

Young Master 181

Chapter 181: [Storm Brewing]

Since the outbreak of the destroy virus, the world has undergone a transformation, with the age of individual nations passing into history, giving way to the era of alliances we see today. However, Huaxia has always proclaimed itself a nation, continuing to celebrate the eleventh as its National Day.

Just as in the era of nations, every National Day on the eleventh, Huaxia would activate its emergency security plan, increasing its monitoring efforts. It demands that all departments related to national security remain vigilant and station at their posts before and during the holiday season to prevent any incidents that could destabilize security.

Though the Yanhuang Organization was established only in recent years, it has played an increasingly significant role in maintaining national security and stability, even being called "the mysterious force guarding Huaxia" by foreign media.

As the eleventh approached, the workload for the Yanhuang Organization surged. They had to cooperate with other departments to ensure security and stability while also intensifying surveillance on Jianghu People, ensuring they kept tabs on those with potential for wrongdoing.

Dong hai, Yanhuang Organization Office.

"Director Lu, we've received reliable information from the outer layers that Elder Huang Qi of Hongwu Sect has shown up in Dong hai."

In the office at the top floor of the Yanhuang Organization Office, a member of the organization reported respectfully while standing in front of Lu Canghai's desk, "Would you like to arrange for someone to monitor him?"

"Which of the formal members don't have surveillance tasks now?"

Upon hearing the report from his subordinate, Lu Canghai frowned and inquired. Unlike other departments, the Yanhuang Organization had few formal members. Dong hai might be the flag of Huaxia's economy, but it only had ten formal members of the Yanhuang Organization; most others were

what the subordinate referred to as peripheral members from the military, mainly responsible for collecting intelligence and dealing with less powerful Jianghu People.

"Everyone is assigned tasks except for you."

The Yanhuang Organization member responded, "Following your orders, I've placed one formal member each at the airport, docks, train stations, and bus terminals to quickly spot and control Jianghu People traveling from other places. Moreover, to ensure the safety of participants at the Yangtze River Delta Economic Summit on October 2nd in Dong hai, five of us including myself will be heading to the venue to collaborate with other departments."

"Then I will take care of Huang Qi myself. Let me know where he's staying later, and I'll go have a heart-to-heart with him," Lu Canghai pondered and then decided.

"Yes, Director!"

"By the way, have you contacted headquarters about investigating that Ye Fan's information? What's the situation now?"

Seeing that his subordinate was about to leave, Lu Canghai asked again. Despite being swamped with work these past days, he had not forgotten the matter of avenging his son, Lu Wen.

"The Intelligence Department at headquarters hasn't responded yet, it's probably going to be after the festival."

"Then let's focus on the task at hand for now; we'll discuss that after the festival," Lu Canghai said after a brief contemplation, knowing that all of the higher-ups were now focused on ensuring security and would hardly have the time to deal with personal matters.

"Buzz... Buzz..."

Shortly after the Yanhuang Organization member left, Lu Canghai's cellphone in his pocket began to vibrate.

Hm?

Lu Canghai raised an eyebrow, retrieved his phone, and to his surprise, found an unfamiliar number calling. He was taken aback—as the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization in Dong hai, his phone was specially made by the security department with strong confidentiality; he had hardly disclosed the number and only a very few were aware of it.

"Hello."

Despite his confusion, Lu Canghai pressed the answer button and spoke with a grave tone.

"Hello, Uncle Lu, this is Situ Haotian."

On the other end of the call, Situ Haotian's tone was extremely respectful; it didn't matter that he was now at the Half-step Innate Realm—even if he had stepped into the Innate Realm, he would still need to be humble in front of Lu Canghai.

"What do you want, calling me?"

Lu Canghai's frown deepened. Due to the choices Situ Chen had made in the matter of his son being crippled, he had cut off all relations with the Situ Family. He also heard about Situ Haotian being driven out of the Dong hai Gang, and under these circumstances, he couldn't fathom the purpose of Situ Haotian's phone call.

"Uncle Lu, I want to talk to you," Situ Haotian got straight to the point.

"Talk?" Lu Canghai looked even more puzzled, "What could you possibly have to talk to me about?"

"About how to help Xiao Wen get his revenge."

"What makes you think you have the grounds to talk to me?"

Lu Canghai asked coldly, his tone filled with disdain. In his view, it didn't matter that Situ Haotian was now akin to a dog that had lost its home—even if Situ Haotian were the Crown Prince of the Dong hai Gang, he had no right to a face-to-face discussion with him.

"Uncle Lu, I am now a Half-step Innate Martial Artist, plus, I have gained control over more than seventy percent of the big shots in the Dong hai Gang," Situ Haotian displayed his assets and intentionally paused to give Lu Canghai time to digest the information, then continued to ask, "I wonder if Uncle Lu could spare just a little time to meet with me?"

When Lu Canghai heard Situ Haotian's astonishing words, his first reaction was disbelief, but he soon thought that if Situ Haotian hadn't accomplished those feats, he wouldn't have dared to call him, much less propose a meeting.

Realizing this, Lu Canghai coolly asked, "Time, location."

"Five minutes later, my car will pick you up 100 meters to the east of your office," Situ Haotian said.

This time, Lu Canghai didn't say anything more but hung up the phone. He left his office alone, heading towards the agreed meeting spot while pondering how Situ Haotian managed to climb back up from Hell to Heaven in just a few days.

Five minutes later, Lu Canghai arrived on time at the designated meeting spot and was surprised to see an unremarkable Passat sedan. Inside, he spotted Situ Haotian behind the wheel.

Chapter 182: [The Rain is Coming and the Wind Fills the Tower]_2

Seeing the scene unfold, Lv Canghai quietly pulled open the car door, slid inside, and took his seat in the passenger position.

"I'm sorry, Uncle Lv, but in order not to alert Situ Chen, I can only meet you in this way," Situ Haotian started the car, his face apologetic.

Without responding, Lv Canghai attentively sensed the aura of Situ Haotian, assessing his strength.

"You've suddenly become a Half-step Innate Martial Artist; someone must have empowered you."

After sensing that Situ Haotian indeed possessed the strength of a Half-step Innate, Lv Canghai was even more convinced of his previous guess, speaking gravely, "If I'm not mistaken, the person who empowered you was Hongwu Sect elder Huang Qi."

"Uh..."

Perhaps not expecting Lv Canghai to guess his situation upon their first meeting, Situ Haotian was slightly taken aback, then honestly admitted, "Uncle Lv's meticulous mind and quick thinking truly opened my eyes. As you said, it was indeed Master Huang who empowered me, allowing me to covertly find those influential bosses in the Dong hai Gang and control them."

"Many of those Dong hai Gang bosses were veterans who followed Situ Chen in the early days; it couldn't have been easy to control them with force alone," Lv Canghai expressed his skepticism about this point.

"Uncle Lv, you are right, but you forgot one very important thing."

Situ Haotian reminded him, "Old Bastard Situ made a foolish choice regarding Xiao Wen's matter, severing ties with you, leading the Dong hai Gang to lose protection. His actions dissatisfied those brothers who had once fought life and death battles alongside him, and they also sensed the crisis. Under these circumstances, when I appeared with the strength of a Half-step Innate and rallied the troops, it was inevitable for them to choose to follow."

"What are you going to do?"

After hearing Situ Haotian's explanation, Lv Canghai no longer doubted and his expression turned somewhat darker due to the mention of his son's affair.

"Please take a look, Uncle Lv."

Situ Haotian handed over the plan he had prepared to Lv Canghai.

Lv Canghai took it and began to read carefully.

Three minutes later, Lv Canghai's gaze moved away from the redacted and revised plan by Situ Haotian, and he frowned, "No!"

"Uncle Lv, you might have heard of a story. Last century, there was a county head who prepared for a flood early on, while the head of a neighboring county did nothing. The following year, when the flood hit, the first county head avoided disaster with the measures in place, while the second county head suffered the flood's destruction despite emergency efforts but ultimately succeeded in flood defense."

As if to address Lv Canghai's concerns, Situ Haotian continued, "Later, the county head who successfully prevented the flood triggered public outrage and was brought down by villains, ending up stripped of his post and jailed, while the second county head was hailed as a flood prevention hero and rapidly promoted."

Huh?

A light brightened in Lv Canghai's eyes. Although a Martial Artist, he worked for the Yanhuang Organization and was fully aware of the unwritten rules of Huaxia Officialdom, instantly understanding the purpose behind Situ Haotian's use of this anecdote.

"According to the plan you just saw, Dong hai will indeed be unsettled on the eleventh, but it won't affect the public's life or disrupt social order; it will be contained within a very small scope."

Seeing that Lv Canghai had not responded, Situ Haotian enticed further, "In such a scenario, if you act according to the plan, you won't be blamed by those above; on the contrary, you're likely to be recognized for timely emergency response, decisive action, and for controlling the impact, right?"

Lv Canghai's eyes shone brighter.

"Moreover, according to this plan, you can rightfully avenge Xiao Wen within the legal boundaries—a genuine win-win situation. There's no reason for you to refuse." Seeing Lv Canghai tempted, Situ Haotian couldn't help but smile.

Upon hearing this, Lv Canghai couldn't help but turn his head and look at Situ Haotian with admiration, saying, "If Situ Chen handed Dong hai Gang over to you, with your brains, you could develop it much better than it is now."

"Too bad, there are no ifs in this world—since Old Bastard Situ has been unkind, don't blame me for being unrighteous!"

The smile on Situ Haotian's face gradually faded, his expression turning sinister, "Uncle Lv, I almost forgot to tell you, I promised to hand Situ Ruoshui over to Xiao Wen after all this."

"Eh?" Lv Canghai was startled.

"Although Xiao Wen can't do that kind of thing with Situ Ruoshui, she was the one who triggered Xiao Wen to become like this. It's only right that she serves as Xiao Wen's slave for life as atonement." Towards the end, Situ Haotian couldn't help but laugh again, as if Situ Ruoshui were an ancient-time slave and he the slave owner.

"Sss~"

Even as an Innate Grandmaster with an absolutely strong heart, having been exposed to all sorts of villains, Lv Canghai couldn't help but gasp after fully witnessing the depths of Situ Haotian's scheming and ruthlessness.

While Situ Haotian had decided to gift Situ Ruoshui to Lv Wen as a slave, Situ Ruoshui was completely unaware of all this.

Currently, she and Su Liuli were living in the villa purchased by Chu Ji in Tan Palace for Ye Fan and Su Yuxin.

"Big Brother, it wasn't my intention to expose Haotian Brother; it just slipped out unintentionally that day. I didn't expect my father to get so angry and kick Haotian Brother out," Situ Ruoshui said with a self-reproachful face, feeling guilty as she spoke to Ye Fan, "Big Brother, shall I go plead with my dad? I've never asked him for anything in my life, if I ask him to let Haotian Brother come back, dad will surely agree!"

"Ruoshui, trust is like a piece of paper; once it's crumpled, it can never return to its original state," Yuxin said.

Ye Fan couldn't help but be moved by Situ Ruoshui's kindness and managed a bitter smile, "Even if Situ Haotian came back, he wouldn't be able to regain your dad's trust as before. Besides, words spoken, like water thrown, cannot be taken back. Since your dad made that decision, it's impossible for him to let Situ Haotian return. Otherwise, his credibility would be gone."

"But... but big brother, Ruoshui feels so guilty, so sad," Situ Ruoshui said, her eyes reddening.

