

War God 511

Chapter 511: The Fog Steams over Yunmeng Marsh, Waves Shake Yueyang City!

WHOOSH!

Lin Mu's words immediately stirred up towering waves on Dongting Lake.

Asking Wen Lie to come down and meet his death? This Lin Wudi, such audacity!

"Lin Wudi, you're courting death!"

Indeed, Wen Lie was furious!

BOOM!

With a single leap, Wen Lie launched himself from Yueyang Tower. His towering, iron-like figure dove like a bomb, straight toward Lin Mu on the lake's surface. A violent surge of his Internal Energy erupted thunderously.

All gazes immediately focused on Wen Lie, their eyes filled with fear.

"Wen Lie's aura is terrifying. His fist intent has clearly reached a sublime level. He must be in the Transformative Realm, right?"

"Correct. Wen Lie, just as his name implies, is unbridled and fierce. It's just hard to say whether he's stronger or weaker than Lin Wudi."

"Although Wen Lie is strong, his opponent is Lin Wudi! This ruthless man's combat power is renowned throughout history—simply terrifying!"

Lin Mu slightly tilted his head, looking at Wen Lie with a trace of surprise in his eyes. Wen Lie, the Sect Leader of the Eight Extremes Gate, ranked twenty-fourth on the Sky Ranking... Interesting.

"Dad, save me! Save me!" Wen Hao, still in Lin Mu's grasp, started struggling excitedly and calling for help.

As his cries faded, Wen Lie, now suspended mid-air, fixed his sharp gaze on Lin Mu and roared, "Lin Wudi, release my son at once, or I will kill you!"

"Want to save him?" Lin Mu scoffed. "On what grounds?"

"You..." Wen Lie hadn't expected Lin Mu to be so insolent.

"You are a Grandmaster, after all. Such behavior degrades your status!" Wen Lie said coldly.

"Oh, so you realize I'm a Grandmaster, too?" Lin Mu grinned. "Then your son shouldn't have provoked me, and you especially shouldn't have challenged me."

"Bullshit!" Wen Hao yelled. "You, Lin! Let me go! Otherwise, my father will kill you right now!"

"It seems you still don't understand the principle that a Grandmaster must not be insulted," Lin Mu's mouth curled into a smirk. "Since that's the case, then open your dog eyes wide and watch how I kill your father!"

As he finished speaking, Lin Mu stamped his foot on the surface of the lake.

BOOM!

A ferocious surge of energy instantly erupted from beneath Wen Lie's feet. Wen Lie's expression tightened, and he abruptly moved, dodging the column of water that shot upward.

THUD!

With a heavy impact, the lake's surface exploded, sending a massive plume of water into the air.

「On Yueyang Tower.」

The crowd gasped. They hadn't expected Lin Wudi to be so domineering as to strike without another word!

"Lin Wudi, do you really think you're invincible? I, Wen Lie, can kill you as easily as flipping my hand!" Wen Lie leaped up, his voice shaking the entire area. "Lin Wudi, face your doom!"

Wen Lie raised his hands and abruptly threw a punch.

RUMBLE!

That punch was imbued with frenzied Internal Energy. It made the lake's surface burst apart, and the endless mist formed into a raging dragon that roared as it charged toward Lin Mu.

"Mere parlor tricks." Lin Mu laughed heartily, lifting his right hand and making a light gesture.

"Break!"

As the word left his lips, the massive, raging dragon froze in mid-air. Following the sacred sound from Lin Mu's mouth, it suddenly exploded.

Lin Mu remained motionless, standing upon the lake with one hand behind his back, his clothes fluttering in the wind.

"Wen Lie, it seems your title as a Grandmaster isn't so impressive after all."

「On Dongting Lake.」

Lin Mu and Wen Lie stood upon the water, a hundred meters apart. One was shrouded in a violent aura, while the other showed no sign of power at all. And yet, the skill Lin Mu had displayed by nullifying Wen Lie's punch with a single hand was simply unfathomable.

「On Yueyang Tower.」

The spectators' expressions changed, their faces growing serious.

"I never expected Lin Wudi to be this powerful. He is truly a heaven-sent genius," Master Zhang exhaled a turbid breath, his heart racing.

"Master Zhang, you speak too soon. Grandmaster Wen is no ordinary man. No matter how strong Lin Wudi is, how could he possibly be Grandmaster Wen's match!"

The spectators on Yueyang Tower were all experts Wen Lie had invited to watch, so they naturally understood this was no simple affair. Meanwhile, the martial artists watching from other locations grew even more excited by the scene. From farther away, droves of people continued to rush over, eager to witness the battle with their own eyes.

To witness a battle between two Grandmasters in my lifetime... I can die without regrets!

"After this battle, regardless of whether Lin Wudi wins or loses, his name will once again shake the world!"

「On Yueyang Tower.」

A woman with an excited expression eagerly asked, "Master, who do you think will win this battle?"

Her master was Qing Ni, the Sect Leader of the Emei Sect. While not yet a Grandmaster, she was not far from it. But at that moment, Master Qing Ni's face was also flushed as she stared at the lake in astonishment.

"Ling Yun, this battle is too profound, too advanced. Even I cannot see through it," Qing Ni said, a bitter smile on her face.

"What?" Ling Yun clutched her chest. "Even you can't tell, Master?"

Her beautiful eyes blinked as she stared at the unmoving figure of the young man on the lake's surface.

「On Dongting Lake.」

"Fight!" Wen Lie let out a thunderous shout, and a violent torrent of Internal Energy instantly erupted from his body. With him at the center, the energy roared wildly in all directions. Wherever it passed, it seemed to split the entire surface of the lake in two.

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

Countless massive waves crisscrossed the sky!

"Eight Extremes Stabilizing the Universe!" Wen Lie unleashed a punch!

BOOM!

The air exploded. An immensely potent force burst forth from his fist, infusing every droplet of lake water and instantly locking onto Lin Mu. In that moment, the vast Dongting Lake seemed to be sealed by innumerable streams of fist energy.

Qi Locks Heaven and Earth!

Fist Defines the Universe!

"You want to compete with fists against me?" A mocking smile appeared on Lin Mu's lips. Instead of retreating, he advanced, unhesitatingly throwing a punch of his own.

"Slaying Gods and Demons and Punishing Immortals' Twelve Forms!"

"Third Form—Decide Fist!"

With one punch, the colors of heaven and earth changed.

CRACK!

With a crisp snap, the force of Wen Lie's technique was instantly broken. Lin Mu's punch, however, continued unabated, appearing before Wen Lie in an instant as his fist descended.

BANG!

Their fists collided, and the resulting overwhelming shockwave swept out in all directions.

Wen Lie violently spat out a mouthful of blood as his body was sent flying backward, his eyes wide with shock.

He was actually no match for Lin Mu! He'd lost the very first exchange. He had thought Lin Wudi was all hype, but seeing him today, his reputation was clearly well-deserved!

As the two had clashed, their energies collided, causing the lake's surface to thunder. Waves tens of meters high surged into the sky. The entirety of Dongting Lake churned, its violent currents crashing against the shores.

BOOM!

Those on Yueyang Tower felt an unparalleled force sweep toward them, causing the entire structure to shake violently.

Mist rose, and the tower trembled!

Many spectators were blown away by this terrifying force. The experts seated on Yueyang Tower were powerful figures in their own right, but at that moment, even they felt their bodies sway, and they could barely remain standing.

Everyone turned pale with horror.

So this is the terror of a Grandmaster!

At this moment, a particular poem seemed especially fitting:

In August, the lake water is level,

Enveloping the void, blending with the great void.

Vapors steam the Cloud Dream Marsh,

And its waves shake Yueyang City

Chapter 512: Two Grandmasters? One kick each!

"Wen Lie, it seems your title of Grandmaster is undeserved."

Lin Mu sneered. "If this is all you have, then you will surely die today!"

"You're celebrating too early!" Wen Lie smiled cruelly, a strange glint in his eyes. He called out loudly in a certain direction, "Brother Dongfeng, since you're here, why not make your move!"

His words shook everyone present.

Had Wen Lie actually brought backup?

"Hahaha, I've long heard of River City Lin Wudi's heaven-defying techniques. Today, I must see them for myself!"

Just then, a voice dripping with murderous intent descended from the sky as a wave of Evil Qi bore down on them.

"Lin Wudi, remember the one who kills you: East Madness, Dongfeng Po Tian!"

East Madness? Dongfeng Po Tian? He had come as well? And he was preparing to join forces with Wen Lie to kill Lin Wudi?

At this, a furor erupted across Dongting Lake. A battle between three Grandmasters was truly unprecedented!

Moreover, with two Grandmasters joining forces, could Lin Wudi possibly be their match?

"Hahaha." Lin Mu suddenly burst into laughter, his voice like a dragon's roar, his presence as magnificent as a rainbow. "Wen Lie, Dongfeng Po Tian, I, Lin, would like to see just how you plan to kill me today!"

As his voice fell, an unparalleled aura surged toward the heavens, causing the waters of Dongting Lake to churn and roar.

"Regardless of whether Lin Wudi can win this fight, just being able to face two Grandmasters is an honor, even in defeat," Qing Ni let out a long sigh, clearly not optimistic about Lin Mu's chances.

"That Wen Lie is shameless, actually getting someone to team up with him!" Ling Yun said indignantly. "And this Dongfeng Po Tian, too. He's the renowned East Madness of the Martial Arts World? I don't think he's anything special!"

