, and Su Rou was no exception.

"Great-Uncle!" Upon seeing Su Qing, Su Dahai and the others visibly relaxed, their faces lighting up with relief. With the Clan Leader here, the matter was as good as settled.

Leaning on a cane, Su Qing strode into the courtyard, his ancient eyes fixed on Lin Mu.

"You little beast, are you deaf? I told you to let her go this instant!" Su Qing began bellowing at Lin Mu the moment he entered. "You ill-mannered cur, born but never taught! How dare you strike a member of my Su family? Believe me, I can ensure you never leave Wufeng County alive!"

As the Su Family Patriarch, Su Qing had immense pride. His word was law, and he tolerated no dissent. Seeing Lin Mu openly accost a member of the Su family sent a surge of rage through him. Lin Mu, however, acted as if he hadn't heard a thing, once again forcing Su Yumei toward the floor.

"Su Rou, you wench! Look at the fine son you have raised!" Seeing Lin Mu ignore him was like a slap to the face, and Su Qing's fury erupted. "Years ago, you shamed us by running off with some vagabond! Now you bring this little bastard back to cause trouble? Do you really think our Su family can't deal with the two of you?"

"Old man, if you dare insult my mother again, I will cripple this woman right now."

"I'd like to see you try!" Su Qing waved his hand and commanded, "Men, seize this little beast and his wretched mother! Today, I will enforce our family law!"

The Su family's laws were notoriously harsh. The onlookers weren't scared; they were thrilled. With the Clan Leader enforcing the law on Lin Mu and his mother, the pair was as good as dead. Several young men from the Su family advanced on Lin Mu, cruel smirks on their faces. It was as if they believed Lin Mu wouldn't dare act with Su Qing present.

"Little beast, this is your last chance," Su Qing said, his voice frigid. "Release her, kneel, and accept your punishment. Do that, and I might leave you a way out. Otherwise... don't blame me for being merciless!"

"Old man, are you trying to frighten me?" A smirk curled Lin Mu's lips as he suddenly slammed his hand down.

"AARGH!" A beast-like howl tore from Su Yumei's throat as Lin Mu shoved her face-first into the molten wax.

Scalding wax coated her face, and the searing pain ripped another piercing scream from her. The gut-wrenching humiliation on top of the agony made her entire body tremble.

"You little beast, I'll... AHH!" Before Su Yumei could finish, Lin Mu pressed down again, harder this time.

"Your mouth is so foul. It seems you were never taught any manners," Lin Mu said with a smile. "Shall I... teach you now?"

"No... please don't!" This time, Su Yumei was truly terrified. The wax had already destroyed her face, but that wasn't what scared her most. She was horrified that Lin Mu had actually dared to do this to her—and with such ruthless methods.

"You little beast, you..." Su Qing was so enraged he trembled, his beard quivering. He never expected Lin Mu would dare treat a Su family member this way right in front of him.

"Old man, you really thought I was good-natured, didn't you?" Before Su Qing could finish, a dark shadow came flying at him. It was Su Yumei. Lin Mu had tossed her like a piece of trash, sending her hurtling straight toward the old man.

"Great-Uncle, look out!" Su Dahai and the others' faces changed as they hurriedly pulled Su Qing aside.

THUD. Su Yumei hit the ground with a muffled groan, unable to even struggle.

"I'll kill you!" Seeing Su Yumei's pathetic state, Lei Chengjun could no longer contain his fury and pulled the trigger without hesitation.

BANG!

A sharp gunshot cracked through the air. Everyone stared in shock. Had Lei Chengjun really dared to open fire?

But Su Qing just sneered. "What is there to fear? Chengjun is a deputy bureau chief, and you all know the Su family's standing in Wufeng County. He's just a little beast. Killing him is no big deal."

Hearing Su Qing's words, the crowd came to their senses. That was right. Given the Su family's status in Wufeng County, what did it matter if they killed Lin Mu? They could just pin any crime they wanted on him afterward.

"Lin Mu openly assaulted a police officer and was killed on the spot," Su Dahai stated coldly. "That charge is more than enough."

Chapter 486: Banished from the Su Family!

The Su family was already eager to pin the charge of assaulting a police officer on Lin Mu. Their goal was to ensure he could never defend himself, even in death.

"Great-Grandfather, what about this wretched woman?" Su Dahai asked, looking toward Su Rou with an equally icy expression.

Now that Old Master Su had passed away, the power of the Su family was about to fall into his hands. With Lin Mu dead, Su Rou would certainly not let the matter rest. Besides, his own son had been beaten so badly. If he didn't do something, how could he expect to control this family?

Lin Mu is dead, but Su Rou is still alive. The mother must pay for the son's debts!

"Hmph, that vile creature is no longer a member of my Su family. Of course she can't stay!" Su Qing said, his face turning cold. "She's a shameless wench. Keeping her around would only bring disgrace to our family!"

At this, Su Rou looked utterly distraught, her eyes staring blankly at Lin Mu.

Her son... had been shot dead?