"Sigh..."

Ye Fan couldn't help but silently sigh. In his view, if Situ Haotian had even half of Situ Ruoshui's affection for him, he wouldn't have done something that enraged Situ Chen.

"Buzz... Buzz..."

Later, as Ye Fan was contemplating how to comfort Situ Ruoshui, he suddenly felt his phone vibrate in his pocket. He took it out immediately and, seeing the caller ID, pressed the answer button without hesitation.

"Little brat, how wonderful is cohabitating?"

As soon as the call connected, Chu Ji's familiar voice came through the earpiece, teasing as ever, "The Extremely Yang Body and the Extreme Yin Body together, tsk tsk, just the thought of it is wild. Shall your Aunt arrange a steel bed for you?"

"When will you ever be modest?"

Although Ye Fan had been teased by Chu Ji since he was a child, he still couldn't resist her playful banter and looked helpless.

"Modesty, how much for a pound?" said Chu Ji, giggling.

"__"

With a face full of exasperation, Ye Fan decided to change the subject: "Did you call me for a reason?"

"Um, it's October 11 tomorrow, and I plan to visit the Tianshan Group's Dong hai branch to inspect the work and by the way, teach Yuxin a cultivation technique suitable for women."

Chu Ji talked business when Ye Fan asked, "Also, Ye Wenhao is attending an economic conference in Dong hai the day after tomorrow; I'm planning to invite him to dinner. You and Yuxin should come too."

"Okay."

Ye Fan agreed without even a second thought.

"Good boy, let Aunt pinch your little willy," said Chu Ji, visibly relieved as Ye Fan agreed, then spoke, teasing again with a libertine laugh, "Goodbye, nephew."

"Beep... Beep..."

Hearing the busy tone coming from the handset and recalling Chu Ji's teasing words, Ye Fan was on the verge of tears; he thought any man who married Chu Ji would be living a nightmare!

While Ye Fan was reflecting inwardly, on the other end of the line, Chu Ji's smile faded as she dialed Ye Wenhao's number immediately, getting straight to the point: "I've called him, he agreed to have dinner."

"Thank you, Ji."

Ye Wenhao's face was full of smiles, his tone quite excited—he had wanted to have a meal with Ye Fan, so he had Chu Ji call him, and to avoid any misunderstandings, had Chu Ji claim it was her invitation.

"Sigh..."

Sensing the excitement in Ye Wenhao's words, Chu Ji couldn't help but sigh, as if asking Ye Wenhao, or perhaps asking herself, "How much longer?"

Ye Wenhao remained silent.

Storm clouds gather over a building full of wind!

Chapter 183: [The Storm is Coming!] Vote for Monthly Ticket!!

After noon, the splendid sunlight poured down like a golden waterfall, scattering across Ao Xiang Villa and making this famous place in the Yangtze River Delta sparkle with golden light.

Under the sun, the trees provided shade and the flowers were in full bloom, a group of unnamed birds chased each other above the villa, chirping nonstop, in high spirits.

Standing quietly on the balcony of Villa No.1, Brother Chen looked towards Villa No.2, his gaze complex.

That was Situ Haotian's villa.

To be exact, it had been.

From an emotional standpoint, Brother Chen had treated Situ Haotian almost like his own son for over a decade; he didn't wish to sever ties with Situ Haotian, to drive him out of the Dong Hai Gang, out of Dong Hai.

But reason told him that if Situ Haotian could do the things he did in Hanghu, then he definitely would not protect Situ Ruoshui as Chen himself would; instead, he suspected Situ Haotian might do something to fight for Situ Ruoshui's inheritance.

This was something Brother Chen absolutely didn't want to see!

Having lost his wife, he would not allow his daughter to be harmed a bit more!

"Click-clack! Click-clack!"

While Brother Chen was lost in thought, the sound of high heels striking the ground echoed, coming from behind him; Feng Jing stepped onto the balcony and walked towards him.

For some reason, after making a special effort, Feng Jing appeared especially beautiful today.

She wore a black dress that reached the ground and draped a sheer white shawl over her shoulders; her feet were in exposed high heels, her toes covered in black stockings, stirring provocative thoughts.

She had her hair neatly done up, and her makeup was a bit heavier than usual, less gentle yet more glamorous, which gave her the air of a wealthy aristocratic lady.

"Brother Chen,"

Soon, Feng Jing reached Brother Chen's side and naturally hooked her arm in his, speaking softly, "I don't have anything to do this afternoon since you have a meeting, so I was thinking of going shopping with Ruoshui."

"Why do you suddenly want to find Ruoshui?" asked Brother Chen, turning to look at Feng Jing.

Feng Jing let out a soft sigh, "Ruoshui and Haotian have always been close. With such an incident occurring, she must be feeling upset. It's a good opportunity for me to accompany her."

"It's rare for you to be so thoughtful; go ahead," Brother Chen said, his expression complex as he nodded.

"Mhm."

Feng Jing gently nodded, withdrew her arm, turned around, and sashayed away, her hips swaying.

The moment she turned, the warmth on her face vanished without a trace, replaced by a cold smile!

Ten minutes later, Feng Jing drove out of the villa in a Bentley limousine; Fei Si, Brother Chen's personal bodyguard, came alone to the balcony of Villa No.1 and greeted him, "Brother Chen!"

"Have they all arrived?" Brother Chen nodded slightly and inquired.

"I just called to check, and they've all arrived in Dong Hai, heading towards the villa now," Fei Si said, frowning slightly, "Brother Chen, something feels off to me."

"What is it?"

"Look, in the past, everyone would come a day in advance for the meetings, but this time, aside from Boss Liu, none of the others have shown up."

Fei Si expressed his confusion. The villa complex at Ao Xiang Villa had over a dozen villas, apart from the ones occupied by Brother Chen, Situ Ruoshui, and Situ Haotian; the rest were used to host guests. During past meetings, the elder members of the Dong Hai Gang would arrive a day early and stay in the villas at Ao Xiang Villa.

"In the past, they came early to pay respects and to report their recent work to me in advance, but since I met them a few days ago and they've already reported their work to me, it's normal for them to rush over today," Brother Chen smiled and thought little of it.

Without a word, and even though reason told Fei Si that Brother Chen's explanation made sense, he still felt something was amiss.

"Little Four, do you think I was too harsh in dealing with Haotian?" Brother Chen suddenly asked when Fei Si remained silent.

"Brother Chen, you had no choice."

Upon hearing this, Fei Si couldn't help but sigh. Having followed Brother Chen for many years, he knew Brother Chen was not one to show mercy easily, but he was a man of great loyalty and righteousness.

"Yes, I had no other choice."

Brother Chen smiled bitterly, "After the incident in Hanghu was exposed, I couldn't possibly trust him again, nor could I feel secure entrusting the empire to him. And he, too, would harbor suspicions and prejudice against me, leading to deeper conflicts if he stayed."

"Brother Chen, I'm going to say something you might not want to hear, but I've always felt that Situ Haotian is too cunning and ruthless," Fei Si hesitated before continuing, "At times, in previous years, I even suspected that he was an undercover agent Lin Tianyi planted by your side. Although observations over the years have ruled out that possibility, with the Hanghu incident, if you keep him here, it'll be fine if you pass on the empire to him in the future, but if you don't, with his temperament, he will definitely turn against you!"

Brother Chen raised an eyebrow slightly and fell silent, knowing that Fei Si was speaking the truth.

At Tan Palace Villa.

To cheer up Situ Ruoshui, Liu Li played League of Legends with her.

Different from how engrossed she used to be while gaming, Situ Ruoshui seemed to have not yet emerged from the shadow of the incident with Situ Haotian, somewhat absent-minded.

Later on, just as the two finished their first round, Situ Ruoshui's phone started flashing.

"Daddy, do you know how to sing Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star?"

"I don't."

"Then I'll teach you."

"Okay."

Twinkle twinkle little star

At the same time as her phone flickered, a ringtone sounded—it was the theme song of the hit show "Where Are We Going, Dad?" that had been popular nationwide a few years ago. Because Situ Chen was often too busy with work to take care of Situ Ruoshui, she had been especially fond of the show, watching every episode without fail. She even set this song as her ringtone and has kept it to this day.

Upon hearing the ringtone, Situ Ruoshui took off her pink headphones and picked up the phone, only to find a call from Feng Jing, and instinctively pressed the answer button, "Aunt Feng."

"Ruoshui, your dad said you're at Ye Fan's Tan Palace Villa, right?" On the other end of the line, inside the Bentley, Feng Jing asked gently.

"Yes, Aunt Feng, is something the matter?" Situ Ruoshui answered first and then asked.

"Here's the thing, your dad wants to see you, and he specifically sent me to pick you up." Feng Jing lied without changing her expression, still maintaining a gentle tone, "Wait for me at the villa, I'll be there in an hour."

"No need, Aunt Feng, I can get back on my own," Situ Ruoshui said, not suspecting Feng Jing's words, yet declining her kind offer.

Perhaps already anticipating that Situ Ruoshui would refuse, Feng Jing quickly added, "It's no trouble, I'm already out running errands, so it's on the way to pick you up."

"Alright then." Situ Ruoshui finally accepted Feng Jing's arrangement.

"Hoo~"

Upon hearing Ruoshui's agreement, Feng Jing secretly breathed a sigh of relief, then without wasting more words, she hung up the call and quickly composed a message: Situ Ruoshui agreed to let me pick her up, I expect to meet her in an hour.

After finishing the text message, Feng Jing found the latest number Situ Haotian had given her from her contacts and pressed send.

Soon, Situ Haotian replied: Don't let that bastard see anything fishy, send me a message after you've picked up Situ Ruoshui.

Alright.

Feng Jing replied again and then deleted the record, putting the phone into her Hermes handbag.

"What's wrong, Ruoshui?" At the same time, Su Liuli walked over and asked Situ Ruoshui.

"My dad wants to see me, he's sent Aunt Feng to pick me up," Situ Ruoshui said truthfully.

"I see, should we tell Brother Fan?" Su Liuli asked.

"No need, big brother is training in martial arts, let's not disturb him," Situ Ruoshui shook her head.

Su Liuli said no more upon hearing this.

Because she knew that Ye Fan had been utterly immersed in martial arts cultivation these last two days, apart from taking a little time each day to accompany Situ Ruoshui for a walk to clear her mind.

Indeed, that was the case, having solidified his Half-step Innate Realm, Ye Fan attempted to practice the final and most terrifying killing move of "Xuansha Fist," Qi Rushes to the Sky.

As the killing move and essence of "Xuansha Fist," Qi Rushes to the Sky was a powerful martial arts technique researched and perfected over a lifetime by Chu Xuanji. It had nine levels, and once the ninth layer was reached, one could unleash forces eighty-one times stronger than a normal attack!

This meant that if Ye Fan could master the ninth layer of Qi Rushes to the Sky, he could almost contend with opponents two realms higher than himself, and even mastering the first layer would allow him to face opponents one realm higher.

Due to his unique cultivation method, the storage and quality of his inner strength far surpassed martial artists of the same level. If he were to comprehend the first level of the Qi Rushes to the Sky technique, he could even manage to kill Early Innate Realm martial artists!

Originally, according to Chu Xuanji, the first layer of Qi Rushes to the Sky should only be practiced by Ye Fan after he had entered the Early Innate Realm. However, Ye Fan tried to practice the first layer when he was at Postnatal Perfection, and although he did not fully comprehend it, he managed to grasp the basics, able to unleash thrice his power.