"Ling Yun, watch your tongue!" Qing Ni's expression changed as she scolded, "The status of a Grandmaster is not for you to comment on so casually!"

Although Ling Yun's face showed her displeasure, she dared not say more, her pretty face just showing a hint of anger.

"Master Lin, you have to win!" Ling Yun clenched her small fists, her expression full of admiration. "Go for it! You can do it!"

...

Above the lake, Wen Lie watched Lin Mu with a solemn expression, becoming increasingly wary. This Lin Wudi truly lives up to his reputation; he really is skilled.

"Brother Dongfeng, let's move!" Wen Lie said coldly. "Let's slaughter this brat together and see if he still dares to be so arrogant!"

BOOM!

An astonishing burst of Evil Qi erupted, swirling down from above.

At the same time, the water of the entire Dongting Lake converged and rose toward the sky, instantly coalescing into a gigantic river suspended in the air. It was tens of zhang long, resembling a colossal dragon.

"Lin Wudi, you slew Yun Xu, killed Ouyang Ming, and even Southern Sky Xing Zirong died at your hands!" Dongfeng Po Tian's voice thundered from the heavens, sending tremors in all directions. "The Fire Cloud Sect was annihilated because of you, and the Southern Butcher also fell to you. Of the four great Grandmasters, two have already died by your hand! Such heinous sins can only be repaid with your life!"

These were all Lin Wudi's shocking accomplishments.

"Rumor has it that you earned honor even in your defeat against Zhang Daoyun, but in my eyes, a loss is a loss!" Dongfeng Po Tian stood upon the water dragon, his gaze icy as he stared at Lin Mu. Filled with killing intent, he declared, "Zhang Daoyun couldn't bring himself to kill you, but I, Dongfeng Po Tian, will take your life today!"

The malevolent aura raged, causing heaven and earth to tremble.

"Kill me?" Lin Mu replied with disdain. "The two of you aren't qualified!"

"Whether we are qualified is not for you to decide!" Dongfeng Po Tian stomped his foot on the water dragon, and the Evil Qi transformed into a chilling cold. "Today, I will show you my ultimate technique—Descent of the Ice Dragon!"

Dongfeng Po Tian's eyes were glacial. With a move of his hands, he threw a punch.

"Go!"

With his sharp command, the ice dragon beneath his feet roared and shot forth, streaking across the sky directly toward Lin Mu.

"Pathetic!" Lin Mu shook his head slightly, tapped his foot on the lake's surface, and his figure shot upwards.

"Heavenly Emperor Nine Steps—First Step: Mountains and Rivers Shatter!"

A dazzling azure light flared from his foot. The next moment, Lin Mu was hovering three feet above the lake's surface.

"Second Step: Ghosts and Gods Tremble!"

Taking another step, Lin Mu instantly ascended high into the air, positioning himself directly above the ice dragon's head.

"Third Step: Heaven and Earth Transform!"

"Break!"

A crystalline divine light burst forth. The power of the Heavenly Emperor Nine Steps was endlessly profound. It could shatter the earth and shake the firmament, let alone a mere river.

CRACK!

The next moment, the Ice Dragon shattered into a sky full of crystalline shards, which then dispersed into a fine mist. An ear-splitting roar echoed in all directions, and the violent aftershock of the energy blasted a hole clean through the lake's surface.

Everyone who witnessed this turned deathly pale.

"This is..."

Watching the figure ascending to the heavens step by step, the entire crowd was speechless with shock.

"A divine technique! That is a divine technique!" Wen Lie's expression changed drastically.

"Not good!" Seeing the Ice Dragon shatter, Dongfeng Po Tian's pupils contracted, his heart filling with a deep sense of dread.

Just then, a figure treading on the void ascended into the heavens, one step at a time.

"Fourth Step: The Stars Tremble!"

In the next instant, he appeared directly above Dongfeng Po Tian's head.

"Kneel!" Lin Mu's expression was impassive as his foot slammed down heavily.

Fifth Step: Even a Buddha Must Kneel!

If even a Buddha must kneel, what chance did a mere Dongfeng Po Tian have?

BANG!

Dongfeng Po Tian felt an irresistible force crash down upon him, stomping him out of the sky and smashing him into the waters of the lake below.

"This..." Wen Lie was stunned. He never imagined that even Dongfeng Po Tian would be no match for Lin Mu.

"You're next!"

Suddenly, Lin Mu whipped his head around, his gaze locking onto Wen Lie. His figure flickered and vanished from the air.

"No!" Wen Lie was scared out of his wits and retreated frantically. He was terrified. Having witnessed Lin Mu's true power, he no longer had any courage left to fight.

"You can't escape!" Lin Mu sneered coldly. He took a single step, instantly appearing above Wen Lie's head, and brought his foot down once more.

"Master Lin, spare me!" Wen Lie's face was ashen as he begged for mercy. "Don't kill me! I, Wen Lie, swear that for the rest of my life, I will never dare to oppose you again!"

He was terrified, broken, and had completely surrendered.

"I told you I would kill you today!" However, Lin Mu was unmoved by Wen Lie's pleas. His foot descended, stamping directly onto Wen Lie's head.

BANG!

The next moment, Wen Lie's entire body exploded into a cloud of blood mist.

A dignified Martial Arts Grandmaster... stomped to death with a single foot?

This...

"Yes!"

From the Yueyang Tower, Ling Yun cheered when she saw this, her face flushed with excitement. She felt that image of him would be forever seared into her heart, never to fade. This time, even Qing Ni forgot to scold Ling Yun, finding the scene utterly stunning.

With one stomp, he had driven East Madness Dongfeng Po Tian into the bottom of the lake. With another, he had obliterated Wen Lie.

With such strength, who would dare say Lin Wudi wasn't invincible? Who was qualified to even fight him?

"Dongfeng Po Tian was defeated?"

"Wen Lie is dead?"

A deathly silence fell over Dongting Lake. Everyone stared with wide eyes, their hearts trembling in shock. That was two Grandmasters working together, yet Lin Mu had dealt with them both with a single stomp each, leaving one defeated and the other dead.

Lin Mu held Wen Hao, who had long since been scared out of his wits, his face a mask of despair.

With a glance around the scene, Lin Mu crushed Wen Hao in his grasp, ending the man's life. His voice was indifferent as he said, "Two Grandmasters... and that's all they amounted to."

Chapter 513: You're Welcome to Try!

Silence.

The entire Dongting Lake was as silent as death.

The clash of two Grandmasters was terrifying enough. It wouldn't be surprising if they fought for three days and three nights, or at the very least, hundreds of rounds before a victor could be decided. But no one had expected that before Wen Lie and Lin Wudi could determine a winner, East Madness would arrive.

Everyone had assumed Lin Wudi was bound to lose.

But who could have predicted it?

Lin Wudi had actually won.

Furthermore, he left the two Grandmasters with one dead and one grievously wounded. Fighting alone against two Grandmasters, Lin Wudi had emerged victorious, and he had done so cleanly and decisively.

The entire exchange took less than five minutes.

Dongfeng Po Tian was sent plunging into the depths of the lake with a single kick.

Wen Lie was killed outright by another.

Everyone's gaze fell once more upon the figure on the lake's surface, and they could feel their very hearts trembling.

Lin Wudi! Just how strong are you? You killed Yun Xu single-handedly, slayed Western Poison Little Ouyang, annihilated Xing Zirong, and eradicated the Fire Cloud Sect. It's even rumored that Southern Butcher died by your hand. And now, you've shattered the alliance of two Grandmasters, leaving one dead and one injured. Not to mention, you once fought Zhang Daoyun alone and survived. With such an astonishing record, who in the world today would dare attempt such feats? Who could possibly accomplish them? Only you, Lin Wudi!

Thus, news spread like wildfire across Huaxia, sending tremendous shockwaves through the Martial Arts World once again.

"You can all turn back! East Madness has been defeated, and Wen Lie is dead!"

"What? Are you kidding me?"

"I'd already gotten dressed and everything, and now you're telling me this?"

"Wait, East Madness? You don't mean Dongfeng Po Tian from the Heaven's List, do you? How did he lose?"

"Wen Lie actually found a partner, Dongfeng Po Tian himself. They planned to join forces to kill Lin Wudi, but the end result was that Dongfeng Po Tian was defeated, and Wen Lie was kicked to death by Lin Wudi!"

"Damn..."

Atop Yueyang Tower, Ling Yun stared blankly at Lin Mu, her face flushed red. "Master Lin is actually this formidable!"

Sect Leader Qing Ni of the Emei Sect gave a bitter smile, her heart equally filled with shock. Formidable is an understatement; he's practically heaven-defying. If I hadn't seen it with my own eyes, I wouldn't have believed it even if you beat me to death.

While the crowd erupted in astonished cries, Lin Mu simply stood with his hands clasped behind his back, gazing toward a certain spot in the lake. "Come out. Playing dead is useless in front of me."

As soon as he spoke, that area of the lake suddenly exploded. A figure shot away toward the horizon at a speed imperceptible to the naked eye.

Although he was incredibly fast, the Sect Leaders on the city tower recognized him.

"It's Dongfeng Po Tian!"

"Such incredible speed!"

"Why does he look so disheveled?"

As everyone stared in astonishment, Lin Mu sneered. "You ganged up to kill me, and now you think you can run? Can you really get away?"