"Su Qing, Su Dahai, Lei Chengjun!" Su Rou bit down hard, holding back her tears as she spoke in a hoarse voice, "Even as a ghost, I will never let you go!"

"Father, please forgive your unfilial daughter!" Su Rou knelt before Old Master Su's memorial tablet and kowtowed several times. "My son is dead. If I, his mother, don't do something, how can I ever face him?"

Turning her head, she stared at Su Qing and the others with extreme coldness and resentment. "From this day forward, I, Su Rou, have nothing more to do with the Su family!"

"How dare you!" Su Qing roared. "Your son committed a heinous crime! Not only did he insult his elders, but he also dared to attack them. He deserved to die!"

"Exactly! That little beast deserved it!" Lei Chengjun said bitterly. "And it's not just him. So what if we killed you, too? We can just make up an excuse. Who would dare to stand up for you?"

"Lei Chengjun, you've gone too far!" Su Xiaomei stepped forward, loudly accusing them. "You killed someone, yet you're so shamelessly self-righteous. Do you really think there's no law in this world?"

"The law?" Lei Chengjun scoffed. "In Wufeng County, I *am* the law!"

Glaring menacingly at Su Xiaomei's family, Lei Chengjun warned, "If you don't want to die, then you'd better shut your mouths!"

Su Qing added a cold warning of his own. "Xu Xiaotian, the lives of your entire family are in your hands. I don't need to teach you what to do, do I?"

"I..." Xu Xiaotian's face fell. Just as he was about to speak, his daughter Xu Yao shouted, "You killed Cousin Lin Mu and you're still so brazen! You'll definitely face retribution!"

"Retribution?" Lei Chengjun laughed cruelly. "A child is still a child. There are many things in this world that aren't for you to decide."

"Xu Xiaotian, control your daughter!" Su Dahai said coldly. "Otherwise, you know the consequences!"

Xu Xiaotian's expression wavered as he pulled his daughter back. Xu Yao glared at the great-grandfather she had once respected most, her heart now filled with nothing but disappointment.

"Xiaomei, Yaoyao, don't say any more," Su Rou said, completely disheartened. "Thank you, but this is my burden to bear. I no longer have any attachment to this family."

"Today, I've finally seen the Su family for what it is: filthy to the core."

Looking at Old Master Su's memorial tablet, Su Rou gave a desolate smile. "Father, this is the Su family you always protected. You never imagined they were all just a pack of beasts, did you?"

"You vile wench, shut your mouth!" Su Qing yelled furiously. "If you dare say one more word, believe it or not, I will cast you out of the Su family this instant!"

Being cast out was the most severe punishment for a member of the Su family. Lin Mu's death didn't matter; he was just an outsider. But Su Rou was, after all, one of their own.

Unexpectedly, Su Rou felt nothing. In fact, a mocking smile spread across her face.

"Then do it."

Her words stunned even Su Qing, whose face turned even darker.

"Disown me!" Su Rou suddenly roared. "Su Qing, Su Dahai, hurry up and cast me out of the Su family!"

Everyone was stunned. They had never expected the usually gentle and timid Su Rou to say such things. But remembering that Lei Chengjun had shot her son to death, Su Xiaomei's family understood.

"Then disown me as well," Su Xiaomei said. "I'm deeply ashamed of a family like this. I don't want to stay a moment longer!"

"You..." Su Qing trembled with rage, pointing at Su Rou and the others. "Fine, very fine! Go, bring the family register!"

"Xiaomei, what are you doing?" Su Dafu said with feigned concern. "Why be so impulsive over an outsider? Hurry up and apologize to Great-Grandfather!"

"Enough, Su Dafu!" Su Xiaomei said with disgust. "Aren't you just trying to get your hands on the inheritance Dad left behind? Without me and my second sister, you'll be able to take more, won't you? Rest assured, I, Su Xiaomei, don't want a single penny! I look down on such ill-gotten, dirty money!"

"Ah, Xiaomei, listen to yourself," Su Dafu sighed. "Even if you don't want it, there's no need to talk about being disowned. We're still siblings, aren't we?"

"Siblings?" Su Xiaomei's face twisted in revulsion. "I wouldn't dare call you my brother. You'd kill your own nephew. Who would dare acknowledge kin like you?"

Su Dafu and the others' faces darkened for a moment before they resumed their indifferent expressions. To them, Lin Mu was a nobody. If he was dead, he was dead.

"Mom, I support you!" Xu Yao said, her eyes red. "They killed Cousin Lin Mu! The law will definitely not let them get away with it."

"The law?" Lei Chengjun chuckled as if he'd heard the funniest joke. "In Wufeng County, I am the law. Taking out some kid is a piece of cake for me."

The moment his words fell, a calm, indifferent voice suddenly rang out.

"You all... really can't wait, can you?"

Everyone froze, subconsciously looking up. The next moment, their expressions turned to horror, their eyes widening in disbelief.

The speaker was Lin Mu.

He wasn't dead!

They had been so sure that a gunshot wound would be fatal. But looking at Lin Mu now, he didn't just seem alive—he looked completely unharmed. Xu Yao and the others rubbed their eyes hard, thinking they were hallucinating. They had seen the bullet hit Lin Mu with their own eyes, so how could he be fine?