"Logically, if I could unleash thrice my power with Qi Rushes to the Sky while at Postnatal Perfection, now that I have fully solidified the Half-step Innate Realm, comprehending the first layer to unleash nine times my power should not be difficult."

In a forest within the Tan Palace Noble District, Ye Fan was engulfed in an evil aura, standing under the sunlight like a wooden stake with his eyes closed, carefully recalling the way he punched and powered through just now, quietly pondering and visualizing the contents of "Xuansha Fist" in his mind.

In the World Martial Arts, speed is unrivaled!

This is the overarching principle of "Xuansha Fist"!

With this principle at its core, Chu Xuanji made speed the secret technique of "Xuansha Fist," constantly refining it until he created the two martial arts techniques that shook the martial arts world related to "Xuansha Fist"—the movement technique "Phantom" and Qi Rushes to the Sky.

Back then, Ye Fan was able to face off against the genius Yang Qing of the Hongwu Sect without being at a disadvantage, largely thanks to the "Phantom" movement technique.

Is it because my punching speed is not fast enough?

Ye Fan wondered to himself but couldn't arrive at an answer.

With no other choice, he could only explore and understand through practice.

"Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!"

For a while, the sound of air being torn echoed, as Ye Fan punched time and time again in the manner of unleashing Qi Rushes to the Sky, as fast as lightning and seemingly ferocious. However, each time there seemed to be something missing, preventing him from executing the first layer's full power of Qi Rushes to the Sky.

"It seems I'm too eager for success; I should go back and consider it carefully, and practice again tomorrow."

As the sunset gradually fell, Ye Fan ceased his practice. He also understood that hastiness would not bring success, and moreover, he had promised Chu Ji to have dinner with Ye Wenhao tonight and couldn't break the appointment.

At the same time.

Feng Jing's Bentley sedan, carrying Situ Ruoshui, slowly drove out of the Tan Palace Noble District and headed straight for Ao Xiang Villa...

Chapter 184: [The Black Tide Finally Appears]

"Where's Ruoshui?"

Ye Fan returned to the villa and found that Situ Ruoshui was not there, only Su Liuli was idly browsing the internet in the bedroom. He asked with some confusion.

"Aunt Feng picked her up, the woman who's always with her dad," Su Liuli replied.

Picked up by Feng Jing?

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan was first taken aback and then felt something was off. Although Situ Ruoshui respected Feng Jing greatly, it was only because of her simple and kind nature, not because she truly accepted Feng Jing as a replacement for her mother in her heart.

In such a situation, Ye Fan believed there was no reason for Feng Jing to seek out Situ Ruoshui unnecessarily.

"What's wrong?"

Seeing Ye Fan's expression change, Su Liuli couldn't help but ask.

"Did Ruoshui tell you what Feng Jing took her for?" Ye Fan countered.

"It seems like her dad wanted to see her and specifically sent Aunt Feng to pick her up," Su Liuli recalled.

Hearing Su Liuli's words, Ye Fan felt even more uneasy. In his view, there was no need for Feng Jing to personally pick up Situ Ruoshui if Situ Chen wanted to see her.

With this thought, Ye Fan hesitated for a moment but ultimately decided to take out his mobile phone and dialed Situ Chen's number.

"Xiao Fan, I'm about to start a meeting, is there something you need?" Situ Chen spoke first after the call connected following a fifteen-second delay, his tone slightly puzzled.

"I'm sorry for disturbing you, Uncle Situ," Ye Fan apologized, and then got straight to the point, "Aunt Feng just came over and took Ruoshui away. Are you aware of this?"

"Yes," replied Situ Chen. "Xiao Jing is worried about Ruoshui feeling down and wanted to take her out shopping to loosen up."

Shopping to loosen up?

Upon hearing these four words, Ye Fan's unease soared and he frowned, "Uncle Situ, as far as I know, Aunt Feng said that you wanted to see Ruoshui and specifically had her come to pick Ruoshui up."

"Oh?"

Upon hearing that, Situ Chen was first taken aback, then after pondering he said, "Xiao Jing probably said that to ensure Ruoshui would go, knowing how Ruoshui deeply resists her."

"I see."

Ye Fan thought for a moment and felt that Situ Chen made a lot of sense. He couldn't help thinking he was being overly suspicious. To avoid causing any further concern to Situ Chen, he added, "I was thinking, if you wanted to see Ruoshui, if you called me, I could have brought her over myself. There was no need for Aunt Feng to make the trip."

"No worries, it's fine for Xiao Jing to go."

Situ Chen was intending to end the call, as all the elders of the Dong Hai Gang were waiting for him to preside over the meeting. "Xiao Fan, if there's nothing else, I'll go to the meeting now, and we can talk more later."

"Sure," Ye Fan concluded the call proactively.

"Hey, wolf in sheep's clothing, seems like you want to have your cake and eat it too, eyeing Ruoshui while keeping Su Liuli. Planning to play the field, huh?" Su Liuli, noticing the concern that surfaced on Ye Fan's face, felt somewhat envious and teasingly said this after Ye Fan hung up the call.

"You're thinking too much."

Ye Fan, hearing this, pondered momentarily. He didn't share his suspicions and concerns with Su Liuli but instead changed the subject, "I'm going to have dinner with your sister and my senior sister, Chu Ji. Do you want to come?"

"I appreciate the thought, but I'm not keen on being a third wheel. Besides, I have plans tonight," Su Liuli stood up, held her head high with confidence, and declined Ye Fan's invitation.

Ye Fan couldn't help but smile wryly, refrained from further conversation, quickly went upstairs to take a shower, and then drove to the restaurant Chu Ji had already booked.

Ao Xiang Villa.

After ending the call with Ye Fan, Situ Chen put away his phone and stepped into the meeting room.

The meeting room covered an area of two hundred square meters, with an oval conference table made of pear wood situated right in front of the entrance. There were resting areas on both sides of the entrance, furnished with several groups of sofas and coffee tables, as well as some potted plants.

Inside the meeting room, including Fei Si and Liu Tianjun, there were a total of eleven people seated. Fei Si sat in the position below and to the left of Situ Chen—as a Postnatal Perfection strong person and Situ Chen’s personal bodyguard, he held the highest prestige in the entire Dong Hai Gang next to Situ Chen.

Sitting to the right, below Situ Chen, was the helmsman of the Jiangnan Dong Hai Gang, Liu Tianjun. Although his status had fallen continually due to being suppressed by Qiao Bazhi for two years, causing his influence to gradually diminish, he was the most senior in terms of service and was considered the nominal third most important person.

Seated on the left side of the second row was an elder man wearing glasses and dressed in silk Tang attire, toying with a string of Buddha beads, exuding an aura of elegance and refinement.

His surname was Qi, given name Qi, known in the underworld as Mr. Qi. He was one of the veterans who supported Situ Chen in his rise to power, acting as a strategist during the conquest era. Now, he was responsible for the Nansu region within the Dong Hai Gang.

In terms of influence, he was second only to Situ Chen and Fei Si; in terms of control over manpower, financial resources, and networks, he was second only to Situ Chen, making him the true second or even third most important person in the Dong Hai Gang.

Sitting opposite Qi Qi was a middle-aged man dressed in designer brands, sporting gold-rimmed glasses, and exuding a businessman’s aura.

His last name was Jin, first name Ye, mainly responsible for the Dong Hai Gang’s legitimate businesses, as well as laundering the gang’s illicit income in secret, acting as the gang’s chief steward.

Compared to these four, the other six people had relatively lesser status within the Dong Hai Gang. Though also responsible for various businesses, none of them were core enterprises. They were leveraging their old qualifications from following Situ Chen in the early days, serving as shareholders of the Dong Hai Group’s industries, and receiving dividends annually.

And at the end of the conference table, one seat remained vacant.

That seat once belonged to Situ Haotian!

Although Situ Haotian's seat was at the very end, he was in charge of the Dong Hai Gang's most critical gray income business—smuggling!

Meanwhile, because he had once been Situ Chen's adopted son, the Crown Prince of the Dong hai Gang, his status in the gang was extraordinary, even surpassing Fei Si and Qi Qi!

After sitting back down at the conference table, Situ Chen cast an unintentional glance at the empty seat, then leaned slightly forward, hands pressed on the table, his gaze sweeping over everyone's faces as he slowly said, "The third quarter has already passed. In the past quarter, the gang went through a lot and encountered a number of problems. The main reason for convening this meeting today is to discuss solutions."

"Boss, I think before we discuss solutions, you should give us an explanation."

No sooner had Situ Chen's voice faded than a discordant voice rose in the meeting room. The speaker was Qi Qi, the person in charge of the Nan Su section of the Dong hai Gang, who leaned back lazily in his seat and played with his Buddha Beads, appearing somewhat detached.

Hmm?

Qi Qi's statement caught everyone, including Situ Chen, by surprise, and they all turned their eyes to him. Situ Chen and Fei Si raised their eyebrows slightly, Liu Tianjun showed anger on his face, while the others appeared thoughtful.

"What do my brothers think of my proposal?"

Seeing himself become the focus of the meeting room, Qi Qi showed no sign of nervousness, instead he casually scanned the faces of the Dong hai Gang elders other than Situ Chen, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun.

"I agree with Brother Qi's suggestion."

"I agree too!"

...

Following Qi Qi's remark, aside from Situ Chen, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun, everyone else began voicing their agreement.

"What are you trying to do?"

Liu Tianjun had always been known for his fiery temper, and seeing this scene, he immediately got angry, "Are you trying to question the big brother?"

"Tianjun, the recent incidents concern the life and death of the gang. The boss made decisions without consulting us, and we would like an explanation from the big brother. That's not too much to ask, is it?" Qi Qi straightened up, stopped playing with his Buddha Beads, and spoke nonchalantly yet with an undercurrent of assertiveness.

Upon hearing Qi Qi's words for the second time, Situ Chen furrowed his brows even more deeply and asked gravely, "Brother Qi, may I ask what explanation you want?"

"Two explanations."

Qi Qi looked fearlessly into Situ Chen's eyes and articulated clearly, "First, why did the boss offend Lv Canghai, and even break with him, over a kid named Ye Fan, causing us to lose the most important protection in the legitimate world? Secondly, Haotian may have done wrong, but over the years, he has made significant contributions to the gang. Wasn't it a bit too much for the boss to kick him out of the gang outright?"

"Do the rest of you also want an explanation for these two issues?" Situ Chen asked, turning his gaze towards the others.

"Yes, boss!"

Feeling the pressure from Situ Chen's gaze, each of the others avoided eye contact but expressed their support for Qi Qi's stance.

"Since that is the case, before we move on to discussing solutions, let me explain to everyone."

Situ Chen, seeing the reaction, knitted his brows tightly and spoke with a somewhat deeper tone, "First off, you all must have heard of Xiao Fan's deeds. It can be said that our ability to firmly establish our footing in Jiangnan and drive Nanqinghong out was all because of Xiao Fan's merit—he sequentially eliminated Qiao Bazhi and Lin Ao Feng, preventing Nanqinghong from daring to step half into Jiangnan!"

"The affair between Xiao Fan and Lv Canghai's son, Lu Wen, was brought on by Lu Wen himself."