"Lin Wudi, it's always wise not to burn your bridges. Must you insist on a fight to the death?" From the distance, Dongfeng Po Tian's voice echoed, filled with terror and regret. At this moment, his heart was overwhelmed with fear and remorse. Had he known, he never would have made a move against this Lin Wudi. To be seen fleeing in front of so many people had utterly cost him, East Madness, all of his prestige.

"There's no need for you and I to ever meet again."

Lin Mu's figure flickered, drifting out like a wisp of green smoke. In the blink of an eye, he had caught up to Dongfeng Po Tian.

Dongfeng Po Tian's expression changed drastically. He continued to flee as he yelled, "Lin Wudi, spare me! I swear, I will never be your enemy again!"

Hearing this, the crowd was even more dumbfounded. The great East Madness was being hunted by Lin Wudi like a stray dog. This was something they had never imagined. Not only that, but Dongfeng Po Tian was actually begging for mercy.

"Hmph, disgraceful!" Ling Yun said resentfully. "When you two ganged up on Master Lin, why didn't you talk about leaving a way out then? Utterly shameless."

Lin Mu let out a great laugh, a sound brimming with killing intent.

"I, for one, never trust another's oath."

As his words fell, Lin Mu's hand reached out toward Dongfeng Po Tian. "I prefer to pull out the weeds and its roots!"

"The Twelve Forms of Godslaying, Demonslaying, and Immortal Execution—Demonslaying Claw!"

BOOM!

A wild force surged from Lin Mu's body, instantly connecting heaven and earth to form a colossal claw that obscured the sky. In that moment, the heavens dimmed, and every spectator's face changed color.

"Such terrifying power!"

"Just how many more techniques does this Lin Wudi have?"

"Terrifying! Truly terrifying!"

Feeling the fearsome power looming over his head, Dongfeng Po Tian's face turned deathly pale. He gritted his teeth and snarled, "Lin Wudi, you forced my hand!"

"Whatever tricks you have left, feel free to use them," Lin Mu sneered disdainfully.

Dongfeng Po Tian's expression turned fierce as he suddenly slammed a fist into his own chest, spitting out a mouthful of blood. Just when everyone thought he was about to fight Lin Wudi to the death, Dongfeng Po Tian fled once again. This time, his speed was even greater than before.

Everyone was stunned. This East Madness was truly shameless. He was a disgrace to all Grandmasters.

Hm? An escape art? Lin Mu's eyebrow twitched, and the corner of his mouth curled up. A little interesting, but do you really think you can get away?

As he spoke, Lin Mu's palm pressed down fiercely.

RUMBLE!

High in the sky, the Demonslaying Claw suddenly descended, its immense pressure causing the waters of the entire Dongting Lake to sink by several meters. One could only imagine the magnitude of its power. It was utterly beyond what any mortal could withstand.

"No..."

Caught within its range, Dongfeng Po Tian felt it most keenly. A hopeless Aura of Death pressed down on him, threatening to crush him completely.

"Mr. Yao, save me!"

This time, Dongfeng Po Tian was truly and utterly terrified. He screamed for help.

"Lin Wudi, that's enough."

Just then, an ancient voice reached everyone's ears. Above Dongting Lake, dark clouds gathered as if someone was about to appear.

"And what if I say no?" Lin Mu smirked coldly, paying the voice no mind.

"Hmph! Lin Wudi, do not court disaster!" the ancient voice returned, now laced with anger. "If East Madness dies, you will be buried with him! So what if you're a Martial Arts Grandmaster? For me, killing you is as easy as turning over my hand!"

The voice held not only anger but also undisguised killing intent.

"Threats are useless on me," Lin Mu snorted, completely unafraid.

"Then die!"

As the ancient voice fell, everyone felt a scalp-numbing energy howl past them. Between heaven and earth, a bright thread shot toward Lin Mu.

It was a fishhook.

The silver fishing line and golden hook unleashed a cold, sharp killing intent that filled the air.

"Scram!"

However, Lin Mu simply pointed a finger dismissively. A streak of Sword Qi shot out and struck the fishhook.

CRACK!

The fishhook fractured and was sent flying back.

"Oh?" A surprised sound echoed from the void, filled with disbelief.

At that same moment, Lin Mu's hand clenched violently, and the Demonslaying Claw fell without pause.

BANG!

Above the surface of the lake, Dongfeng Po Tian's body abruptly exploded, dissolving into a fine mist of blood.

East Madness was dead.

At this moment, the world fell silent.

Here, above Dongting Lake, Lin Wudi had slain two Grandmasters in a row. And the one who had just tried to intervene—a being of undeniable power—had also seemed to be no match for him.

"Lin Wudi, you are courting death!" As East Madness was killed, the ancient voice rang out once more. "Do you truly believe I don't dare to kill you?"

"You're welcome to try." Lin Mu stood with his hands behind his back, his eyes filled with pure arrogance.

Chapter 514: The Old Fisherman Jin Bumie!

"Lin Wudi, you're too arrogant!" The old man's voice rose again, seven parts fury and three parts killing intent. "Do you really think you're invincible?"

"If you're not convinced, come out and fight me one-on-one!" Lin Mu snorted disdainfully, his words brimming with provocation.

The onlookers were left speechless. A duel? Who in their right mind would be insane enough to challenge him alone when two Grandmasters combined couldn't even beat him? Do they have a death wish?

"Hmph!" The hidden voice scoffed. There was a hint of apprehension in the sound, but the tone remained staunch. "I will remember this grudge."

"You who love to skulk in the shadows, get out here!" Lin Mu suddenly cracked a smile and made a grabbing motion toward a distant spot.

With a cry of alarm, a figure was yanked from a faraway mountain, flying through the air before splashing down into the water.

"How can it be him?" Atop Yueyang Tower, Master Zhang's expression changed, and he shot to his feet.

"Master Zhang, is this person someone important?" Qing Ni asked, her face full of shock.

"To say he's important is an understatement. There are very few in all of Huaxia who would dare to provoke him," Master Zhang said gravely. "Although he isn't a Grandmaster in the Martial Arts World, his status in Huaxia is exceptionally high."

"Grandfather Zhang, who is he?" Ling Yun asked curiously.

"His name is Yao Kuohai. He holds a position in the Military Department and also serves as an honorary advisor to the Martial Alliance Headquarters," Master Zhang sighed, a complex look on his face.

The ancient martial arts Sects feared getting entangled with people like him more than anything. Even his junior martial brother, who now held great prestige in the Capital, was someone Master Zhang and Wudang preferred to keep their distance from.

The saying 'warriors use their might to transgress the law' is an eternal truth. Wielding a deadly weapon with killing intent in one's heart is precisely what the authorities fear most.

Originally, the Martial Alliance was meant to lead the world's martial artists, but some intended to use it to suppress the Martial Arts World. Over the years, the Military Department has continuously placed its people inside the Martial Alliance, all to better control the organization and, by extension, all the martial artists in the country.

Yao Kuohai was one of them.

If he truly acted in the people's best interest, no one would have a complaint. However, Yao Kuohai was notorious for abusing his public office for private gain. His backing was so powerful that ordinary people couldn't touch him. Not even Lin Wudi!

Master Zhang gave a wry smile. "This Yao Kuohai is exceptionally vengeful. He'll hold a grudge for days if someone so much as speaks to him disrespectfully. And now, Master Lin has killed East Madness, even after Yao warned him not to."

Upon hearing Master Zhang's explanation, the expressions of everyone on the tower changed. Yao Kuohai's background was truly significant.

"Doesn't that mean Master Lin is in danger?" Qing Ni exclaimed.

Ling Yun said indignantly, "But why? It was East Madness who provoked Master Lin first!"

"Sigh. If only everyone in the world were reasonable, things would be much simpler," Master Zhang sighed. "For now, we can only hope Master Lin knows when to quit while he's ahead and doesn't make a mortal enemy of this man."

「...」

"Lin Wudi, you're courting death!" Being dragged out in front of everyone by Lin Mu, Yao Kuohai's face flushed beet red as a wave of humiliation washed over him.

"Old man, how many times are you going to say that? Even if you're not tired of it, I am." Having said his piece, Lin Mu slapped him directly across the face.

SMACK!

The slap landed heavily. Yao Kuohai cried out as blood trickled from the corner of his mouth.

"You... you dare to hit me?" Yao Kuohai clutched his face, staring at Lin Mu in disbelief. He never imagined Lin Mu would actually dare to strike him. Outrageous, simply outrageous!

Upstairs, Master Zhang was also stunned. This Master Lin is truly domineering and forceful, to think he'd strike Yao Kuohai without hesitation!

"This is bad!" Master Zhang said anxiously. "Master Lin has really stirred up a hornet's nest this time!"

"Grandfather Zhang, what is it now?" Ling Yun felt her little heart fluttering in her chest, unable to settle down for even a moment.

Master Zhang spoke with a grave expression. "You all saw that fishing line just now, didn't you?"

Ling Yun nodded subconsciously, then said, "But didn't Master Lin snap it with a single finger?" As she spoke, she extended a fair finger and poked the air to demonstrate, a proud expression on her face as if she had done it herself.

But Master Zhang just shook his head. "My dear girl, you have no idea. That person... has a background that's even more terrifying."

"Master Zhang, you don't mean the old fisherman, Jin Bumie, do you?" Qing Ni's face suddenly changed as if she had just realized something.

"Indeed. He's the only one who uses a fishing pole as a weapon," Master Zhang said seriously. "That Jin Bumie is an Elder of the current Martial Alliance. Decades ago, he had an extremely high reputation in the Martial Arts World!"