"You... you're not dead?" Lei Chengjun's eyes bulged with fear as he stared at Lin Mu, his voice trembling. "How can you not be dead?"

Lin Mu cocked his head and grinned. "Are you disappointed?"

He slowly opened his palm and let its contents drop.

CLANG.

A bullet fell to the ground, making a crisp sound. Everyone jumped, and Lei Chengjun instinctively took a step back.

The bullet he had fired... Lin Mu had actually caught it?

Is this guy a devil?

"Now that my mother has been cast out of the Su family, many things will be much easier to handle," Lin Mu said, a smirk playing on his lips. "Don't you agree?"

Chapter 487: Call Someone Over!

GASP! Seeing Lin Mu, who had apparently returned from the dead, everyone drew in a sharp breath of cold air. Just a moment ago, their attention had been solely focused on how to expel Su Rou from the Su Family, so they had paid no mind to Lin Mu. As a result, none of them saw him casually catch the bullet the instant it struck him.

The Twelve-Fold Towers had granted Lin Mu a body so powerful it was impervious to both blades and bullets. How could a mere bullet possibly harm him?

Only now could Lin Mu truly be called invincible! But Lei Chengjun, Su Qing, and Su Dahai's group had no idea. To them, the idea of a human body stopping a bullet was utterly inconceivable—if that wasn't a tall tale, what was?

"Wow, Brother Mu knows magic!" Xu Yao exclaimed, her face filled with adoration. She had admired Lin Mu since she was a child, and seeing him produce the bullet like a magic trick, she couldn't contain her excitement.

"Magic?" Lei Chengjun froze for a moment before it dawned on him. "Right, it has to be magic! How else could you explain this kid catching a bullet? You almost had me fooled!"

Su Qing scoffed. "Men! Seize this little beast for me!" His eyes flashed with a cold light. "Do you really think a few flashy tricks make you special? I wasn't born yesterday!"

At Su Qing's order, several young men from the Su Family immediately advanced on Lin Mu. They too believed he was just a magician and didn't take him seriously in the slightest.

"Don't even think about resisting, kid," one of the young Su Family members sneered. "Or you'll regret it."

The others snickered, looking at Lin Mu as if his capture was a foregone conclusion.

"That sounds familiar," Lin Mu said with a faint smile. "I believe Su Mingze and his friends said something similar. A pity they're all crippled now."

"Seize him!" Upon hearing Lin Mu's words, the expressions of Su Dahai and the others turned grim. Their sons had been crippled by this boy; naturally, they wanted to teach him a brutal lesson.

"Go!"

The men exchanged glances and charged at Lin Mu.

However, he was far quicker than they imagined. In a blur of motion, he sent them all to the ground, where they lay howling in agony.

"He's that good a fighter?" Su Dahai and the others were shocked, but Lei Chengjun sneered. "A fighter? That paltry bit of skill is nothing to look at. A Cheng, you're up!"

At Lei Chengjun's wave, two burly men stepped forward, both clearly trained fighters.

"A Cheng was a combat champion at the police academy. So what if this kid can fight?" Lei Chengjun grinned menacingly. "He's still going down right here..."

THUD!

Lei Chengjun had barely finished speaking when a body slammed onto the ground in front of him. It was A Cheng. His arms were now twisted at an unnatural angle, clearly crippled.

GASP! Lei Chengjun drew a sharp breath, his face burning with shame. Reality had just delivered a stinging slap, leaving him utterly humiliated.

After dispatching A Cheng and his companion, Lin Mu's expression remained unchanged. He pulled over a chair, sat down before the stunned crowd, and crossed his legs. "Don't say I didn't give you a chance," he began. "Go ahead and call for backup. Call as many people as you want. I'll take them all on."

His tone shifted, becoming cold and indifferent. "But I'll say this upfront: if the Su Family fails to give me a satisfactory explanation when this is over, don't blame me for being ruthless."

Now that the Su Family has expelled Mom, I have nothing left to fear. I feel nothing but contempt for them!

"You've got some nerve, boy!" Su Qing's face darkened as he stared daggers at Lin Mu. "No wonder you dare to cause trouble at the Su Family residence. So you think you've got some skills!" He spoke coldly,

"You think you're a good fighter, is that it? Fine! Today, I'll let you fight until you can't fight anymore! Get Wei San and his men over here. I refuse to believe you can defy the heavens today!"

Wei San was the biggest gang boss in Wufeng County, controlling all of its underground forces. He and Lei Chengjun—one in the shadows, one in the light—held sway over the entire county. This was the very reason no one dared to cross the Su Family.

"Chengjun, you call for reinforcements too! I refuse to believe anyone would dare to run wild on Su Family turf!" Su Qing's heart was already seething with hatred for Lin Mu.

Ever since taking control of the Su Family, Su Qing's status in Wufeng County had skyrocketed to a point where no one dared to provoke him. Didn't everyone who met him respectfully address him as Su Clan Head? Yet this wretched little beast had dared to humiliate him time and time again. Su Qing was determined to teach him a lesson he would never forget.