At this point, Situ Chen deliberately slowed his speech and fixed his eyes on Qi Qi like a knife, "Under such circumstances, if I stood on Lv Canghai's side, it would amount to repaying Xiao Fan's kindness with ingratitude and be ridiculed by others in the underworld! Furthermore, Xiao Fan is the nephew of the Demon Queen Chu Ji, who is the mastermind behind the Tianshan Group. If we were to turn against Xiao Fan, we would offend Chu Ji, and our Dong hai Gang simply cannot afford the wrath of the Demon Queen! Lastly, Xiao Fan once saved my daughter Ruoshui; in making my choice, my personal feelings inevitably played a part."

"As for the second matter, I had sent Situ Haotian and Xiao Jiu to Hanghu to protect Ruoshui. When Ruoshui was kidnapped, Situ Haotian not only failed to rescue her but also prevented Xiao Jiu from doing so, insisting that Xiao Jiu protect him as they fled. To avoid my punishment afterward, he deliberately injured himself to create the illusion that he was hurt!"

Having provided his explanation, Situ Chen's gaze swept over everyone again, "Any more objections?"

"Boss, we don't dare offend Chu Ji, but are we willing to offend Lv Canghai? You know, Lv Canghai is the person in charge of the Yanhuang Organization in the Dong hai Region!" someone objected.

"Yeah, not to mention losing Lv Canghai's protection, we couldn't resist an invasion from Nanqinghong, and if Lv Canghai wanted to retaliate against us, it would be our nightmare!" another person agreed.

"You don't need to remind me of these things!"

Although Situ Chen was unaware of why everyone was acting unusually today, his anger was somewhat aroused. He glared at the two speakers with a knife-like look and said word by word, "Lv Canghai's master and my master were fellow disciples; he's technically my elder martial brother, so of course, I understand his significance to our Dong hai Gang!"

"Heh heh... haven't you guys figured it out yet?"

Upon hearing Situ Chen's response, Qi Qi couldn't help but laugh, "All your explanations boil down to the fact that when you did these two things, Situ Chen, you did not consider the bigger picture at all; rather, you were acting on selfish interests, prioritizing personal feelings! Or should I say, were you trying to preserve your 'noble' reputation?"

"Smack!"

Liu Tianjun was already somewhat annoyed with Qi Qi today and seeing him addressing Situ Chen by name as well as mocking him, he immediately slammed the conference table, stood up, and roared in a low voice, "Qi Qi, do you bloody well want to start a rebellion?"

"Gentlemen, you can eat whatever you want, but words must not be spoken carelessly."

Fei Si, who had been silent until now, suddenly spoke up. As he spoke, he looked expressionlessly at Qi Qi and the others, his tone chilly as a Siberian cold wave, sending shivers down their spines, "Breaking the rules means you will be punished by the family law!"

"Bang—"

Just as Fei Si finished speaking, a muffled sound rang out as the meeting room door was kicked open.

Swish!

At the sound, everyone, Situ Chen included, turned their attention to the doorway in unison.

"Uncle Four is so imposing."

With everyone watching, Situ Haotian walked into the meeting room with sarcasm on his face.

Chapter 185: [Bai Yan Wolf!] Vote for Monthly Ticket!!!

Whoosh!

With the arrival of Situ Haotian, the originally noisy conference room instantly quieted down as the faces of Situ Chen, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun immediately changed!

The other Donghai Gang elders, led by Qi Qi, secretly breathed a sigh of relief—if they hadn't known that Situ Haotian would appear at the most critical moment, how would they dare to challenge Situ Chen?

After secretly letting out a breath, Qi Qi and the others seemed to sense that the overall situation was already decided, and they couldn't help but burst into laughter.

"Damn it, you bastards think you can team up with that little brat Situ Haotian and rebel, huh?"

Seeing the smiles on the faces of Qi Qi and the others, Liu Tianjun suddenly realized what was happening, jerked to his feet, and shouted furiously, "I suppose you all are tired of living, aren't you?"

"Liu Tianjun, you think you have a loud voice, huh?" Situ Haotian turned his head, coldly staring at Liu Tianjun, as if looking at a dead man.

"Uh..."

Feeling Situ Haotian's icy gaze, Liu Tianjun felt as if he had fallen into an ice cellar, a chill spreading throughout his body.

Hm?

At the same time, Situ Chen and Fei Si were taken aback by the strong aura emanating from Situ Haotian, their pupils dilated and their faces instantly dominated by an expression of horror!

"You little bastard, what did you say?"

After a moment of fear, Liu Tianjun suddenly snapped back to reality, thinking about how he had just been frightened by Situ Haotian's words, he became enraged and roared thunderously.

"Swoosh—"

Without answering, Situ Haotian sprung from his spot like a ghost, rapidly swooping toward Liu Tianjun.

"Be careful!"

Situ Chen and Fei Si yelled almost simultaneously in warning.

However—

No sooner had their warnings sounded than Situ Haotian appeared in front of Liu Tianjun. His right hand swung out, grasping toward Liu Tianjun's neck like an iron claw!

Although Liu Tianjun held the position of Jiangnan leader in the Dong Hai Gang, his status was based on seniority and the trust of Situ Chen. When it came to his own strength, he hadn't even learned meditation, much less stepped onto the threshold of becoming a Martial Artist.

In such a scenario, how could he possibly withstand the sudden attack from Situ Haotian?

Whoosh!

Before Liu Tianjun could make any evasive moves, Situ Haotian's right hand clamped on Liu Tianjun's neck like a steel vice, lifting him into the air as if he were a little chicken!

"Ugh..."

With his neck clamped, Liu Tianjun struggled to breathe, his face turning a purplish red as he tried to struggle, but he felt as if all the strength had been sucked out of his body, leaving him incapable of moving.

"Put down Tianjun!"

Witnessing this scene, Situ Chen's face changed, and he instantly stood up, glaring furiously at Situ Haotian.

"Mr. Situ, have you forgotten that I've already left the Dong Hai Gang?" Situ Haotian tauntingly looked at Situ Chen and said, "Since that's the case, why should I listen to you?"

"Haotian, you've already missed one opportunity; you can't make another mistake!"

Hearing Situ Haotian's words, Situ Chen's face became somewhat unsightly, whether due to guilt or the power exhibited by Situ Haotian. His tone softened, and the way he addressed Situ Haotian changed as well.

"Haotian?"

Situ Haotian sneered and said, "Heh! Situ Chen, it seems I'm no longer related to you, so don't act like we're familiar!"

"You..."

Situ Chen trembled with rage, took a deep breath, and then stared angrily at Situ Haotian and asked, "What do you intend to do?"

"What do you think?"

Situ Haotian sneered, slowly increasing the force in his hand. Liu Tianjun's eyes bulged, his tongue stuck out, his flushed face entirely dominated by the fear of death.

"No... don't!" Situ Chen tried to step forward but was held back by Fei Si.

"Situ Haotian, although I do not know who has empowered you, leading to a sudden increase in your strength, do you think you can do whatever you want?" Fei Si, like a War God, guarded in front of Situ Chen, his fierce killing intent suddenly emerging from his body, pressing towards Situ Haotian with an overwhelming force.

Click!

Feeling the savage killing intent emanating from Fei Si, Qi Qi and the others felt the temperature in the conference room plummet, sending a shudder through their hearts. They then all turned their attention to Situ Haotian, wondering how he would respond, or even if he could stand his ground against, or even kill, Fei Si.

"Heh heh... Are you threatening me?"

Under the watchful eyes of Qi Qi and the others, Situ Haotian scoffed with disdain, and his right hand suddenly burst with power.

"Crack—"

With the release of power, the sound of breaking bones echoed, Liu Tianjun's Adam's apple shattered instantly, his head flopped to the side, and he died on the spot.

"Uh..."

Upon seeing this scene, Situ Chen instinctively opened his mouth to say something, but his mind went blank, his expression filled with horror.

Not just him, but Qi Qi and the others too!

Even though they knew that Situ Haotian had been empowered and his strength had greatly increased, causing him to join their rebellion, they had not expected Situ Haotian to kill Liu Tianjun so cleanly and efficiently, without even blinking an eye!

"Woosh!"

As Situ Chen and Qi Qi stood in shock, the sound of something cutting through the air rang out, and Fei Si leaped forward, raising his Hand Blade to strike at Situ Haotian.

Situ Haotian's Consciousness stirred, and he snickered, flinging the corpse of Liu Tianjun aside.

Fei Si's face underwent a slight change, and he swiftly altered his Hand Blade to a grab, catching the corpse of Liu Tianjun, slowing down, and preparing to retreat explosively!

"Where do you think you're going?"

Situ Haotian snickered coldly, his figure blurred and instantly appearing beside Fei Si. His Hand Blade swept out, chopping down from above towards Fei Si's head with full strength!

Fei Si's heart jolted, and in a haste, he stepped back, raising his left arm in an attempt to block Situ Haotian's Hand Blade.

"Bang——"

"Crack——"

As the Hand Blade struck, Fei Si's arm couldn't withstand the terrifying Power, it snapped off, and his blood energy roiled inside him.

Swoosh!

Having landed a blow, Situ Haotian didn't pause. His right foot tensed, the tip of his foot like a knife, and he viciously kicked at Fei Si's ankle.

With his arm disabled and his blood energy in chaos, Fei Si's Reflex was more than just a little slow. Facing Situ Haotian's swift attack, he scarcely managed to dodge before the Whip Kick struck.

"Crack——"

The sound of breaking bones echoed again, Fei Si's left ankle shattered, he lost his balance, and he toppled to the ground alongside the corpse of Liu Tianjun.

"Ugh..."

The sudden turn of events left Situ Chen staring in shock, dumbstruck. Although he'd heard about the wonders of empowerment, he couldn't believe that Situ Haotian could become so strong in just a few short days!

It wasn't just him; even Qi Qi and the others were taken aback.

In their eyes, although Situ Haotian's strength had increased, defeating Fei Si, the Dong Hai Gang's strongest warrior, was by no means an easy feat!

And now, with just a few moves, Situ Haotian had disabled an arm and leg of Fei Si, almost completely stripping him of his combat capabilities...

How could they not be astonished?

"You just used Hong Fist!"

As Situ Chen and the others were in shock, on the ground, Fei Si, using his uninjured right hand, pushed Liu Tianjun's corpse away and stared intently at Situ Haotian, "Did you ally with Hongwu Sect?"

"You're really experienced, Uncle Four. You recognized the origin of my Kung Fu right away." Hearing this, Situ Haotian laughed in praise, although his smile was filled with sarcasm.

"You... you actually allied with Hongwu Sect?"

Situ Haotian's words snapped Situ Chen out of his shock. He glared at Situ Haotian, angrily roaring, "Why would you do this?"

"Why?"

Situ Haotian, hearing this, laughed uproariously as though he'd just heard the world's most ignorant question, "Old Bastard Situ, you actually ask me why? You were heartless, don't blame me for being disloyal—in the moment you had me kicked out of the Dong Hai Gang like a lost dog, you should have foreseen this day coming!"

"For years, I've treated you like my own son, I even planned on handing over this empire to you!"

Situ Chen trembled with rage, "Even if I cut ties with you because of the Hanghu affair and banished you from the Dong Hai, I only seized your known assets, not the money you've saved up privately all these years..."

"Enough!"

Situ Haotian suddenly bellowed, cutting off Situ Chen's words, coldly saying, "Situ Chen, there's no pill for regret in this world, talking about this now is useless! Utterly useless!"

"You..."

Situ Chen turned purple with rage, nearly fainting.