Ling Yun frowned. "But his name doesn't seem to be on the current Heavenly Ranking."

Qing Ni sighed. "My dear, the current Heavenly Ranking only records the Martial Arts Grandmasters of the last twenty years. Those from before that time have long since stopped caring about so-called rankings."

"What?" Ling Yun grew nervous and asked with concern, "Then can Master Lin possibly be a match for this old fisherman?"

Master Zhang shook his head. "Master Lin has extraordinary talent, but he has been cultivating for a short time. How could he possibly be a match for an old-guard Grandmaster like Jin Bumie? Moreover, back in his day, Jin Bumie was also ranked tenth on the Heavenly Ranking."

Lin Wudi was also ranked tenth. A clash between the old and new tenth-ranked masters of the Heavenly Ranking... that would truly be a grand spectacle.

「...」

Just then, the crowd saw mist begin to rise over Dongting Lake, shrouding the scene in a haze. From the center of the lake, a small, flat-bottomed boat seemed to be slowly approaching.

An old, singing voice drifted across the water, and though it came from afar, it landed clearly in everyone's ears.

"In August, the lake is level with the shore;

Its vastness merges with the pale blue sky.

"The mists steam over the great Dream-Cloud Marsh;

Its waves shake the walls of Yueyang City.

"I would cross, but I have no boat or oars;

To live in idleness shames a wise ruler's reign.

"I sit and watch a fisherman cast his line,

And envy him his fish, but all in vain."

The song ended. The small boat stopped in the middle of the lake, fifty meters from Lin Mu. On the boat sat an old man wearing a straw raincoat and a wide-brimmed bamboo hat, holding a fishing pole. The pole was made of vibrant green bamboo. A silver line descended from it, and the hook was invisible beneath the water's surface.

The moment this man appeared, the entire surface of Dongting Lake became perfectly still.

The Fisherman Elder, Jin Bumie!

"Master Jin, save me!" Yao Kuohai was overjoyed to see him and shouted with a face full of resentment, "This Lin Wudi dared to disrespect me! Kill him quickly!"

Jin Bumie shook his head. Pushing up his bamboo hat, he looked at Lin Mu and said, "Young man, let him go."

He paused, then added, "I can promise you this: I will kill only you and spare the rest of your clan."

This was his infamous reputation: when he killed, he liked to exterminate entire clans, stringing their bodies up on his fishing line as a gruesome warning to others.

"What did you say?" Lin Mu's eyes narrowed, a cold glint flashing within them.

"I said, I will kill only you and spare your clan," the Fisherman Elder repeated with a faint smile. To an unknowing observer, he looked like a simple old man fishing. Who could imagine this was the same Jin Bumie who was infamous for his massacres decades ago?

Lin Mu dug a finger in his ear. "I was asking about the sentence before that."

"I said, 'Young man, let him go!'" Jin Bumie's brow furrowed, a hint of anger in his voice.

"And if I don't?" Lin Mu grinned. "What are you going to do? Kill me?"

Hearing Lin Mu's words, Master Zhang's mouth trembled, and he almost cursed out loud. My god, this young man is unbelievably arrogant!

Chapter 515: Who Dares to Claim Invincibility, Who Dares to Speak of Undefeated!

"It's over!"

Upon hearing Lin Mu's response, Master Zhang sighed, "Jin Bumie is going to make his move!"

"Ah!" Ling Yun cried out, her face pale.

"Alas, Master Lin has been far too brazen." Qing Ni shook her head. "This is the price for not knowing how to hide one's true strength."

"Master, please save Master Lin," Ling Yun pleaded, tugging at Qing Ni's sleeve. "I don't want to see Master Lin die."

Qing Ni shook her head with a bitter smile. "Silly child, with my meager strength, how could I possibly be a match for that old fisherman? And even if I had the power, I wouldn't dare intervene."

"Why not?" Ling Yun asked, her voice cracking. "Is that old fisherman really so terrifying?"

"Not just terrifying, but *extremely* terrifying," Qing Ni replied, shaking her head. "Besides, don't forget who Master Lin struck—Yao Kuohai."

"Then what should we do?" Ling Yun was on the verge of tears. "How can these people be like this?"

She truly couldn't comprehend it. Wen Lie and Dongfeng Po Tian had provoked Master Lin first. When Yao Kuohai failed to save them, he redirected his anger onto Master Lin. Where is the justice in that?!

"Hmph, I think Lin Wudi richly deserves to die!" someone on the city wall tower sneered, reveling in the unfolding disaster. "He thought he was invincible, looking down on everyone, but he never realized there's always a higher mountain."

"Exactly! Lin Wudi is too arrogant. He deserves to die today!"

"I bet Lin Wudi is regretting this bitterly now!"

"The clash between the new and old tenth-ranked Grandmasters is going to be quite a show!"

「On the surface of the lake.」

"Young man, you have gone too far!" the old fisherman spoke indifferently. A fierce light glinted in his ancient eyes as he gently flicked his wrist.

HUM!

A dull sound resonated, sending a tremor across the entire surface of Dongting Lake. A ripple spread outward in all directions, centered on the fishing line in the old fisherman's hand. In the blink of an eye, it reached Lin Mu's feet.

BOOM!

The next moment, thousands of waves surged into the sky, forming a cage that completely surrounded Lin Mu.

"Kill!" Jin Bumie, the old fisherman, uttered a single, faint word. The water walls transformed into razor-sharp threads, slicing down toward Lin Mu.

The crowd witnessing this scene gasped in horror. The old fisherman's ability to control water was simply astounding!

"You dare display your paltry tricks before an expert?" Lin Mu scoffed, pointing a finger dismissively. "Disperse!"

Brilliant divine light erupted from his fingertip, instantly exploding into thousands of streams of Sword Qi that shredded all the threads of water to nothing.

"Old man, now it's your turn to face one of my moves!" Lin Mu laughed, his foot tapping gently on the lake's surface. Endless mana poured into the water below.

"Hmm?" The old fisherman's expression shifted slightly. He slapped the surface of the water, launching himself three zhang into the air.

BANG!

The next second, the small boat beneath him exploded, disintegrating into splinters.

HISS!

Everyone who saw this drew a sharp breath.

Lin Wudi... actually destroyed the old fisherman's boat? So arrogant! So powerful!

The old fisherman's face darkened as he stared intently at Lin Mu. "Lin Wudi! The world says you, the tenth on the Heavenly List, are unrivaled. I'd like to see how you measure up to me!"

With a great shout, the old fisherman gripped his rod with one hand and jerked it upward. "Winds Rise, Waters Flow!"

With that single motion, it seemed as if he lifted the entirety of Dongting Lake, suspending it in mid-air. The crowds on both banks stared, utterly aghast.

"Terrifying!"

"My god, that's incredible!"

"What a 'Winds Rise, Waters Flow'! That's the old fisherman's signature technique! It's grown even stronger after all these decades!"

As winds rose and waters flowed, the very sky and clouds seemed to shift in response.

"Master Lin is in danger!" Master Zhang sighed. "With this move unleashed, who could possibly stand against him?"

"Lin Wudi is doomed!"

On the lake's surface, Lin Mu's eyes narrowed, a glint of light flashing within them.

"The old fisherman, Jin Bumie? You do have some skill," Lin Mu laughed heartily. "Now watch me shatter your ultimate technique!"

Lin Mu raised his hands, curling his fingers into claws, and ripped them violently to either side.

WHOOSH!

As if tearing a canvas, Lin Mu violently ripped the massive curtain of water in two, sending it crashing back into the lake.

"This..." The onlookers' faces were masks of disbelief.

"Unbelievable! Lin Wudi actually blocked it!"

"He didn't just block it, he completely shattered it!"

However, the expressions on Master Zhang and the others grew even more solemn, for they knew the old fisherman's deadliest moves were yet to come.

They were right. The next moment, a silver glint flickered across Dongting Lake. They were countless strands of silver fishing line, with flashes of gold mixed within.

"The main event is here!" Everyone leaned forward, their faces flushed with excitement.

The clash between the new and former tenth-ranked Grandmasters on the Heavenly List had already elevated this duel to legendary status. Regardless of the outcome, this was destined to be a monumental battle for the ages.

"Lin Wudi, do you really think that was all I had? You underestimate me!" The old fisherman's eyes flared with murderous intent. "After I kill you, I will find your family, your clan—none of them will escape. I will string them up with my fishing lines, one by one, as a gift for you!"

The old fisherman's face was a mask of icy killing intent; this Lin Wudi was too arrogant and presumptuous, having provoked him repeatedly. If that's the case, then he can just die!

With a thunderous shout, the old fisherman gripped the fishing rod with both hands and shook it fiercely.

HUM!

A deep thrumming sound echoed, accompanied by a sharp crackling as if the very air was being torn asunder. Those fishing lines, as keen as the world's sharpest Divine Weapons, seemed poised to slice heaven and earth apart.

Could Lin Wudi possibly withstand it? His body surely wasn't harder than space itself!

"Kill me?" Lin Mu snorted. "You are not worthy!"

In that moment, a true killing intent rose in Lin Mu toward the old fisherman. Threatening him with the lives of his family? He was simply courting death!

"If you wish to die, then I shall grant your wish today!" Lin Mu declared, standing proudly on the lake as his eyes blazed with divine light.

"What is Lin Wudi doing?" Master Zhang's jaw dropped, his face a mask of shock, for he saw Lin Mu extend his palm and gently clench his fist toward the sky.