"Rest assured, Great Uncle," Lei Chengjun said with a cold laugh. "As it happens, I'm acquainted with Captain Jia of the county's Armed Forces Department. A few men from him will be more than enough."

"Excellent!" Su Qing boomed with laughter. "Chengjun, you are truly a worthy son-in-law of the Su Family! Knowing people from the Armed Forces Department... you bring great honor to our family!"

Lei Chengjun gave a slight smile and made the call.

"Xiao Mu, maybe we should just go," Su Rou said, her expression fraught with worry. "I've heard that Captain Jia from the Armed Forces Department is a real military man, and Wei San is the biggest tyrant in all of Wufeng County. We can't afford to provoke people like that."

"Don't worry, Mom," Lin Mu said comfortingly. "There is no one in this world your son can't afford to offend. Forget the captain of a small county's armed forces—even if the County Chief of Wufeng County himself were to show up, what would he amount to in my presence?"

This wasn't an empty boast. Even the commander of the Military Department had to treat him as an equal, so what was a mere county chief? It had nothing to do with status or age. Lin Mu's confidence came from his own strength! At the Foundation Establishment Peak and having completed the

Construction of the Twelve Floors, what was so difficult about facing an army of ten thousand men all by himself?

"Besides," he added, a cold light flickering in his eyes, "after how the Su Family has humiliated you today, if they don't provide a satisfactory explanation, then they can't blame me for what comes next."

I can overlook Mom being expelled from the Su Family. But the humiliation they subjected her to? I will make them repay it a thousand times over! I was never a soft-hearted person to begin with, and I couldn't care less about so-called morals or ethics. I have my own bottom line—my family and friends. This time, the Su Family has crossed it. The Jiangling Fang Family dared to touch Qin Luoli, and so the Fang Family was annihilated. The Su Family insulted my mother, and as her son, it's my duty to get justice for her!

"Anyone can talk big," Su Dahai sneered. "The County Chief? Kid, you're way too full of yourself."

"Hmph! Once Captain Jia and his men get here, we'll see just how this kid meets his end!" Lei Chengjun was secretly ecstatic. The more arrogant Lin Mu acted, the faster he would die. To not even show respect for Captain Jia and County Chief Lu? That was just asking for death! While I can't do anything to Lin Mu, a ruthless man like Captain Jia is another story entirely.

"Which little bastard dares cause trouble at the Su Family's estate? Do you have a death wish?!"

Just then, a furious roar cut through the air as dozens of armed men surged into the Su Family Courtyard.

A fierce-looking, short-haired man led the group. Wei San had arrived.

Chapter 488: What Did You Just Say?

Wei San.

He was the undisputed boss of Wufeng County, with countless underlings and vast influence.

This much was evident from the ecstatic expressions on the faces of the Su Family members.

If not for his considerable power, Su Qing would never have invited Wei San here.

"Boss Wei, you've finally arrived."

Su Dahai's face was flushed with excitement as he saw Wei San, and he hurried forward to greet him. "It was good of you to come in person, Boss Wei."

"Haha, what are you saying, Family Head Su?" Wei San boomed with laughter. "Clan Leader Su personally called me, so of course, I had to come and see who could be so bold as to cause trouble on the Su Family's turf!"

"Wei San, we appreciate it," Lei Chengjun said, nodding with a slight smile in acknowledgment.

"Oh, Director Lei is here too!"

Wei San was slightly startled. He, Wei San, carried some weight in Wufeng County, but he ultimately operated in the shadows. Lei Chengjun was a different story. He was the deputy chief and was even rumored to be on the verge of a promotion to deputy county head. His future status in Wufeng County would be extraordinary. To call someone from the underworld to handle a matter even Lei Chengjun couldn't resolve... wasn't that putting the cart before the horse?

"Some matters are not suitable for me to handle personally, so I'll have to trouble you," Lei Chengjun said with a chuckle, as if he knew exactly what Wei San was thinking. "In the future, if you need anything in Wufeng County, just give me a call."

Wei San was overjoyed.

What did men like him, who walked the crooked path, fear the most? A government crackdown. Lei Chengjun was in charge of that very department. With his protection, Wei San's position in Wufeng County would be truly unshakable.

"Don't say that, Director Lei. The Su Family's business is my business," Wei San said, thumping his chest firmly. "I might not have much else, but handling a small matter like this is no problem."

Wei San took out a pack of cigarettes, offering them to Lei Chengjun and the others, and even personally lit one for Su Qing.

"You've gone to great lengths, Boss Wei." Su Qing smiled cheerfully, looking extremely pleased with himself.

The deputy chief of Wufeng County was his son-in-law, and before long, Lei Chengjun would be promoted to deputy county head—a position of great power and influence. Even Wei San, the underworld boss, had to personally light his cigarette. It gave him a great deal of face.

"Clan Leader Su, you're being far too polite, aren't you?" Wei San smiled obsequiously. "It's my honor to be of service to the Su Family."