"Situ Haotian, Brother Chen was going to give you the Dong Hai Gang, spare him a way out." Fei Si chimed in.

"Give?"

Situ Haotian sneered incessantly, "Is this what you call giving? This isn't giving! This is me taking back what was originally mine!"

"Could... could it be that you want to eradicate us completely?"

The thought shocked Fei Si, but he feigned calm and said, "If you do this, you will be violating the rules of the Yanhuang Organization, and the Yanhuang Organization won't let you off!"

"Yanhuang Organization? Uncle Four, my dear uncle, do you think Lv Canghai would move against me because of your deaths?" Situ Haotian sneered derisively.

"That's right, Lv Canghai won't do that!"

Seeing that Situ Haotian intended not only to usurp power but also to completely eliminate him and Fei Si, Situ Chen regained his senses amidst the anger. He stared coldly at Situ Haotian and said word by word, "But do you think I, Situ Chen, have managed to hold my ground in the Yangtze River Delta solely because of him, Lv Canghai?"

"My dear foster father, are you threatening me?" Situ Haotian sneered, "I'm so scared."

"Then you might as well try!" Situ Chen snapped back, regaining some of the aura of the Yangtze River Delta Underground World's Godfather.

"I said I'm scared, how could I dare to try?"

Despite what he said, Situ Haotian's face showed no fear, only mockery, "Of course, I will find a suitable scapegoat to take the blame for all this. For instance, I think Ye Fan, that bastard, would be perfect."

"Heh!"

This time, Situ Chen didn't say anything more but only sneered coldly, not believing Situ Haotian could pin today's events on Ye Fan.

"My dear foster father, if you give that bastard Ye Fan a call and ask him to come here, I might consider sparing you and Uncle Four; how about that?" Situ Haotian asked with a smile.

Eh?

Upon hearing Situ Haotian's words again, Situ Chen's expression suddenly changed, "Is Hongwu Sect's people also here?"

"Smart!"

Situ Haotian spoke as if chatting with an old friend, "How could I dare to have that bastard Ye Fan come here without Hongwu Sect's masters backing me up? I'm not a match for him!"

"You... you wish!"

Situ Chen raged.

"Old Bastard Situ, you can choose to refuse."

Situ Haotian completely disregarded Situ Chen's fury, coldly walked up to Fei Si, and stepped on his face, "But I promise, Fei Si's head will be crushed by me like a watermelon!"

Chapter 186: [Make You Regret Being Reborn as a Human!] First Update!

"You..."

Seeing this, Brother Chen instinctively pointed at Situ Haotian, trying to stop him, but his reason told him that unless he tricked Ye Fan here as Situ Haotian had said, Situ Haotian would definitely crush Fei Si's head.

Old Bastard Situ, don't doubt my words, I mean what I say!" Situ Haotian advanced step by step.

Brother Chen, don't mind me!" Fei Si's face twisted, and he yelled hoarsely.

"Hmph!"

Hearing Fei Si's defiant words, Situ Haotian snorted coldly, suddenly lifted his right foot, and stomped down with all his might on Fei Si's uninjured right knee!

"Crack—"

A crisp sound transmitted, Fei Si's right knee instantly shattered, and the intense pain caused his body to convulse ceaselessly; but he clenched his teeth, stubbornly not making a sound.

Seeing this scene, Brother Chen's eyes turned bloodshot, his facial muscles completely twisted, and his fists clenched tightly together, as if he was ready to fight Situ Haotian to the death.

Old Bastard Situ, everyone says you are noble as the skies, a rebirth of Lord Guan himself, but now, for the sake of an outsider, you are watching a brother who has followed you for years die, you truly don't deserve the virtue ascribed to you!" Situ Haotian spoke again, forcing Brother Chen to make a choice.

Without answering, Brother Chen's expression was one of extreme agony—he didn't want to see Fei Si die from Situ Haotian's torment because of him, nor did he want to betray his conscience by tricking Ye Fan here, making Ye Fan the target of Situ Haotian's framing!

"Bai Yan wolf, if you dare, just kill me!"

Catching sight of Brother Chen's agonized expression, Fei Si felt as if his heart was being sliced, his face ferociously roared at Situ Haotian.

"As long as Brother Chen says half a 'no,' I will send you to Yama Palace immediately!" Situ Haotian looked down at Fei Si, as if replying to Fei Si, but more so issuing a final ultimatum to Brother Chen.

"Little Four, at this point, even if I do what this Bai Yan wolf tells me to, he won't let us off!"

Finally, Brother Chen spoke. He seemed to have realized something, his expression no longer pained but indifferent, "I'm sorry, it's Big Brother who dragged you into this!"

"Big Brother, it's Little Four's fault for not being able to protect you!" A tear of blood streamed from Fei Si's eyes, the strongest man of the Dong hai Gang, choking up like a child.

"Tsk tsk, such good brothers, so righteous, I'm almost moved to tears!"

Hearing the conversation between Brother Chen and Fei Si, Situ Haotian felt so annoyed his teeth itched, his tone sarcastic, and then his expression suddenly changed, and he coldly shouted, "Since you want to die, I'll grant you that!"

"Smash—"

As soon as the words fell, Situ Haotian emotionlessly swung his foot and stomped down hard, crushing Fei Si's head into a pulp.

"Little Four!!"

Seeing this scene, Brother Chen felt as if someone had stabbed him in the chest, the pain so intense he couldn't breathe, and he rushed forward with a shout.

"Bang—"

However, before he could reach Fei Si, Situ Haotian, as if kicking a dog, kicked him down to the ground.

"Brother Chen, I'll give you another chance, are you willing to trick that bastard Ye Fan here or not?" Under the lights, Situ Haotian looked down at Brother Chen as if he were looking at a dead dog.

Ignoring the pain in his chest, Brother Chen first glared with reddened eyes at Fei Si's corpse, then slowly shifted his gaze from Fei Si's body, and looked up at Situ Haotian, his voice hoarse: "Bai Yan wolf, don't waste your breath, I won't do it!"

"Ssss~"

Situ Haotian inhales a breath of cold air, angered that Brother Chen would choose to remain so loyal to Ye Fan for a mere oath.

"Bai Yan wolf, what goes around comes around, you won't end well!"

Brother Chen stared fiercely at Situ Haotian, sneering, "If Xiao Fan learns of your actions, he won't let you off!"

Old Bastard Situ, I see you won't shed tears until you see the coffin!"

Situ Haotian seemed enraged, and as he spoke, he pulled out his mobile phone and dialed a number, asking, "Have you arrived at the villa?"

"I've just entered, almost at Villa 16."

"Bring the person to the meeting room immediately! "

Having given the order, Situ Haotian no longer minced words, hung up the phone and coldly stared at Brother Chen: "Old Bastard Situ, I don't believe you would willingly watch your daughter die for a damn oath!"

"Ruoshui is in your hands?"

Brother Chen's expression changed again, ever since the mother of Ruoshui had died, Ruoshui had become the apple of his eye, his precious gem, and he was unwilling to let Ruoshui suffer even the slightest bit.

If it hadn't been for this reason, he wouldn't have been so enraged by Situ Haotian's actions in Hanghu, leading to their severing ties and expelling Situ Haotian from the Dong hai Gang!

"You can continue to be loyal to that damn oath." Situ Haotian answered equivocally, which was essentially an indirect answer.

"All this time, Ruoshui has treated you like her own brother. Even, because of your departure, she's been downhearted, blaming herself, believing she shouldn't have exposed you, and yet you do this to her! Beast! You beast!!!"

Hearing Situ Haotian's words, Brother Chen became agitated, disregarding his injuries, he got up from the ground and like a furious lion, lunged at Situ Haotian.

"Bang—"

Seeing this, Situ Haotian, without a second word, kicked Brother Chen down again.

"Old Bastard Situ, no need to struggle, killing you is as easy as crushing an ant." Situ Haotian coldly said, "Just do as I told you, and I promise not to kill your daughter!"

"Do you think I would believe you, you beast??" Brother Chen stared hatefully at Situ Haotian, roaring hoarsely.

"Since you don't believe, then I have no choice but to send your daughter off right in front of your eyes." Situ Haotian sat at the head of the conference table with a cold smile.

Meanwhile, led by Qi Qi, those Dong hai Gang elders apparently stunned by Situ Haotian's ruthless actions, couldn't help but feel relieved that they had made the right decision to side with Situ Haotian back then.

Feeling relieved, they all looked at Situ Haotian with a gaze filled with extreme reverence, not even daring to breathe heavily, fearing they might provoke Situ Haotian.

Tap! Tap!

Half a minute later, crisp footsteps suddenly came from outside the conference room.

Creak!

Soon, the footsteps abruptly stopped, and the door to the conference room was pushed open. Feng Jing, in a black long dress, sashayed into the room, her hips swaying.

Whoosh!

As Feng Jing arrived, everyone, including Situ Chen, couldn't help but turn their gaze towards her.

Seeing Feng Jing's provocative figure, led by Qi Qi, the elders of the Dong Hai Gang couldn't help but secretly lament that Situ Haotian was really too cruel. He wanted not only to exterminate the Situ Family, but also to sleep with Situ Chen's woman!

And Situ Chen's face turned extremely ugly!

As the saying goes, familiarity breeds fondness. Although he had always loved his deceased wife deep in his heart, he had some feelings for Feng Jing.

Earlier, when he found out that Situ Ruoshui was in the hands of Situ Haotian, he thought that Feng Jing had also betrayed him, but seeing her now, he still found it somewhat hard to accept.

"Uh..."

The next moment, before Situ Chen had time to recover from the blow, his pupils suddenly dilated to their maximum!

Following his gaze, it was clear to see that Feng Jing's bodyguard was carrying Situ Ruoshui into the room!

"Ruoshui!!"

Seeing Situ Ruoshui, Situ Chen reflexively sprang from the ground and rushed toward her.

This time, Situ Haotian did not stop him, but signaled Feng Jing's bodyguard with a glance, who understood immediately and threw Situ Ruoshui into Situ Chen's arms.

Situ Chen caught Situ Ruoshui the moment she was thrown to him.

Perhaps it was because Situ Chen's earlier cry was too loud or because it was painful for her when she landed in his arms, Situ Ruoshui slowly opened her eyes; the first thing she saw was Situ Chen's contorted and angry face, and she instinctively asked, "Dad... Dad, what's wrong?"

"Ah—"

As the words left her mouth, Situ Ruoshui's consciousness became clear, and in the corner of her eye, she distinctly saw Fei Si with his head smashed, screamed in fright, and clung tightly to Situ Chen.

"Old Bastard Situ, your daughter is so innocent and kind, do you have the heart to let her watch this scene that's like Hell, suffering and dying slowly?" Situ Haotian said, speaking again.

"Brother Haotian, you..." Hearing Situ Haotian's words, Situ Ruoshui instinctively turned her head to look, trying to say something.

Only—

Before she could finish her sentence, she was harshly interrupted by Situ Haotian with a cold laugh, "Ruoshui, I actually don't want to kill you, but your dad is not cooperating with me, so I had to be ruthless."

"I promise you!"

For some reason, at this moment, Situ Chen, no longer as furious as before, appeared calm.

"Haha, it seems your daughter is more effective after all."

Situ Haotian secretly breathed a sigh of relief, tauntingly laughed, then picked up Situ Chen's cell phone from the conference table and passed it to him.