"Sword, come!"

The next moment, the wind surged and thunder roared!

CRY!

High in the ninth heaven, a dragon's cry echoed as a bolt of lightning suddenly descended and landed in Lin Mu's hand, solidifying into an ancient longsword. In that instant, his Sword Qi suppressed all of Dongting Lake!

"Slash!"

Wielding the Yulong Sword, Lin Mu swung it gently.

An immense wave of Sword Qi whistled as it shot forward.

SHIING!

In mid-air, the countless fishing lines were sliced to pieces, dissolving into dust. The Sword Qi did not slow, continuing its path straight toward the old fisherman.

"Not good!" The old fisherman's expression changed drastically. He threw his fishing rod horizontally across his chest, attempting to block the strike. "Lin Wudi, I will not be defeated! You can't kill me!" he roared, his True Qi erupting to form a protective barrier around his body.

CRACK!

But his fishing rod was no match for the Yulong Sword Qi. It offered not even a hint of resistance before being effortlessly shattered.

The Sword Qi sliced through.

The world fell silent.

Across the vastness of Dongting Lake, a ravine tens of thousands of meters long had been carved out, reaching all the way to its bed. That single sword strike had actually cleaved the entire lake in two.

Lin Mu stood with his sword above the water. His domineering figure was deeply seared into the very soul of every onlooker, an unforgettable image that would last forever.

Who dares claim to be invincible?

Who dares to speak of being undefeated?

Only he, Lin Wudi

Chapter 516: The peerless ruthless person, steer clear!

"Where is the old fisherman? Why has he disappeared?"

"Could he have been killed by that sword strike? There's no blood, no scream... it's too eerie!"

"Do you think his body was annihilated by that sword, turned into nothingness?"

"How is that possible? What kind of swordsmanship is that?!"

"Others might not be able to, but that's Lin Wudi we're talking about!"

"..."

Across the vast expanse of Dongting Lake, everyone was shaken. They looked with disbelief at the man standing proudly on the surface of the water.

It was too terrifying.

To slay three Martial Arts Grandmasters in a single day—who else could claim such a feat?

Across the entire Martial Arts World, there was only him: Lin Wudi!

"So cool! You're absolutely amazing!"

Ling Yun cupped her hands around her mouth and shouted excitedly, "Master Lin, you're so cool! I admire you so much!"

Her clear voice spread through the air, snapping everyone out of their shock.

Lin Wudi was too strong!

He was so powerful that it drove people to despair. Some who had once aspired to surpass Lin Mu now abandoned the thought.

There's just no way!

If you think you're so great, why don't you try killing a Grandmaster? Forget about slaying three in a single day.

Lin Mu held Yao Kuohai by the collar and said with a smile, "Now, do you still want to kill me?"

"I... I... No, I wouldn't dare."

Yao Kuohai's face was deathly pale. Having long since been frightened out of his wits, he pleaded, "Lin Wu... no, Master Lin, please spare me! I'll never dare to do it again! I know I was wrong!"

Yao Kuohai had submitted.

He was truly terrified of Lin Mu.

This god of death was too horrifying.

He had killed three Grandmasters just like that.

And among them was the old fisherman, Jin Bumie!

A veteran Grandmaster had been so thoroughly obliterated by Lin Wudi that not even a speck of bone remained. Who would dare claim to possess such power?

Lin Mu said coldly, "I expect you wouldn't dare!"

Seeing that Lin Mu made no move to kill him, Yao Kuohai asked tentatively, "Master Lin, you're not going to kill me?"

Lin Mu replied with contempt, "Killing you would dirty my hands. But if there is a next time, I will show no mercy! Get lost!"

He lifted his foot and kicked Yao Kuohai, sending him flying.

On the city wall, Master Zhang saw this, and his figure flickered. He flew out and caught Yao Kuohai in midair.

"Hmph!"

The moment he caught Yao Kuohai, Master Zhang's expression changed, and the lingering force sent him staggering back several steps. Bracing his core, Master Zhang drew a shallow arc on the ground with his foot, finally neutralizing the force.

However, several distinct footprints now marked the ground.

After setting Yao Kuohai down, Master Zhang stared at Lin Mu with even greater astonishment.

This Lin Wudi is truly strong!

He had merely caught Yao Kuohai, yet the residual power in the man's body had been almost too much for him to bear. If not for his Wudang sect's unique art of using softness to overcome hardness, he himself would have been injured.

The expressions of the crowd on the city wall changed once again.

Their gazes toward Lin Mu were now filled with a profound mixture of fear and reverence.

Fear of Lin Mu, and reverence for the strong!

This was the Martial Arts World!

Strength reigns supreme!

After giving Master Zhang a deep look, Lin Mu nodded slightly. He then turned his gaze to a spot on the shore of Dongting Lake, his lips curling into a cold smile.

I didn't expect to find you here!

He raised his palm and clenched his hand forcefully.

The crowd in that area scattered, revealing a single figure hidden behind them.

Lu Tong!

The Helmsman of the Jiangling Martial Alliance!

"Master Lin, spare me—"

Lu Tong shrieked, but his body flew uncontrollably into the air, soaring toward Lin Mu.

"Others may be spared, but you cannot be!"

Lin Mu's hand snapped shut. Lu Tong instantly exploded into a bloody mist, dead.

This Lu Tong had repeatedly targeted him during his battle with Yun Xu. When Lin Mu had exterminated the Fang Family, he hadn't found the man. He never thought Lu Tong would dare to show his face here today.

Since he did, he might as well die.

At this, the surrounding crowd grew even more terrified of Lin Mu.

Lin Wudi's killing intent was so strong! He killed without the slightest hesitation.

However, many who knew the inside story were not repulsed. On the contrary, they felt that Master Lin truly lived up to his title as a Grandmaster—decisive and unwavering when it was time to kill.

After executing Lu Tong, Lin Mu dusted off his hands. "It's over."

Taking a deep breath, Lin Mu let out a long howl that shook the plains.

BOOM!

The crowd saw Lin Mu stomp on the surface of the lake, his body shooting into the sky. Riding his sword, he vanished in the blink of an eye.

Left behind on the lake's surface was a pit several dozen feet deep, the water struggling to close for a long time.

Lin Mu's departure signaled the end of the battle, but its impact sent massive waves through the Martial Arts World.

The martial artist forums were flooded with posts about Lin Wudi. Most recounted his battle records, and every thread exuded a sense of worship and reverence for Lin Mu.

One post, in particular, listed the Martial Arts Grandmasters Lin Wudi had killed since his debut:

Yun Xu of the Celestial Master Mansion!

Ouyang Ming, the Western Poison Xiao Ouyang!

Xing Zirong of the Southern Sky!

Fan Li of the Fire Cloud Sect!

Nangong Xiu, the Southern Butcher!

Dongfeng Potian, the East Madness!

Wen Lie of the Eight Extremes Gate!

Jin Bumie, the old fisherman!

A total of eight Martial Arts Grandmasters!

When this post appeared, the Martial Arts World erupted once again.

Lin Wudi had already killed eight Martial Arts Grandmasters!

Of the Four Great Grandmasters, three had died at his hands. Only Northern Blade Beiming Qingyan remained!

Just how strong was this ruthless man?

At this point, the story of Lin Wudi's battle with Zhang Daoyun of the Celestial Master Mansion was brought up again.

According to an insider, Lin Wudi had actually won that fight.

Moreover, he had defeated Zhang Daoyun in a single move.

As Lin Wudi was leaving, he had sliced off all the peach blossoms on the side of Dragon Tiger Mountain, saying it could count as taking Zhang Daoyun's life.

The moment this news broke, it caused an uproar from all directions!

Zhang Daoyun of the Celestial Master Mansion was no match for Lin Wudi?

And he was defeated in a single move?

Just how high was Lin Wudi's cultivation level?

The same insider even joked, "Of the nine Grandmasters who challenged Lin Wudi, eight are dead, and one is defeated!"

No one in the Martial Arts World laughed. Instead, they questioned the claim's authenticity.

It was just too outrageous.

Who was Zhang Daoyun?

He was a peerless expert ranked in the top ten of the Heavenly List.

And he couldn't defeat Lin Wudi?

How was that possible?

Unexpectedly, no one from Dragon Tiger Mountain came forward to clarify, as if... they were tacitly acknowledging it.

As a result, Lin Wudi's reputation soared even higher.

Some even claimed that his current cultivation level was high enough to contend with the peerless experts in the top ten of the Heavenly List.

What was most terrifying, however, was that Lin Wudi wasn't even thirty years old.

If he was given another ten years, how strong would he become?

In any case, everyone was in unanimous agreement about Lin Wudi: an unrivaled, ruthless man who was not to be trifled with!

As for all these matters, Lin Mu paid them no attention.

He had already returned to Coiling Dragon Bay to reunite with his family.

He was about to leave for the Southeast Military Academy and was taking this opportunity to spend some quality time with his family.

That evening, Elder Xiao called him personally.

On the phone, Elder Xiao's voice was full of cheer. "Well now... that was a good fight. Beautifully done!"

Lin Mu smiled slightly but said nothing. He knew Elder Xiao had more to say.

Sure enough, after a pause, Elder Xiao continued, "Lin lad, although you've killed three Grandmasters in this battle and firmly established your footing in the Martial Arts World, you must be wary of Yao Kuohai."

"That man is not simple."

Lin Mu said calmly, "It's of no concern. With my current status, if he dares to come, he won't be leaving."