His tone then shifted as he asked, "But Clan Leader Su, who exactly is this kid who dared to cause trouble in the Su Family? Does he have a death wish?"

Su Qing exhaled a ring of smoke and sighed. "A tragedy has befallen our family, a real tragedy!"

Standing nearby, Su Dahai fanned the flames, adding, "But this kid, just because he can fight, dared to show such flagrant disrespect. If we don't deal with him harshly, how can the Su Family maintain its standing in Wufeng County!"

"Outrageous!" Wei San roared with theatrical fury. "I, Wei San, have always loathed these kinds of treacherous leeches. Clan Leader Su, Family Head Su, rest assured, I will make this son of a bitch regret ever being born!"

Su Qing and Su Dahai nodded. This was exactly what they wanted.

They wanted Lin Mu dead!

"You two, go take that troublemaker away. I don't need to teach you how to handle him, do I?" Wei San said, turning to two of his subordinates with a face full of righteous indignation.

Although it was an act, the Su Family members saw it as proof that Wei San knew how to handle people. Even Lei Chengjun nodded in satisfaction, making a mental note to look after Wei San more in the future.

Armed with makeshift weapons, several of Wei San's men swaggered toward Lin Mu, their faces twisted in malicious sneers. Forgetting everything else, just the opportunity to do a job for Lei Chengjun was enough to make these thugs feel ecstatic. After this, they could really throw their weight around! As for Lin Mu, they paid him no mind at all. In Wufeng County, who would dare to stand up to them?

"Xiao Mu..." Su Rou was worried. She knew these thugs were ruthless. With Lei Chengjun's tacit approval, there was no telling what they might do.

"Xiao Mu, you should get out of here, quickly," Xu Xiaotian said nervously. "These guys are the worst. They run rampant in Wufeng County, and nobody dares to provoke them."

Xu Yao also spoke up, her voice trembling with fear. "That's right, they don't just fight and cause trouble. They also extort protection money from my dad and the others."

When Xu Xiaotian sold breakfast, he was often forced to pay protection fees. When Xu Yao was in high school, she had been forced to pay them too.

"Don't be afraid. I'm here." Lin Mu offered a faint smile, but his eyes grew colder. He hadn't expected Lei Chengjun to collude with gangsters, even bullying his own family. The man was worse than an animal.

"Kid, who do you think you are?" one of the thugs jeered. He glanced at Xu Yao and clicked his tongue. "I remember this one. You're Xu Yao, right? How about my brothers and I show you a good time later?"

Xu Yao instinctively took a step back, her face a mask of terror.

Lin Mu pulled Xu Yao behind him, giving her a reassuring smile as he slowly rose to his feet. For some reason, seeing his smile, Xu Yao's heart was suddenly filled with a sense of security, and her fear subsided.

Lin Mu walked toward the thug. "You want to show my sister a good time?"

The thug sneered. "Kid, if you know what's good for you, hand the girl over. And of course, you're coming with us, too."

"No need to make things so complicated," Lin Mu said, shaking his head, his voice indifferent. "Because none of you are leaving here today."

"Such big words!" the thug scoffed, raising his weapon to smash it down on Lin Mu's head. "Acting tough in front of me... Ah!"

A blood-curdling scream tore through the air as the thug was sent flying seven or eight meters, landing completely outside the Su Family Courtyard.

What just happened? How did that guy go flying? No one saw Lin Mu move.

"Not bad, kid. You've got some skills!" Wei San's eyes narrowed as he barked, "Get him! Break his legs for me!"

While the others hadn't seen it, Wei San had just barely caught a glimpse of Lin Mu's kick sending his man flying. If that was the case, then he would just have to cripple Lin Mu's legs!

"Yes!"

At his command, several of his men charged at Lin Mu simultaneously. But how could these common thugs be a match for Lin Mu? He made short work of them, and in a flash, they were all on the ground, groaning in agony.

Without a single glance at the men on the ground, Lin Mu started walking slowly toward Wei San.

The expressions of everyone present changed. They never imagined Lin Mu's skills were so formidable. Even Wei San was taken aback.

"Looks like I misjudged you. A master hiding in plain sight," Wei San said, his eyes narrowing to slits. "But in Wufeng County, if you're a dragon, you will coil for me. If you're a tiger, you will lie down for me!"

With a cigar clenched between his teeth and a steel pipe in his hand, Wei San advanced on Lin Mu step by step. After so many years in the criminal underworld, he naturally had some skills of his own. Taking down a young punk should be a piece of cake.

"Die!" Wei San roared, abruptly swinging the steel pipe down at Lin Mu.

"Brother Mu, be careful!" Xu Yao screamed from a distance, her face pale with fright.

BANG!

A massive impact echoed as a figure was sent flying through the air, crashing hard against the courtyard wall.

BOOM!

The thick courtyard wall instantly collapsed, and a figure could be heard wailing tragically amidst the rubble.

It was Wei San!

He had been sent flying by a single kick from Lin Mu!

Lin Mu walked over slowly and planted his foot on Wei San's chest. "What was that you said?" he asked, his voice chillingly calm. "Say it again."