"Whew~"

Like making a momentous decision, Situ Chen took a deep breath before accepting the cell phone, holding Situ Ruoshui, and walked towards a corner of the conference room.

Seeing this, Situ Haotian did not interfere, but watched Situ Chen's every move.

Soon, Situ Chen, holding Situ Ruoshui, walked to the corner, put her down in front of him, and quickly dialed Ye Fan's number.

"Xiao Fan, this Bai Yan wolf, Situ Haotian, not only conspired with the Hongwu Sect to rebel but also tried to force me to lure you to the villa and frame you. You must not come here!" As soon as the call connected, Situ Chen quickly said.

"You're seeking death!"

Situ Haotian burst into rage, roaring as he lunged toward Situ Chen. He originally thought that Situ Chen would deceive Ye Fan into coming to the villa because of Situ Ruoshui, but he never expected that Situ Chen would actually seize this opportunity to reveal the truth to Ye Fan!

"Xiao Fan, please bury me and Ruoshui next to her mother..."

While talking, Situ Chen's voice abruptly stopped, as he was violently whipped away by Situ Haotian, blood spewing from his mouth.

"Daddy!!"

Situ Ruoshui cried out as she ran toward Situ Chen.

"Uncle Situ!"

On the other end of the phone, Ye Fan, who was driving to the banquet, suddenly slammed on the brakes, his face instantly turned furious!

"Ye Fan, listen, if I don't see you at Ao Xiang Villa within half an hour, you'll come to pick up the bodies of Situ Chen and Situ Ruoshui!"

Inside the villa conference room, Situ Haotian caught Situ Chen's cell phone and threatened in a cold voice, "Remember, I'm only giving you half an hour, and you must come alone!"

"Situ Haotian, I will arrive at Ao Xiang Villa within half an hour!"

Hearing Situ Haotian's threat in his ear, Ye Fan replied fiercely, "From now on, if you dare touch them again, I'll make you regret being born into this lifetime!"

Chapter 187: [Coming Out of Seclusion!]

"Haha... hahaha..."

Upon hearing Ye Fan's threat, Situ Haotian laughed unrestrainedly, as if he had heard the funniest joke in the world, "You'd better hurry up; no waiting once the deadline passes!"

As soon as his words ended, Situ Haotian didn't waste any more words and hung up the phone directly.

"Dad... Daddy, are you alright?"

Meanwhile, Situ Ruoshui rushed to Situ Chen's side, crying, with trembling hands reaching out to lift Situ Chen's head with difficulty.

"Pu-chi—"

No answer came. Instead, Situ Chen's body convulsed as he spat out a mouthful of bloody sputum.

"Dad!"

"Ru... Ruoshui, Daddy's fine..."

With a pale face, Situ Chen weakly lifted his hand, gently wiped the tears from Situ Ruoshui's face, and tried to squeeze out a smile, "Ruoshui, don't cry."

"Daddy, you're not going to be in any trouble; you promised to be with Ruoshui for a lifetime!" Situ Ruoshui cried even harder, trying to wipe the blood from the corner of Situ Chen's mouth, but her wiping couldn't keep up with the speed of Situ Chen's bleeding.

"I'm sorry... Sorry, Ruoshui, I'm not a competent dad."

As Situ Chen spoke, he spat out another mouthful of blood, and then a little color gradually returned to his pale face as he slowly sat up.

A flicker of vitality before death!

Seeing this, Qi Qi and the others all knew this was a sign that Situ Chen was experiencing a brief resurgence of energy before death!

"Situ Haotian, if you kill Ruoshui, you won't be able to gain my entire fortune!" Situ Chen sat up, calmly looking at Situ Haotian, "Ruoshui is my only heir!"

"Hmph, so that was your plan, that's why you dared to call that bastard and inform him."

Upon hearing this, Situ Haotian said coldly, "Don't worry, I won't kill her. I will send her to Lu Wen to serve him as a slave for her entire life!"

"You won't have the chance, Xiao Fan won't let you off!"

Situ Chen spoke in a low tone, and then his breathing became rapid. His body started to shake violently, "He... he... will... avenge... me!"

With that, he drew his last breath!

Situ Chen fell into the arms of Situ Ruoshui.

"Dad!!"

Situ Ruoshui extended her hands in horror, gently touching Situ Chen's cheek, crying out loudly.

There was no response, but Situ Chen's face was filled with a smile.

Because, he knew his daughter wouldn't die, and also because he had successfully communicated the insider information to Ye Fan!

...

At the same time as Situ Chen died in Situ Ruoshui's arms, Ye Fan turned the car around and, while driving, he took out his cell phone to call Chu Ji.

"I can't make it!" Upon connection, Ye Fan said in a deep voice on the phone.

"What happened?"

Chu Ji, who had just arrived at the restaurant with Su Yuxin and was about to order, picked up Ye Fan's call. Sensing the heaviness in Ye Fan's voice, her expression shifted.

"Situ Chen's adopted son, Situ Haotian, has colluded with the Hongwu Sect to seize power, kidnapping Situ Chen and Situ Ruoshui. I'm going to rescue them!" Ye Fan explained.

"Where are you now?" Hearing this, Chu Ji felt a bad premonition and asked urgently.

"I'm on my way to Ao Xiang Villa..."

"Xiao Fan, don't be reckless. I'll come with you!" Interrupting Ye Fan, Chu Ji spoke because of the unease in her heart.

"It's too late. I must get there within half an hour, otherwise Situ Haotian will kill someone!" Although Ye Fan knew it would be safer if Chu Ji could accompany him, he couldn't wait any longer.

"Xiao Fan..."

Inside the restaurant, Chu Ji wanted to say more, but found that Ye Fan had already hung up the phone.

"Sister Chu, what happened?" Su Yuxin asked, concerned.

"Yuxin, Xiao Fan is in trouble. I'm going now to help him deal with it. You stay here and don't go anywhere. I will send someone to pick you up!" Chu Ji said, then got up hurriedly and quickly left the restaurant.

Exiting the restaurant, Chu Ji rushed into a Rolls-Royce Phantom, started the car, and dialed Ye Wenhao's phone: "Cancel tonight's dinner!"

"What happened?"

"Xiao Fan is in trouble!" Chu Ji said succinctly.

"What's the matter?" Ye Wenhao's expression changed.

"There's trouble with the Dong Hai Gang. Situ Chen's adopted son has colluded with the Hongwu Sect to kidnap Situ Chen and Situ Ruoshui. He's going to save them!"

Pressing the accelerator, Chu Ji drove out of the parking lot with one hand, her tone slightly somber, "I suspect it's a trap. The end goal of the Hongwu Sect might be Xiao Fan. I need to get there immediately to help him!"

"Where?"

"Ao Xiang Villa!"

Upon hearing the location, Ye Wenhao didn't say anything else but hung up the phone and coldly told the driver, "Pull over and get out!"

Though perplexed, the driver complied immediately, parking the car and stepping out.

Without delay, Ye Wenhao crouched to slip into the car, quickly started it, and floored the accelerator.

"Vroom!"

As the sound of the engine roared, the high-capacity new Audi A6L, like a raging steel beast, roared off into the night.

Inside the car, Ye Wenhao turned on the GPS navigation system and headed straight for Ao Xiang Villa!

At the same time, as the Yanhuang Organization's head in Dong Hai, Lv Canghai, accompanied by two members of his direct lineage, arrived in the woods at Ao Xiang Villa.

After glancing at Villa No. 16, which was heavily guarded, Lv Canghai took out his cell phone and dialed Situ Haotian's number.

"Uncle Lu."

"What's the situation now? Has that kid arrived yet?"

"Situ Haotian, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun have been killed by me, and that kid will be here soon!"

"Good, as soon as Hongwu Sect's Huang Qi cripples that kid's Martial Arts, notify me immediately. I'll bring people in to capture him," Lv Canghai contemplated. According to the plan, Huang Qi would be the one to cripple Ye Fan's Martial Arts, then he would lead his men to capture Ye Fan and pin the whole mess on his head.

By then, with Qi Qi of the Dong hai Gang Elders as the lead witness claiming that it was Ye Fan who killed Situ Chen and the others, he would close the case in the shortest time following proper legal procedures, using the law to sanction Ye Fan!

In this way, even if Chu Ji wanted to save Ye Fan, it would be too late!

"Understood, Uncle Lu!"

In meeting room 16, Situ Haotian respectfully responded and then hung up the phone.

"There were no mishaps, right?"

Situ Haotian had just hung up the phone when Huang Qi entered the meeting room. Seeing the three cold corpses of Situ Chen, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun, he asked.

"I'm sorry, Master Huang, there was a slight accident," Situ Haotian hesitated for a moment but ultimately didn't dare to hide it from Huang Qi.

"What happened?" Huang Qi asked coldly.

"I thought by using Situ Ruoshui as leverage, Situ Chen would obediently comply. I didn't expect not only did Situ Chen not follow my demands, but he also informed that bastard Ye Fan..."

"Trash!"

For Huang Qi and the Hongwu Sect, the most important goal was to cripple Ye Fan's Martial Arts and at the same time help Nanqinghong lure Ye Wenhao into a trap. Under such circumstances, hearing Situ Haotian's report, Huang Qi's eyes blazed with fury, as if he wished he could slap Situ Haotian to death.

"Please calm down, Master Huang!"

Situ Haotian was so frightened that his consciousness trembled, and he quickly added, "Although Situ Chen did not cooperate, that little bastard will come!"

"Situ Haotian, you bastard, Demon! Big brother will never let you go!"

This time, before Huang Qi could speak, from the corner of the meeting room, Situ Ruoshui, full of sorrow and anger, glared at Situ Haotian and yelled loudly.

"Shut up!"

Huang Qi bellowed angrily, inadvertently using the Lion Roar from "Hong Fist." With that roar, Situ Ruoshui was shaken until her ears bled and she collapsed to the ground, motionless as if her soul had been scared out of her.

"You said that little beast is coming?" Not caring about Situ Ruoshui's life or death, Huang Qi asked Situ Haotian coldly.

"Yes."

Situ Haotian looked at Huang Qi with reverence and said, "I told him if he cannot reach Ao Xiang Villa alone within half an hour, I would kill Situ Chen and Situ Ruoshui."

"What if he doesn't come?" Huang Qi frowned.

"He will!"

Situ Haotian said with firm conviction, "That kid once saved Situ Ruoshui. Because of that, Situ Chen was grateful to him and even risked offending Lv Canghai to kick me out of Dong hai Gang. Now that Situ Chen and Situ Ruoshui are in trouble, he will surely not abandon them!"

Huang Qi frowned and remained silent.

"Master Huang, are you worried that the kid might call for help?"

Situ Haotian saw through Huang Qi's concerns and explained, "Please rest assured, although he is Chu Ji's nephew, Chu Ji is in Yanjing. Even if she sprouted wings, she couldn't save him!"

"You'd better pray he comes. If you mess up our plans, I'll twist off your head!"

Just as Situ Haotian thought, Huang Qi was indeed wary of Chu Ji's appearance, but upon hearing what Situ Haotian said, he felt the possibility was slim, so he coldly left a remark.

"Ssss~"

Situ Haotian inhaled sharply out of fear, not daring to make a sound, worried in his heart that Ye Fan might not come.

Twenty-five minutes later.

Situ Haotian put his heart back in his stomach.

Because the newly replaced bodyguard at the villa's gate reported that Ye Fan had driven into the villa.

"Master Huang, that bastard has arrived!"