In the Huaxia Martial Arts World of today, who would dare provoke Lin Mu?

They would simply be courting death!

「Over at the Capital.」

Elder Xiao, looking out the window, was momentarily speechless. He suddenly murmured to himself, "I was actually hoping you would kill him, too."

Chapter 517: Lin Wudi, the Sister-Protecting Demon!

「Demon City.」

Atop a high mountain, clouds billowed and mist swirled.

An old man and a young man sat opposite each other. The elder exuded a powerful aura, filled with an air of authority. The youth had sharp brows and starlit eyes, his entire demeanor as keen as a blade's edge.

A chessboard was placed between them. The elder gripped a chess piece, unable to make a move for a long time.

"CLACK."

The elder tossed the piece into the chess box, his expression souring. "I'm not playing anymore! I can never beat you."

The youth gave a faint smile, knowing the elder was not truly angry.

The elder, now even more annoyed, said, "Can't you let your grandfather win for once? Who would dare to play chess with you in the future?"

The youth's expression turned serious. "Grandfather, chess is like life. Once a piece is played, there are no regrets. How could I go easy on you?"

The elder heaved a long sigh. "Chuan, that's not right. I'm your grandfather, after all."

The youth rubbed a chess piece and replied earnestly, "There is no concession on the Martial Way. Grandfather, this is what you taught me."

The elder was startled, then burst into relieved laughter. "Right, right! Truly worthy of being the dragon of the Qin Family!"

This youth was none other than Qin Chuan of the Demon City Qin Family.

The elder carefully sized up Qin Chuan and said joyfully, "Chuan, judging by your aura, it won't be long before you take that step, will it?"

Upon hearing this, Qin Chuan's brows furrowed slightly, a rare hint of bitterness and fear appearing on his face. "That step is too difficult."

Looking down at the pieces on the board, Qin Chuan continued, "I have a gut feeling that if I truly attempt it, my body could perish and my dao could scatter."

"If even you don't dare speak of taking that step lightly, it seems that Lin Wudi would dare even less," the elder said, stroking his beard with a smile.

Qin Chuan's fingers paused as he murmured to himself, "Lin Wudi?"

"Chuan, if you were to face this man, how confident are you?" the elder asked, his expression laced with anticipation.

Qin Chuan smiled arrogantly. "Ninety percent."

The elder was slightly taken aback. "That low?"

If any outsider had heard this, they would have been utterly astonished.

Ninety percent? And that was considered low?

After all, the Lin Wudi of today was the undisputed number one in the Martial Arts World.

"The remaining ten percent depends on whether Lin Wudi knows what's good for him," Qin Chuan said with a faint smile. He placed his piece on the board, instantly forming a pattern to slay a great dragon.

The elder erupted into hearty laughter. "Indeed! Chuan, you are a once-in-a-century genius of our Qin Family. You became a Grandmaster at twenty, and eight years have passed since then. You are not far from taking that next step."

"A mere Lin Wudi is naturally not a concern."

Suddenly recalling something, the elder said, "Speaking of this Lin Wudi, it seems he comes from River City. River City..."

Qin Chuan smiled. "Grandfather, are you thinking of that worthless branch of the family?"

The elder nodded slightly, then sneered, "So many years have passed. It's about time we contacted the River City side."

"While you're at it, have someone ask this Lin Wudi if he has any interest in joining our Qin Family as a servant."

Pride was written all over the elder's face, as if allowing Lin Wudi to become a servant of the Qin Family was the greatest honor he could possibly receive.

...

「Jiangling.」

During this time, Lin Mu had been constantly by his family's side. This brought a smile to Qin Luoli's face every day. Ever since marrying Lin Mu, the man had never spent so much time with her.

But she knew that he would have to leave before long. Therefore, Qin Luoli treasured these moments immensely.

One day, the family woke up early, as Xu Yao's school was about to start and they all planned to see her off together.

"Mom, Auntie, you really don't have to!" Xu Yao said with a hint of helplessness. "I'm not a little kid anymore, you don't need to take me to school."

Su Xiaomei gave Xu Yao a light tap on the head. "Don't talk nonsense. In my eyes, you will always be a child."

Xu Yao shot Qin Luoli a pitiful look, hoping her sister-in-law would speak up for her. If her parents really took her to school, she would die of embarrassment.

Qin Luoli shrugged. "Don't look at me. If I didn't have work today, I'd want to go with you."

"Ah!" Xu Yao clutched her head in agony. "But it's so embarrassing."

Xu Xiaotian had a troubled look on his face. "Yaoyao, if you think it's embarrassing for your mom and dad to take you, then we won't go."

Su Xiaomei, who was helping Xu Yao pack, froze. Her eyes instantly grew red.

"Mom, Dad, that's not what I meant at all!" Xu Yao grabbed her parents' hands. "In my heart, you'll always be the people I admire second most. How could I ever be ashamed of you?"

With a sigh, Su Xiaomei said sadly, "See? We're not even number one. How is that not being ashamed of us?"

Xu Yao giggled. "Because Brother Mu is the person I admire the most."

Su Xiaomei rolled her eyes at Xu Yao and said to Xu Xiaotian, feigning anger, "Fine, I give up. I can't win an argument with this daughter of yours."

Xu Xiaotian said, "Yaoyao, your mom and I want to take you to school because we're afraid you'll get bullied. You have to understand we mean well."

Xu Yao shook her head. "Then you have even less to worry about, because Brother Mu is taking me today."

"Xiao Mu?" Su Xiaomei chided, "Yaoyao, you can't always be troubling Brother Mu. Xiao Mu is very busy."

"Who said I'm busy?"

At that moment, Lin Mu walked in with a smile. "Aunt, Uncle, I've already promised Yaoyao I'd take her to school, so there's no need for you to go."

Lin Mu knew that a girl Xu Yao's age was at her most sensitive. If her classmates saw her parents dropping her off, some of them might look down on her, even if she herself didn't mind.

"Aunt, don't worry," Lin Mu said. "Yaoyao has grown up, and it's time for her to learn to be independent. Let me take her this time. If you want to visit her school, I can have Luo Li take you later."

"Exactly, exactly." Xu Yao swung Su Xiaomei's arm, pleading coquettishly, "Please, Mom? Just let Brother Mu take me, okay? Pleeese?"

"Alright, alright." Su Xiaomei knew that Lin Mu was right. Her daughter would eventually grow up and leave them to live on her own. They couldn't shelter her forever.

Most importantly, with Lin Mu around, her daughter would not be bullied. This was something Su Xiaomei's family understood deeply.

"Yay! Long live Brother Mu! Long live Mom!" Xu Yao jumped up excitedly, finished packing her things, and left with Lin Mu.

Leaving Coiling Dragon Bay, Lin Mu watched the ecstatic Xu Yao and said calmly, "Alright, I already agreed to help you. Now you can tell me why you didn't want my aunt and uncle to take you."

A few days prior, Xu Yao had begged him to make sure her parents didn't take her to school and to help her make an excuse. Lin Mu had felt that something was off.

Seeing Xu Yao's excited face, Lin Mu's expression changed. "Yaoyao, tell me the truth. Are you... in a relationship?"

If his little sister was dating, his first instinct was to find the little bastard who dared to flirt with her and beat him to a pulp. If anyone in the Martial Arts World knew of this, their jaws would hit the floor.

To think that the great Grandmaster Lin Wudi was such an overprotective brother!

Xu Yao rolled her eyes at Lin Mu. "Brother, what goes on in that head of yours all day? I already made plans with friends to go exploring."

"Exploring? With friends? Boys or girls? When did you meet them?" Lin Mu bombarded her with questions until her head felt like it was about to explode.

"Brother, you're starting to sound more and more like Mom," Xu Yao pouted. "If you're that worried, you can just come with us."

"I was going to, even if you hadn't invited me. I promised my aunt I would personally see you to school." Lin Mu still felt a bit uneasy, so he decided to go along and check things out.

If anything happened to Xu Yao, he, as her brother, would regret it for the rest of his life.

Chapter 518: Script Murder!

「Jiangling University.」

It was one of Huaxia's key universities, boasting a strong teaching staff and superior facilities. Those admitted were all top students, the cream of the crop from across the country. Xu Yao's admission to Jiangling University was a testament to her abilities.

Previously, Su Xiaomei's family likely couldn't have afforded the tuition. They would have had to swallow their pride and ask to borrow money from the Su Family. Whether they would have succeeded was another matter, but they certainly would have faced the Su Family's ridicule.

Therefore, for being able to attend her dream university, Xu Yao was most grateful to Lin Mu.

Recently, Xu Yao had been selling houses in Coiling Dragon Bay, earning enough money to cover all four years of her university expenses. Compared to other students who had to rely on their parents for money, Xu Yao was already quite accomplished in every respect. This was also why Lin Mu was so attentive to his younger sister.

When he heard that the person Xu Yao was meeting today was a senior she had met on an online forum, Lin Mu suspected something was off. He decided to go with her to see for himself.

Today was registration day, and the entrance to Jiangling University was swarming with people. New students registering, parents seeing their children off, and senior students and teachers welcoming the newcomers all created an extremely lively atmosphere.

A fashionably dressed girl glanced at the sun overhead and said with some impatience, "Cai Heng, when is this freshman you mentioned going to arrive? It's almost time. If she doesn't show up soon, we're leaving."

"Qiu Ning, don't be so anxious," the young man named Cai Heng said with a smile. "I already made plans with her. It's not right to stand her up now."