Chapter 489: Who has come for?

The entire Su Family Courtyard fell deathly silent.

No one had expected Lin Mu to be so vicious toward Wei San. Where had he gained such terrifying strength? Even Wei San was no match for him.

PFFT!

Wei San spat out a mouthful of blood, glaring ferociously at Lin Mu. "Kid, you're ruthless! But I, Wei San, swear I'll see you dead!"

"It seems you still haven't realized your situation," Lin Mu said, his eyes turning cold as a murderous glint flashed within them.

"You dare to kill me?" Wei San was stunned, his eyes wide with disbelief. "Kid, you're already doomed just for hurting me. If you dare to kill me, I guarantee I'll have you and your entire family wiped out!"

"Believe me, I have the power to do it!"

CRACK! Before Wei San had even finished speaking, he let out a piercing scream. With a slight increase in pressure, Lin Mu's foot had snapped his sternum.

"If there's one thing I hate, it's being threatened," Lin Mu said, his expression blank, but a cold light glinting in his eyes. "For that, your death will be agonizing."

"You think you can... AARGH!" Wei San couldn't finish as he felt his body was about to be torn apart.

"Let go, you brat! Let go of me!" Fear finally seized Wei San. He could feel the pressure from Lin Mu's foot intensifying, already having ground several of his bones to dust.

"Lin Mu, you dare!" Su Dafu roared when he saw Lin Mu was about to deliver the final blow. "Do you have any idea who you're dealing with? Wei San is one of Elder Xie's men from Handong Province! If you kill him, you'll drag the Su Family down with you!"

Elder Xie, Xie Dingtian! Now *he* was the true overlord of a province. Throughout the vast Handong Province, his people and his influence were everywhere!

In his younger days, this Wei San had personally served under Xie Dingtian. It was only after Xie Dingtian went legitimate that Wei San returned to Wufeng County to become its local kingpin.

"Didn't expect that, did you, kid?" Wei San rasped, his voice hoarse. "I'm one of Elder Xie's closest confidants. If you dare kill me, I'll have your entire clan wiped out!"

Xie Dingtian? Lin Mu paused for a moment, then an icy smirk touched his lips.

"Xie Tuzi, you have half an hour. I want to see you in person," Lin Mu said, pulling out his phone and dialing a number.

After hanging up, he made two more calls in quick succession before putting his phone away.

This time, he was going to crush the Su Family so completely they would never be able to hold their heads up again.

"You..." Staring at Lin Mu as he finished his calls, Wei San was first stunned, then he stammered, "Who are you? How do you know Elder Xie's nickname?"

Xie Tuzi... that was Elder Xie's old underworld nickname. Who would dare call him that now? And how in the world did this kid have his number?

"Guess," Lin Mu replied with a knowing smile. "You'll find out soon enough."

"Hmph. He's just putting on an act!" Su Qing snorted. "Wei San, don't be afraid. The Su Family knows exactly what this brat is capable of. He wouldn't dare touch you!"

Lin Mu didn't deign to explain, simply settling back into his chair.

Before long, a voice filled with surprise and shock cried out from the courtyard. "Announcing the arrival of County Chief Lu!"

County Chief Lu is here? The Su Family members were stunned. A look of wild joy erupted on Su Qing's face, while Su Dahai was practically beaming. What an incredible surprise! To think even County Chief Lu would come in person! What a show of respect for the Su Family! What an immense honor! None of them had ever imagined the family would be held in such high regard, that the chief of Wufeng County himself would personally come to back them up.

That little bastard Lin Mu is dead for sure!

Lei Chengjun was also startled by the news, but his surprise quickly turned to joy. He was on the verge of being promoted to Deputy County Chief. For County Chief Lu to personally come and pay his respects following Old Master Su's death... When word of this got out, it would be a huge boost to his own prestige!

Glancing at Lin Mu, Lei Chengjun's expression filled with ridicule. This pathetic brat dares to fight me? Who the hell does he think he is? The county chief himself is here to pay respects to my father-in-law. Doesn't that prove my future prospects are limitless? And Lin Mu? He's nothing but a bastard. How could he possibly compare to me?

"This brings glory to our ancestors!" Su Qing exclaimed, slapping his thigh in delight. "His presence truly graces our humble home! The Su Family is basking in glory!"

He glanced at Su Rou and shook his head slightly. A lowly wench already expelled from the Su Family's Main Gate. She's utterly worthless.

"See that, kid? That's the difference between you and me. We're worlds apart," Lei Chengjun said with composure, holstering his gun. "Now, I don't even need to lift a finger. There are plenty of people who can take care of you."

"You're like an ant, meant to be trampled underfoot!" Su Qing sneered without restraint. "The spawn of a lowly wench is still just that—a bastard. Your presence in the Su Family would only be a stain on our honor!"

"It's a good thing we already kicked him and his mother out. Imagine the utter humiliation if County Chief Lu saw this!"

Su Qing's voice turned grim as he roared, "Men, seize these two! They will await County Chief Lu's judgment!"