On the balcony of Villa 16, after receiving the report from his subordinate, Situ Haotian's face brightened with joy as he eagerly reported to Huang Qi, "And he's alone!"

Whoosh!

Without replying, Huang Qi focused on the villa's entrance and saw a black Audi A6L charging towards them like a madman.

This discovery allowed Huang Qi to breathe a sigh of relief, and he couldn't help but sneer.

"Master Huang, shall we go downstairs to prepare for catching the turtle in the jar?" Situ Haotian's smile grew colder, as if he couldn't wait to make his move against Ye Fan.

Huang Qi nodded, silently turning to go downstairs.

Meanwhile, Situ Haotian dialed Lv Canghai's number: "Uncle Lv, that bastard has arrived. Wait for my call!"

"Good!"

Hearing Situ Haotian's words, Lv Canghai, looking through the gaps in the trees, spotted the Audi A6L.

At that moment.

No one noticed that another Audi A6L was racing down the road to the villa.

That Audi A6L bore the license plate of the Jiangnan Province government number one!

Twenty years ago, its owner had made a name for himself in the Martial Arts World, topping the Qing bang, but for a career in politics, he left the Jianghu.

Today, he was coming out of retirement for his son!

Chapter 188: [You will all be buried with me!] Third watch

"Buzz~ Buzz~"

As the sun completely set behind the mountains and dusk arrived, Ye Fan floored the accelerator, the car roaring towards Villa No. 16, its thunderous noise echoing through the sky above Ao Xiang Villa.

In the car, Ye Fan's expression was cold as ice, his gaze fixed on Villa No. 16, a terrifying murderous intent emanating from his body, filling the entire cabin.

Despite the fact that Situ Chen had warned him that Situ Haotian was trying to lure him here, despite Chu Ji being unable to accompany him due to the distance, and despite the villa's gate guards letting him through which only further convinced him it was a trap, he still had to make it to Villa No. 16 on time!

A drop of water in need shall be returned with a spring in deed!

This had always been Ye Fan's principle in life.

For his sake, Situ Chen had severed ties with Lv Canghai, plunging the Dong Hai Gang into dire straits. Now that they were in trouble, if he did not show up, he would be restless for life!

"Whoo~"

Moments later, as the car was about to reach Villa No. 16, Ye Fan took a deep breath; although he still looked murderous, he had completely regained his clarity of mind.

He was well aware that since the enemy had set this trap, they must be prepared. He couldn't act recklessly; he had to seize the opportunity to act!

"Zzz~"

The sound of the car tires rubbing against the ground sharply rang out as the speeding Audi A6L decelerated, surging towards Villa No. 16 under the force of inertia.

At the same time, ten men in black, brandishing shiny steel knives, walked out from Villa No. 16, waiting for Ye Fan's arrival.

"Swish!"

"Swish!"

"Swish!"

...

The instant Ye Fan stopped the car, the ten men in black moved like the wind, brandishing their steel knives and swiftly charging towards him.

Whoosh—

Ye Fan pushed open the car door, his body springing out like a nimble cat.

"Clang!"

"Bang—"

The moment Ye Fan dashed out of the car, two steel knives struck the car door and the window glass respectively, the sound crisp, sparks flying everywhere.

At the same time, the remaining eight men in black formed an arc, surrounding Ye Fan.

"If you don't want to die, all of you, get lost!"

Ye Fan shouted angrily, a stream of air swirling around him, the aura of a Half-step Innate bursting forth and spreading instantly.

Feeling the terrifying aura emanating from Ye Fan, the men in black's faces subtly changed, a hint of fear emerging in their eyes.

"Kill!"

Seeing this, the leader of the men in black bellowed, issuing the command to attack.

Whoosh! Whoosh! Whoosh!

The rest of the men in black, hearing the order, robotically swung their knives at Ye Fan—each one a Death Soldier trained by Qi Qi of the Dong Hai Gang's Nansu region, intensely disciplined and mentally formidable. Thus, despite the fear invoked by Ye Fan's powerful presence, they did not retreat.

Swoosh!

Seeing this, Ye Fan, by a flicker of thought, sidestepped the incoming steel knives, then stepped forward, grabbing his opponent's wrist, and twisting it forcefully!

"Crack—"

With a twist, a snapping sound rang out, the man in black releasing his grip on the knife in pain, which Ye Fan caught, slashing at the incoming knives in one fluid motion.

"Clang!"

In an instant, the clash of steel rang out, sparks flying, the steel knives in the hands of four men in black breaking in two, the terrifying recoil leaving their hands split open, blood flowing profusely.

"Whoosh!"

After one slash, Ye Fan didn't stop, suddenly squatting down and sweeping backward, the steel knife in his hand turning into a streak of white light, chopping off the legs of four men in black like cutting through straw!

"Splurt—"

Blood splattered everywhere, the four men in black collapsing thunderously, Ye Fan spinning around like a screw, effortlessly dodging a knife coming from behind. He then sprang forward like a compressed spring, his steel knife slashing continuously!

Swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh, swoosh...

After six slashes, the remaining six men in black had their hands chopped off, turned into bloodied figures, rendered incapacitated...

Aside from that, led by Qi Qi, the eight elders of the Dong Hai Gang took their positions behind Situ Haotian and Huang Qi, watching Ye Fan with cold eyes.

Situ Haotian and Huang Qi, on the other hand, gazed at Ye Fan like hunters eyeing their prey, their looks filled with mockery and excitement.

"Ruoshui!"

Ye Fan shouted at Situ Ruoshui, his body swaying as he moved closer to her.

"Kid, do you think I'm invisible?"

Huang Qi sneered and with a bound, he landed in front of Ye Fan, attempting to block his path.

"Get out of my way!"

Ye Fan roared, swinging up the steel knife in his right hand and chopping down at Huang Qi with all his might!

With this strike, not only did Ye Fan use the momentum of his run, but he also struck with anger and utilized his Inner Strength. The air was cleaved open in an instant as if exploding firecrackers, creating a series of cracking noises. The fierce blade wind swept forward, striking Huang Qi like shards of ice.

Huh?

Seeing the unstoppable momentum of Ye Fan's strike, Huang Qi was startled and instead of confronting it head-on, he swiftly dodged to the side!

"Whoosh!"

The sound of tearing through the air rang out as the sharp blade turned into a streak of white light, striking the ground where Huang Qi had just been standing, its force impressive!

"Hmph!"

Having dodged Ye Fan's full-powered strike, Huang Qi snorted coldly and flickered his body, attempting to rush toward Ye Fan.

"Scram!"

Ye Fan, without turning his head, flicked his wrist, and the steel knife flew out of his hand, tracking Huang Qi as if equipped with a homing device, speeding toward him.

Huang Qi's face changed, he halted his steps and his body suddenly leaned back.

"Whoosh!"

The sharp steel knife whistled past Huang Qi's ear, the fierce knife wind howling, and several of Huang Qi's hairs were lifted by the wind and cut off upon touching the blade.

"Clang!"

The next moment, the steel knife embedded itself in the wall behind Huang Qi, trembling non-stop, its force truly uncommon!

Having forced Huang Qi back with one strike, Ye Fan didn't slow down and instantly moved to Situ Ruoshui's side: "Ruoshui!"

No response. Situ Ruoshui's eyes were hollow as she stared at Situ Chen's corpse, motionless.

Seeing this, Ye Fan's face changed. Looking down, he could tell at a glance that Situ Chen had been dead for some time.

This discovery weighed heavily on Ye Fan's heart, and an uncontrollable rage erupted like a volcano!

"No need to call her anymore. She was just stunned by my Lion Roar, which not only took away her hearing but also heavily damaged her consciousness. Soon, she'll become a vegetable!" Seeing this, Huang Qi didn't launch another attack but watched Ye Fan with a cold smirk.

Once a Martial Artist steps into the Innate Realm, their Mind Power increases tremendously, enabling them to perform spiritual attacks. "Lion Roar" is the only mental attack technique from the Hongwu Sect that targets an opponent's consciousness through sound. Although he hadn't mastered it to the level of pure gold fire, turning Situ Ruoshui into a vegetable was certainly not difficult!

Upon hearing this, Ye Fan felt an inexplicable weight on his heart!

As Chu Xuanji's disciple, he was naturally aware that the Martial Arts World possessed special martial arts techniques that involved Mind Power attacks, like the "Tiger and Leopard Thunder Sound" he had used before.

These special techniques were known as spiritual attacks in the other Five Great Alliances, specifically targeting an opponent's soul.

And here, 'spiritual power' essentially refers to what the Huaxia Martial Artists call Mind Power, and the soul is akin to consciousness!

"Little beast, you're a little stronger than I anticipated."

Huang Qi stood about ten meters from Ye Fan, watching him with a mocking look, slowly releasing the aura of the Early Innate Realm, "But surely you've also realized that I am an Innate Master, you cannot change the outcome!"

"Ruoshui, I'm sorry, I got here too late."

Ignoring Huang Qi's overbearing words, Ye Fan held Situ Ruoshui's once lovely doll-like face, full of self-reproach.

As he spoke, Ye Fan couldn't help but remember that the last time at the West Lake Club, he had rescued Situ Ruoshui in the same way, with Situ Ruoshui obediently clinging to his back, eyes shut.

But now, Situ Ruoshui seemed to have lost her soul, motionless.

This realization pained Ye Fan's heart deeply!

Amidst his heartache, Ye Fan painfully moved his hand away from Situ Ruoshui's face, slowly stood up, and looked at Huang Qi and the others with bloodshot eyes.

"Kid, you disabled the Kung Fu of Hongwu Sect's genius Yang Qing, causing him to become a cripple and commit suicide. Today...

"Today, you all will be buried with Uncle Situ!!"

Ye Fan coldly cut off Huang Qi's words, directly sentencing Huang Qi and the others to death!

Chapter 189: [Critical Moment]

"You little bastard, you think your half-step Innate strength is enough to make us die with you?"

As Ye Fan's words reached his ears, Situ Haotian coldly laughed with an air of invincibility, "Aren't you afraid of biting your tongue while bragging?"

"You're definitely going to die today!"

Ye Fan roared loudly, employing the "Tiger and Leopard Thunder Sound" martial arts technique, which was even more powerful than Huang Qi's previous "Lion Roar"!

In an instant, both Huang Qi and Situ Haotian felt their eardrums vibrating, their internal Qi and blood slightly disordered, while the eight Dong Hai Gang elders led by Qi Qi only felt like a fierce tiger roared right next to their ears, causing their eardrums to bleed and leaving them collapsed on the ground, face pale.

What strong Mind Power!

Huang Qi quickly steadied his consciousness but was utterly shocked—Ye Fan's Mind Power was nearly as strong as his!

"Die!"

Just as Huang Qi steadied his mind, Ye Fan roared again.

No sooner had his voice faded than Ye Fan, like a Killing God, suddenly appeared in front of Situ Haotian, transforming his hand into a blade and slashing down directly at Situ Haotian's head!

"Whoosh! Whoosh!"

The Hand Blade cut through the air, splitting it as it went, the strong wind sweeping towards Situ Haotian like a squall, making the clothes on his body flutter wildly, and stinging his eyes.

Clack!

Situ Haotian had been shaken by Ye Fan's "Tiger and Leopard Thunder Sound" twice in a row and was desperately trying to stabilize his mind and Qi and blood. Now facing Ye Fan's sudden attack, he felt enveloped by a terrifying Killing Intention, as if isolated from this world, unable to escape Ye Fan's slash even if he ran to the corners of the earth!