"But the club already called to hurry us along. If we don't go now, they'll cancel our room," Qiu Ning complained, agitated.

"Call her. If she doesn't show up in five minutes, we'll go ahead. She can come find us on her own later; it's not far from the university anyway," another young man suggested with a frown.

Cai Heng hesitated for a moment before saying, "Alright, we'll do as Young Master Chu says. I'll call her now."

Qiu Ning glanced at the young man called Young Master Chu, her eyes sparkling. His full name was Chu Tian, and he had just recently graduated. He had returned to the university to handle some personal matters and was the organizer of this event. Qiu Ning was already a senior and hoped to find a good company after graduating. I heard Chu Tian's family is very wealthy; they even own a company. If I could just... With that thought, Qiu Ning secretly made her decision.

"Five minutes are up. Let's go," Qiu Ning urged after the time had passed.

Cai Heng looked helpless and was about to leave when a taxi pulled up in front of them.

Lin Mu and Xu Yao stepped out of the car. Xu Yao was holding her phone, looking around.

"You must be Xu Yao, right? I'm Cai Heng." Upon seeing her, Cai Heng walked over, waving his hand, but his eyes immediately locked onto her.

Xu Yao was stunningly beautiful, with fair skin and slightly plump cheeks that gave her an adorable look. More importantly, she radiated a bright, youthful energy that was absent in the older students. Cai Heng's heart began to beat a little faster.

Seeing Cai Heng staring at his sister, Lin Mu frowned and put an arm around Xu Yao's shoulder. "Yaoyao, do you know him?"

"Oh, Brother, this is the senior from my department I told you about," Xu Yao explained, shaking Lin Mu's arm.

"Hello, my name is Cai Heng," he said, extending his hand toward Xu Yao. "If you run into any trouble at school, you can always look for me."

"Thank you, Senior Cai Heng." Xu Yao was a little excited to finally meet him.

Cai Heng explained, "Junior Xu Yao, I can assure you that this will be an eye-opening experience for you."

"Really? I've been looking forward to this day for so long," Xu Yao said, a mix of nerves and excitement in her voice.

Lin Mu glanced at her and frowned. "What is it?"

Before Xu Yao could speak, Cai Heng jumped in, "A murder mystery game! It's super popular right now. Our department has always been small, so we invite all the newcomers to play together on registration day."

"Yes, yes! Brother, please just let me go this once," Xu Yao pleaded. "Please, dear brother, I'm begging you."

Cai Heng laughed. "If you're worried about Xu Yao, you're welcome to join us. It's not far from the school anyway."

"Exactly! Brother, let's go," Xu Yao urged. She then whispered, "Besides, this is a great chance to get on good terms with the seniors. You don't want your sister to have bad relationships with her classmates, do you?"

Lin Mu considered it and nodded in agreement. University was a melting pot, a miniature version of society. Xu Yao would have to face the real world sooner or later, and building good relationships with her classmates would only benefit her. Besides, what trouble could a few college students possibly cause?

Seeing Lin Mu agree, Cai Heng nodded and made a call. He arranged for someone to take Xu Yao's luggage to her dorm and for someone else to handle her registration. Everything was quickly sorted out. Qiu Ning had already hurried them several times, so once everything was handled, the group set off.

On the way, Lin Mu got a general idea of what this murder mystery game entailed.

Simply put, it was a tabletop role-playing game. Based on a script, each player took on a role and had to complete their assigned tasks to earn rewards.

Just hearing the description was enough to get Xu Yao incredibly excited. She aspired to become a famous scriptwriter, and a game like this could provide her with a wealth of inspiration. As for Cai Heng, although he was just a student, he was already a fairly well-known author in their circle.

Suddenly, Chu Tian spoke up. "However, with an extra person, we might need to choose a new script."

"Senior Chu Tian, does that mean we can't play if there's an extra person?" Xu Yao asked.

Chu Tian glanced at Lin Mu. "You two haven't played before, have you?"

Lin Mu shook his head. He had no interest in these sorts of things.

Chu Tian smiled. "No problem, it's very simple. If we get a script with paired characters, I can teach you how to play."

It was obvious that Chu Tian was interested in Xu Yao. It was no wonder. Lin Mu had given Xu Yao a few Elixirs, which made her appearance and aura far more outstanding than the average person's. Combined with her youthful beauty and sunny disposition, she was utterly captivating.

"Wow, then thank you, Senior Chu Tian!" Xu Yao beamed with a naive and sweet smile, completely oblivious, which made Lin Mu frown repeatedly.

Qiu Ning, however, interjected with a mocking tone, "Don't get your hopes up. We're playing a horror scenario. Try not to get scared."

"A horror scenario?" Xu Yao was a little confused.

Qiu Ning said dismissively, "What? Scared already? If you're frightened, you'd better have your brother protect you. If you get so scared you make yourself sick, we're not taking any responsibility." They came in a taxi, not driven by their parents in a nice car. A commoner like her has no right to compete with me for Young Master Chu.

"Qiu Ning, don't scare the newcomer," Chu Tian chided gently. He then said to Xu Yao, "A horror script isn't actually that scary. The key is not to frighten yourself."

"Yeah, we've played it several times already," Cai Heng added. As he spoke, his face suddenly turned pale for a split second. He masked it quickly, but not before Lin Mu noticed. This piqued Lin Mu's curiosity.

Is this murder mystery game really that terrifying?

Chapter 519: Terror Tome: Night of the Psychic!

Over ten minutes later, the group arrived at a club called Tongling Mansion.

"This club is famous in the industry for its horror scripts," Chu Tian explained. "Back when I was studying at Jiangling University, I used to come here to play every weekend."

Qiu Ning then remarked, "Oh, right. I remember Young Master Chu has some shares in this mansion, doesn't he?"

Before Chu Tian could answer, Cai Heng chimed in, "Of course. Our Young Master Chu has written several scripts for this mansion, all of which were very well received. The management gave him some shares to keep him around."

A look of pride flashed across Chu Tian's face before he said, "Those are trivial matters. I'm only here today as a player to enjoy the game."

However, the others listened with expressions of deep admiration.

The group found a private room and sat down. While they were settling in, Chu Tian went to discuss the script with the mansion's staff.

Lin Mu observed his surroundings. Aside from himself and Xu Yao, there was a couple who were also new students at Jiangling University. It seemed they had played a few times before but weren't very skilled.

Soon, Chu Tian returned with a petite girl in tow.

"Hello, everyone. I'm Mo Mo, the host from this mansion. I'll be overseeing your game today." She held a stack of printed scripts, a strange, eerie smile on her face. "The script you've chosen is called *Night of Psychic Communion*, a horror scenario."

The moment Mo Mo finished speaking, Lin Mu saw Cai Heng's expression subtly change. A flicker of shock appeared in his eyes as he involuntarily glanced at Chu Tian.

Chu Tian's expression remained unchanged, but his gaze was fixed on Xu Yao. Lin Mu frowned slightly. For some reason, he felt the atmosphere in this place was strange, but he couldn't quite pinpoint why.

"This is a hardcore scenario our mansion just launched, and you're the very first players," Mo Mo said with a laugh. "Alright, this is a seven-person script, and there are exactly seven of you. I'll hand out the character books now."

Mo Mo took a script, glanced at the cover, and handed it to Cai Heng, then another to Qiu Ning. Just as she was about to give one to Lin Mu, he suddenly spoke up. "Can we choose for ourselves?"

Mo Mo froze for a second, then smiled. "That's not allowed. The rules of script murder games don't permit players to choose for themselves."

"That's not right, is it? As long as we don't see the contents, we should be allowed to pick our own, right?" the male half of the couple suddenly interjected, looking up.

Mo Mo's smile stiffened slightly, and she glanced at Chu Tian.

"Mo Mo, they're new to this. Let them choose," Chu Tian said with a grin.

"Okay then."

Mo Mo spread the scripts out on the table and said to Lin Mu, "The ones on the left are female characters, and the ones on the right are male. You can only draw from the male roles, and you mustn't look at the other script covers."

Lin Mu nodded, casually drew one, and placed it facedown on the table.

After Lin Mu drew, Xu Yao went, followed by the couple. Chu Tian took the last script.

"Alright, everyone has their roles. Please open your scripts and familiarize yourselves with your characters. Remember to only read the first act and don't flip ahead. We'll officially begin the game in a moment," Mo Mo said, before stepping out of the private room.

Everyone opened their scripts and began to read. Lin Mu, however, simply sat in his chair, not looking at his script but carefully observing the others. He noticed that apart from the couple, who seemed normal, Qiu Ning appeared somewhat surprised. Cai Heng's face grew paler, as if he had seen something terrifying, and he kept glancing at Chu Tian. Lin Mu also noted that although Chu Tian was pretending to read his script, his gaze kept wandering toward the couple, as well as toward him and Xu Yao, lingering on her for a particularly long time.

A faint smile touched his lips as Lin Mu picked up his script and pretended to read it intently.

A few minutes later, Mo Mo returned. "Has everyone finished reading? Good. Please give a brief introduction of yourselves, and then we'll move on to the second act."

After the introductions, Mo Mo explained, "*Night of Psychic Communion* is a horror scenario. You will have to follow your individual tasks and go to specific locations to complete them." Once everyone was ready, she glanced at Lin Mu. "Homeless Man, come with me for a moment."

Lin Mu stood up, taking his script with him.