"Let me!" Su Dafu said, rubbing his hands together as he stalked toward Lin Mu with a dark expression. "You little animal, you dare hurt my son? You son of a bitch, I'm going to tear you apart!"

"And what he did to Ming Ze and Xin Yang! That little beast beat them to a pulp! We must teach him a brutal lesson!" Su Dahai added, his expression icy with unconcealed loathing.

"I'll break every bone in that little beast's body, and in his bitch of a mother's too!" Su Yumei, who had woken up at some point, snarled at Su Rou with a savage expression. "In my entire life, no one has dared to treat me like this. Your son struck me today, and for that, I'll make sure neither of you leaves Wufeng County alive!"

Panic and anxiety gripped Su Rou. She never expected the County Chief to show up. Lin Mu has beaten so many of the Su Family members... They will never let him get away with this.

"Get her! I'm going to rip her face to shreds and shatter her teeth!" Su Yumei shrieked, pointing viciously at Su Rou. She had been beaten so badly by Lin Mu that she resembled a rabid dog.

"Halt!"

At that moment, a cold command echoed from outside.

Just then, County Chief Lu arrived, his expression icy and his eyes holding a flicker of terror.

"County Chief Lu, we are so honored by your visit. I never dreamed you would come in person." Su Qing walked over with a broad smile, extending his hand. "My apologies that you have to witness such a spectacle. A truly unfortunate family matter."

County Chief Lu ignored Su Qing's outstretched hand. Instead, he scanned the room and asked, "Who here is Mr. Lin?"

Mr. Lin? The members of the Su Family were all stunned. There's no one named Lin in our family, is there?

"County Chief Lu, what is the meaning of this..." Lei Chengjun sensed that something was wrong and hurried forward. "County Chief Lu, there is no one surnamed Lin in our Su Family... unless..." His train of thought halted abruptly. A look of horror dawned in his eyes as he stared at Lin Mu. Mr. Lin... surnamed Lin...

County Chief Lu's gaze also fell upon Lin Mu. A flicker of shock crossed his features before he asked, very cautiously, "Excuse me, are you Mr. Lin Mu?"

Lin Mu replied coolly, "I am. Are you looking for me?"

Before County Chief Lu could speak, Su Qing couldn't stop himself from blurting out, "County Chief Lu, surely you've made a mistake! This little animal has no respect for his elders and even dared to attack people! Please, arrest him at once!"

"Hmm?" County Chief Lu's eyes swept across the scene. He rapidly assessed the situation and came to a decision in an instant.

"Everyone," he began, "you couldn't possibly believe I came here for the sake of the Su Family, could you?"

Chapter 490: Shocking Turnaround!

"Isn't that so?" Su Qing was also puzzled. County Chief Lu came to the Su Family personally. If not for them, then for whom?

Su Qing suddenly recalled County Chief Lu's words. Mr. Lin? Could it be...

"Heh, a mere Su Family is hardly worth my time," County Chief Lu snorted coldly. "Let's not even mention that Lei Chengjun hasn't become the deputy county chief yet. Even if he were, it wouldn't be worth me making this trip, let alone for the death of the Patriarch of your Su Family!"

County Chief Lu's words were like slaps to the faces of the Su Family members.

Indeed, their patriarch died, so why would the county chief personally come to offer condolences? Do they really think the Su Family is that important, or that the county chief is just idle all day?

"The only reason I came today is for Mr. Lin," County Chief Lu said, turning to Lin Mu with a slight, respectful smile.

The County Chief came for Lin Mu? And he addressed him as 'Mr. Lin'? How is that possible? What is going on? At this point, the Su family members no longer believed County Chief Lu was there to arrest Lin Mu. Who addresses someone as 'Mister' when they're about to arrest them?

The expressions of Su Qing and the others turned incredibly ugly. Su Qing, in particular, was completely stunned.

"For him? He's just an ordinary person! How can he compare to my Chengjun? And County Chief Lu, you had to come in person for him?" Su Yumei said defiantly. "County Chief Lu, if you're here to make an arrest, the Su Family can help. This little bastard dared to hit me and even caused a scene at my father's funeral! It's outrageous! County Chief Lu, have your men arrest this little beast right now!"

"Insolent!" County Chief Lu bellowed. "Su Yumei, who do you think you are? Is Mr. Lin someone you can insult as you please? Forget you—even I wouldn't dare speak to him that way!"

"Ah? I..." Su Yumei was stunned. She never expected County Chief Lu to scold her in front of so many people, especially since she had dined with him a few times before.

"County Chief Lu, what exactly is going on..." Su Qing also sensed that something was wrong, his face filled with confusion.

Just as County Chief Lu was about to speak, a voice from outside interrupted them. "Mayor Fei has arrived!"

Mayor Fei? The mayor is here too? This is terrifying. Why would the mayor of Jiangling City possibly come to a small place like Wufeng County?

Although they had never met Mayor Fei in person, they had seen his picture. Lei Chengjun had even seen Fei Xiang once at a citywide meeting, so the moment he laid eyes on him, he felt as if he'd been struck by lightning. Mayor Fei really came!