"Hmph!"

The next moment, just as Ye Fan's Hand Blade was about to strike Situ Haotian, Huang Qi coldly snorted, lashing out with a Whip Hand towards Ye Fan's Hand Blade.

"Bang—"

The Hand Blade collided with the Whip Hand, and as their powers clashed, Ye Fan felt his Hand Blade was like it had struck scorching hot magma, sending a painful burn through his arm, which then went numb.

On the other hand, Huang Qi seemed unscathed, repelling Ye Fan's Hand Blade with one Whip Hand, then without pause, his right leg kicked out like lightning towards Ye Fan's ankle, attempting to knock Ye Fan to the ground with one blow.

Ye Fan's mind moved, and instead of choosing to clash directly, he immediately withdrew violently!

From the recent collision, he knew very well that in terms of the power of their strength, he could not compare with Huang Qi.

In such a situation, continuing to clash head-on would be disadvantageous.

"Whew—"

Seeing Ye Fan pulling back explosively, Situ Haotian couldn't help but exhale a breath of relief, his face overwhelmed.

Just now, facing Ye Fan's sudden assault, he was totally unable to defend, and if it hadn't been for Huang Qi's timely rescue, he probably would have been splattered with blood on the spot!

"Thank you, Master Huang!"

After stabilizing his mind and Qi and blood, Situ Haotian immediately thanked Huang Qi, then suddenly noticed the eight Dong Hai Gang elders led by Qi Qi lying collapsed on the ground, bleeding from all orifices, their life and death uncertain.

This discovery drastically changed his expression, "Master Huang, they..."

"They were injured in their consciousness by this little beast's 'Tiger and Leopard Thunder Sound'; they will end up like that woman, reduced to living in a vegetative state!" Huang Qi cut off Situ Haotian's words, his face looking awful—according to the plan devised, they needed Qi Qi and others to testify falsely that Ye Fan was responsible for the killing of Situ Chen, Fei Si, and Liu Tianjun.

Now, with Qi Qi and the others mentally injured, framing Ye Fan would not be so easy!

"Master Huang, since it's like this, why not just finish this mess and kill this bastard once and for all?" Knowing this, the calculating Situ Haotian certainly understood well and immediately suggested fiercely.

"We can't kill him, he must carry this black pot." Huang Qi coldly denied Situ Haotian's suggestion, for him and Lin Tianyi, who devised this plot, simply killing Ye Fan was not worth the trouble; their ultimate goal was to pull Ye Wenhao into this mess.

"You little beast, you are only at the Half-step Innate realm yet possess such strength, Yang Qing's death at your hands was not unmerited!" Huang Qi coldly glared at Ye Fan, ominously declared, "But thinking of taking advantage over me is a fool's dream—today, I will show you the gap between Early Innate and Half-step Innate!"

As he finished speaking, Huang Qi no longer held back his strength, fully releasing his aura.

Hmm?

Feeling the strong aura emanating from Huang Qi, Ye Fan's brow furrowed, his expression turning slightly solemn.

Over the past years, he had encountered several Early Innate Martial Artists.

In his view, the aura exuding from Huang Qi was that of a warrior who had long entered the Early Innate realm, even positioned between Early Innate and Innate Great Success.

"You little beast, if it weren't for me helping this kid back from Innate Great Success to Early Innate realm, killing you would be as easy as squashing an ant!"

Seeing Ye Fan's solemn expression, Huang Qi pridefully smiled, feeling as if Ye Fan was Sun Wukong, and he was The Buddha; no matter how skilled Sun Wukong, he couldn't escape from the palm of him, The Buddha.

Hearing Huang Qi revealing his strength, Ye Fan's expression grew even more solemn. He did not speak, but fully focused, using his Spiritual Sense to detect Huang Qi. As soon as Huang Qi launched an attack, he would dodge using the "Phantom" movement technique of "Xuanyin Fist" to delay time, waiting for Chu Ji to arrive!

"Snap! Snap! Snap!"

Seeing Ye Fan remained unmoved, Huang Qi wasted no more words, but suddenly stepped forward towards Ye Fan, each step channeling his Power, shattering the wooden floor beneath, sending wood chips flying.

Chapter 190: [Critical Moment]_2

In a series of steps, Huang Qi seemed to cause the villa to resonate, as if thousands of troops were galloping. The conference table, the bonsai, and the sofa in the conference room all started to tremble slightly, exuding an intimidating presence!

At this moment, Huang Qi finally displayed his true strength!

Seeing Huang Qi's war intent and peaked momentum, Ye Fan began to move his feet, shifting his shape and flashing to the left side to avoid being cornered by Huang Qi.

"Where do you think you're going?"

Huang Qi, seeing this, sneered, sprang forward from where he stood and suddenly accelerated. In the blink of an eye, he caught up to Ye Fan, extending his right hand in a claw-like shape toward Ye Fan's neck!

With the wind rushing in, Ye Fan, as if he had eyes on the back of his head, made a step-error, dodging to the side like a nimble cat.

"Whew!"

In a flash, Ye Fan's body disappeared from in front of Huang Qi, causing him to grab at thin air.

Hmm?

Perhaps not expecting Ye Fan's movement technique to be so agile, Huang Qi was momentarily startled, but did not linger, and immediately changed direction, pouncing toward Ye Fan again.

"Bang——"

Ye Fan suddenly stopped his steps and kicked the chair beside him. The chair soared into the air and hurtled toward Huang Qi.

"Hmph!"

Huang Qi snorted coldly, opened his fingers, shifted from claw to palm, and with a swipe, smacked the flying chair like swatting a fly, sending it shattering into pieces instantly.

Seizing this opportunity, Ye Fan leapt up onto the oval conference table, kicked off of it, and performed a somersault to the other side of the table, facing Huang Qi across it.

"I want to see where you can run!" Huang Qi, upon seeing this, sneered and kicked toward the conference table.

"Bang——"

A dull sound emerged as the pure redwood conference table suddenly lunged at Ye Fan with great speed.

Seeing this, Ye Fan did not dare to stop the advancing conference table, but instead, as it neared, leapt onto it.

At the same time, Huang Qi also leaped onto the table, stepped twice rapidly as if touching water with dragonfly feet, launched into the air, and sped toward Ye Fan.

"Bang——"

Soon, the conference table hit the wall behind Ye Fan with a thud, Huang Qi's body almost suspended in the air, his right hand shifting from hand to knife, like an ancient assassin, stabbing at Ye Fan, leaving Ye Fan no room to dodge.

In a critical moment, Ye Fan bent his body backward, his feet fiercely stamped on the wall, and his body shot up sharply.

In an instant, Huang Qi's body shot under Ye Fan, while Ye Fan, using the rebound force, shot out like a spring.

In a sudden twist, Huang Qi's body in mid-air resembled a Spirit Snake, brutally turning direction and then, with a 'snap,' his feet landed on the wall just as Ye Fan's had before, rebounding off it.

Huang Qi's sudden change of move was as fast as lightning, leaving Situ Haotian by his side utterly astounded.

"Come down here!"

In the blink of an eye, Huang Qi had turned and caught up to Ye Fan, his right hand suddenly swung out, grabbing at Ye Fan's ankle, attempting to yank him down!

As danger descended, Ye Fan's expression changed, he secretly exerted power, and his body shot up suddenly, his hands reaching out to grab the chandelier in front, causing Huang Qi to miss again.

At the same time, Ye Fan's body spun like a spiral in the air, his right foot swinging out, aiming a kick at Huang Qi's face!

Counterattack!

In a desperate situation, Ye Fan not only dodged the pursuit but also seized the opportunity to launch a counterattack.

"Hmph!"

Huang Qi snorted coldly, his right hand suddenly swung, whipping a hand towards Ye Fan's right foot.

"Bang——"

In an instant, Ye Fan's right foot hit Huang Qi's whip hand, not only was his foot knocked aside, but the terrifying recoil also made his blood churn, sending him flying backward, pulling down the chandelier.

Seeing this, Huang Qi did not stop, his body thrust forward, chasing after Ye Fan, planning to strike at Ye Fan as soon as he landed, aiming to cripple him.

Whoosh!

Sensing danger, Ye Fan swung his arms forcefully, releasing the chandelier which hurtled towards Huang Qi like a cannonball.

Huang Qi had no choice but to slow down and dodge to the side.

"Thud!"

The chandelier crashed to the floor, shattering into pieces.

Seizing the opportunity, Ye Fan gracefully landed a few meters in front of Huang Qi, once again putting distance between them.

"Hiss~"

Seeing this scene, Huang Qi sucked in a breath of cold air. As an Innate Warrior, failing to defeat Ye Fan, a Half-step Innate Martial Artist, in several moves—if word got out, it would definitely turn into a joke in the Martial Arts World!

"I shall see how long you can run!" Annoyed, Huang Qi coldly shouted and leaped forward, attacking Ye Fan once more.

Ye Fan was not provoked by Huang Qi's words and continued dodging.

After the recent exchange, Ye Fan had gained some understanding of Huang Qi's martial arts routines, making it easier to dodge than before.

For a while, the meeting room was filled with shouts and interweaving figures. Ye Fan and Huang Qi moved back and forth, like a game of cat and mouse.

Every time Huang Qi was about to catch Ye Fan, Ye Fan could always narrowly and deftly dodge by using the "Phantom" movement technique.

"Master Huang, should we let Uncle Lu come in and help you handle this scum?"

As Ye Fan once again distanced himself from Huang Qi, Situ Haotian couldn't help but be inwardly alarmed by Ye Fan's strength, and he took the opportunity to suggest to Huang Qi.

"Fine!"

Although Huang Qi felt that it tarnished his reputation, from the recent skirmish, he also realized that crippling Ye Fan was not an easy task in a short period of time. If Ye Fan decided to escape with Situ Ruoshui, he couldn't stop him!

And... the moment Ye Fan stepped outside the villa, he would have the freedom of the vast sea and the boundless sky.

"Uncle Lu, that young rascal is quite troublesome, Master Huang alone can't subdue him in the short run, why don't you come over too?" Receiving Huang Qi's instruction, Situ Haotian didn't delay, immediately contacting Lv Canghai.

On hearing this, Ye Fan's mind raced, fully aware that the so-called Uncle Lu mentioned by Situ Haotian was Lv Canghai, the Yanhuang Organization's person in charge of Dong Hai!

Realizing this, Ye Fan's heart tightened, and he swiftly dashed towards Situ Ruoshui, who was standing in a corner, trying to escape with her.

However—

Just as Ye Fan reached Situ Ruoshui, Huang Qi, like a relentless evil ghost, followed and lunged at him, launching a powerful punch at Ye Fan's back.

With danger imminent, Ye Fan's heart raced wildly. His reason told him that if he dodged, Huang Qi's unstoppable momentum would definitely kill Situ Ruoshui with one punch!

"Get out of the way!!"

Understanding this, Ye Fan steeled his heart, suddenly turned around, and roared, his right arm swelling as he clenched his fist and struck back at Huang Qi with full force.

In an instant, under his consciousness's control, the power whirled inside Ye Fan according to the "Xuansha Fist" technique, and a terrifying evil aura erupted from his body like a volcanic eruption.

—Qi Rushes to the Sky!

In this critical moment, he unleashed the Killing Move of "Xuansha Fist"!