Xu Yao suddenly let out a snort of laughter. In reality, Lin Mu was a tycoon with assets in the tens of billions, yet in the game, his role was a homeless man.

Lin Mu didn't smile. As he passed Xu Yao, he patted her shoulder. "I'm stepping out. Take care of yourself."

"Don't worry, bro. I'll be fine."

...

Lin Mu walked out of the private room to find the hallway pitch-dark. It was filled with various props, and haunting music played, giving the entire mansion a ghastly, chilling atmosphere.

"Don't be afraid. Just follow me." Mo Mo's voice echoed, sounding rather unsettling in the silent mansion.

Lin Mu wasn't the least bit afraid. He wouldn't be scared by fake props, and he wouldn't be scared even if they were real. Besides, the host probably didn't know that he could see everything perfectly in the dark. He even spotted two people hiding in a corner, apparently waiting for the right moment to give him a jump scare.

"Wait for me a second, I need to grab something," Mo Mo said before abruptly vanishing into the shadows.

A cold smile touched Lin Mu's lips. He walked toward one of the corners without making a sound.

"What are you looking for?" Lin Mu asked, looking down at the person fumbling on the ground.

It was a woman. "I'm looking for my head," she said, her voice low and hoarse. Paired with the terrifying background music, the effect was genuinely hair-raising.

"Is this it?" Lin Mu suddenly picked up an object and handed it to her.

"Yes, that's... AHH!" The moment she took it, she shrieked in terror.

"What's going on?" Mo Mo's voice rang out as the mansion's lights flicked on. She was standing right behind Lin Mu, dressed in a white traditional costume with horrifying makeup on her face.

In the corner, a figure was curled up. She was wearing a costume prop that made her look like a headless corpse, and a bloodied head lay on the floor beside her. The head looked real at first glance, but on closer inspection, it was clearly fake.

"A Mei, what's wrong?" Mo Mo walked over, intending to help her up.

"Get away! Don't touch me!" A Mei forcefully shoved Mo Mo away and scrambled out of the room, shouting as she ran, "A ghost! There's really a ghost!"

Mo Mo was stunned for a moment, her face darkening as she turned on Lin Mu. "What on earth did you do to scare her like that?"

Lin Mu shrugged. "I didn't do anything. Who knows, maybe she has issues."

"You..." Mo Mo's expression was foul, but she couldn't lash out. "Alright, just go back for now. The game is about to start."

Lin Mu flashed a smile that wasn't quite a smile. "You didn't call me out here just to try and scare me, did you?"

"Don't talk nonsense!" Mo Mo said, flustered. "This is a legitimate establishment. We don't intentionally scare our players."

Lin Mu nodded and turned to head back to the private room. "So there are just the two of you working in the mansion now?" he asked suddenly.

"Yes, it's daytime and we don't have many players, so we don't need a large staff," Mo Mo explained.

"I see," Lin Mu said. "But besides you two, I thought I saw someone else just now. I must have been mistaken, though."

"Another person?" Mo Mo trembled. For some reason, she suddenly felt as if a pair of unseen eyes were watching her from the darkness.

"*Night of Psychic Communion*? Interesting," Lin Mu chuckled to himself as he returned to the private room.

Chapter 520: The Bizarre Game!

"Bro, are you okay?"

As soon as Lin Mu entered the private room, he saw everyone looking at him with strange expressions. They had clearly heard the noises from outside.

"I'm fine," Lin Mu said. "Shall we continue?"

"Of course we should continue," Qiu Ning said disdainfully. "You're not scared, are you?"

"I'm more concerned that you all might be frightened."

Qiu Ning curled her lip, looking down on Lin Mu even more. Not only was he poor, but he was also pretending to be brave. They've played horror games far more intense than this. I can't wait to see if he cries when it's his turn to do a task. And that little bitch, daring to flirt with Young Master Chu... I'll make sure she's crying her eyes out soon.

The game continued.

At that moment, Mo Mo walked in to continue leading the game, taking the opportunity to introduce the background story.

The "Psychic Night" was a respectable horror scenario overall. It was highly playable, both in its logic and its level of terror. The key point was that murders would occur, and the players needed to follow the clues in their scripts to find the killer. Moreover, "Psychic Night" had a hidden task.

According to Mo Mo, the story was set many years ago. Eight young people were trapped in a sealed room without food or water. While they were unconscious, a terrifying act of cannibalism occurred.

The victim was one of the young women in the group.

When the others found the body, only a skeleton remained, its flesh gnawed clean off. Based on their deductions, the killer had to be one of them. Among the eight, one who claimed to possess the art of the séance immediately performed a ritual, preparing to summon the dead woman's soul to ask who had killed her.

However, not long after the ceremony began, a couple among them suddenly died. On their bodies, the others found a mangled piece of what was later confirmed to be human flesh.

Eight people, and now three were dead.

The survivors guessed that the couple had eaten the first victim and were subsequently killed in revenge by an evil spirit. The psychic's séance was a success, confirming that it was indeed the couple who had committed the act of cannibalism. The truth came to light.

But just when everyone thought it was over, the psychic also died.

Stranded without food, water, or contact with the outside world, they were forced to eat the three corpses. Eventually, they too died of starvation, one by one.

And today, the players had come to the very room where these horrors had taken place. They needed not only to complete their individual tasks but also to uncover the truth of what had really happened all those years ago. Next, each person would have to go out to collect clues. As for what would happen then, not even she knew.

Clearly, Mo Mo was deliberately saying this to scare them.

After hearing her introduction, everyone looked thrilled and excited. This game was just too intense.

"Alright, we can now begin completing our tasks," Mo Mo said, looking at Xu Yao with a smile. "Now, please come out with me."

"Me?" Brave by nature, Xu Yao stood up excitedly, unafraid.

After Xu Yao left, the others began to chat among themselves. Lin Mu, however, closed his eyes, seemingly resting his mind.

Qiu Ning glanced at Lin Mu and let out another disdainful sneer. With an attitude like that, how is he even going to play the game?

...

Xu Yao followed Mo Mo out. The mansion's decor was the same as when Lin Mu had been out earlier—equally creepy and frightening. Xu Yao suddenly felt a pang of nervousness, but Mo Mo reassured her, "Go on in. Don't be afraid, it's just a game."

Xu Yao took a deep breath to calm herself and, following Mo Mo's direction, entered a room.

The moment she was inside, Mo Mo shut the door behind her. Xu Yao let out a startled cry, then began to survey her surroundings. The room was plastered with all kinds of paper talismans, and the air was thick with the scent of burning sandalwood. In the center of the room stood a full-length mirror, reflecting a slightly distorted image of her.

Xu Yao already knew this was a classic feature of murder mystery games—an environment deliberately designed to be terrifying. Any moment now, a staff member dressed as an NPC, an evil spirit, will probably jump out to scare me.

Therefore, she cautiously approached the mirror. According to her script, she needed to retrieve clues from in front of it, which is when the NPC was supposed to appear. Even though she knew it was all fake, Xu Yao still felt a knot of tension.

BANG! BANG!

Suddenly, the door was struck with violent force, as if something was trying to smash its way in. Xu Yao's expression grew more tense.

I'm not scared, I'm not scared!

Taking another deep breath, she walked step by step toward the mirror. In front of it was a small table with several clue cards. Xu Yao picked up a few and turned to leave.

Just as she turned, the surface of the mirror abruptly rippled like water. A large, withered hand reached out from within, aiming to grab her shoulder.

However, just as the hand touched her shoulder, a brilliant golden light erupted from her body.

"AHH!"

A shrill scream echoed through the room. Xu Yao, terrified, spun around but saw nothing. She didn't dare linger for a second longer and wrenched the door open, bolting outside.

By the doorway, Chu Tian was whispering something to Mo Mo. When they saw Xu Yao appear, their expressions changed instantly, a look of complete surprise on their faces.

"Did you get them? Then let's head back," Mo Mo said, a forced smile on her face. "Remember, don't tell anyone what you encountered in there."

"It's to maintain the mystery," Chu Tian added.

"Right, I understand."

With her task complete, Xu Yao felt a surge of excitement as she walked back to the private room.

"What the hell was that?!" The moment Xu Yao was out of earshot, Chu Tian fixed Mo Mo with a vicious glare.

Mo Mo's face paled. "Young Master, I... I don't know what happened either."

"Don't call me Young Master. Do you want to die?" Chu Tian's expression hardened as he spoke coldly.

"Understood."

Chu Tian snorted. "Where's that useless A Mei? Getting scared like that by some kid... she's a complete disgrace!"

"I don't know," Mo Mo said, her face ashen. "I was following your orders to scare that girl, but somehow A Mei was the one who got scared."

"Forget her," Chu Tian said. "Just make sure my plan isn't ruined."

"Who should go in next?" Mo Mo asked.

Chu Tian thought for a moment. "Cai Heng. I think that guy suspects something, so let's deal with him first."

"Yes."

After Mo Mo left, Chu Tian glanced inside the room. Seeing nothing amiss, he turned and walked away.

「Back in the private room.」

The moment Xu Yao returned, Cai Heng audibly sighed in relief, while Lin Mu's eyebrows raised slightly.

The mark he had left on Xu Yao seemed to have been triggered, as if it had encountered something unclean. The mark Lin Mu had left on her possessed great power. It was normally inactive, but it would trigger to protect Xu Yao whenever she was in danger.

A cold smile touched Lin Mu's lips. Looks like this Psychic Night is a rather interesting and bizarre game after all. How amusing.