"I'm sorry I'm late, Mr. Lin. Are you all right?" Fei Xiang asked respectfully as he appeared and walked toward Lin Mu. Behind him, Fei Xiaoyu was also present.

Although Fei Xiang had never met Lin Mu, he had heard his father mention him often recently. His father couldn't praise Lin Mu enough and had repeatedly reminded Fei Xiang to be respectful toward him. This was a young talent whom even a high commander from the Military Department treated as an equal. Fei Xiang dared not be careless and had rushed over the moment he received the message.

Still, the first thing Fei Xiang did upon arrival was apologize to Lin Mu. If it were an ordinary person, Fei Xiang certainly wouldn't be this respectful. But his father, the old master Fei Zhenghai, had personally called him, insisting in an extremely stern tone that he must come in person. The old man was usually so serious and strict, so for him to act this way over a young man meant Fei Xiang couldn't afford to delay. He had rushed straight over.

Luckily, Fei Xiang happened to be inspecting the counties and was passing through Wufeng County. Otherwise, if anything had really happened to Lin Mu, never mind that high commander from the Military Department, his own grandfather wouldn't have let him off the hook.

"I'm fine," Lin Mu nodded slightly, his reaction not particularly warm.

Fei Xiang, however, seemed to know this was Lin Mu's usual demeanor. He didn't mind and even smiled. Compared to how his grandfather was treated by Lin Mu, his own reception was about the same.

With Fei Xiang's arrival, the atmosphere in the Su Family Courtyard instantly became silent and awkward. Lin Mu said nothing, and no one else dared to speak.

At that moment, outside the Su Family Courtyard, a line of olive-drab military trucks roared up and stopped at the entrance. Seeing the license plates, everyone shuddered. Have all the bigwigs from Jiangling come?

Before the Su Family could react, the sound of synchronized footsteps echoed, as if an entire army was marching toward them.

"The Head of the Wufeng County Armed Forces, Jia Jianshe, has arrived!"

A barrel-chested, broad-shouldered man strode into the Su Family Courtyard with the gait of a tiger, his expression naturally imposing. Behind him stood a group of soldiers, armed to the teeth, their faces cold and radiating a grim lethality.

"Captain Jia..." Lei Chengjun's expression shifted, and he called out instinctively.

But Jia Jianshe acted as if he hadn't heard, not even sparing Lei Chengjun a glance.

At the same time, a deep rumble echoed from the sky. Everyone instinctively looked up, shocked to see three helicopters circling above the Su estate, their rotors thundering. Blinding searchlights shot down, sweeping across the faces of every member of the Su Family.

The next moment, ropes descended from the helicopters, and figures began sliding down.

"Jia Jianguo of the Jiangling Military Region's First Combat Team, reporting to the Commander!" a soldier, at least one-hundred and eighty centimeters tall, announced as he landed before Lin Mu, snapped his heels together, and rendered a sharp salute.

Jia Jianguo! A colonel!

"This..."

The Su Family Courtyard fell completely silent. Everyone was stunned by the scene.

Commander? Since when did Lin Mu become Jia Jianguo's commander? Jia Jianguo, a unit commander in the Jiangling Military Region, was calling Lin Mu 'Commander'? No wonder Jia Jianshe, the captain of the Wufeng County Armed Forces, completely ignored Lei Chengjun. Jia Jianguo is Jia Jianshe's older brother!

But it wasn't over yet. The crowd parted to reveal Guan Xinhe approaching slowly. He was dressed in a military uniform, his epaulets bearing a gold olive branch and two stars, an insignia that left no room for doubt about his high rank.

As soon as Guan Xinhe appeared, the scene became deathly still. The Su family members didn't even dare to breathe too loudly.

"Mr. Lin," Guan Xinhe said with a smile.

With a nod, Guan Xinhe handed a document to Lin Mu. Then, he respectfully presented a neatly folded uniform. On its epaulets were four dazzling, eye-catching stars.

"This is..." Lin Mu was also slightly startled.

Guan Xinhe smiled. "You'll understand once you take a look."

Lin Mu opened the document, and his eyebrows shot up.

"Instructor Lin, from now on, we'll be in your care!" Guan Xinhe snapped his heels together and gave Lin Mu a military salute.

"Instructor Lin!" all the military personnel present shouted in unison, saluting as one.

The scene was both shocking and sacred. It was a rare sight.

Lin Mu stood up, his posture ramrod straight. He gave a slight nod. "I will do what little I can to serve the country."

This spectacle left everyone present even more dumbfounded. The members of the Su Family were overwhelmed with fear.

"General, this is..." Su Qing asked, his voice a mixture of three parts confusion and seven parts excitement.

"From now on, Mr. Lin will be the General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy," Guan Xinhe replied. He seemed unaware of what had transpired, and his attitude toward Su Qing was still polite.

The General Instructor of the Southeast Military Academy?

Su Qing stumbled back several steps, an expression of utter disbelief on his face as he nearly lost his footing.

"General... General Instructor..."