# Chapter 421

Many people started to arrive, and almost all the seats were occupied. At this time, music started to play, and then everyone spotted a few people walking toward the rostrum.

When everyone saw the person approaching and noticed his face clearly, they recognized him. For a moment, everyone started to discuss about this person.

"Isn't that Horatio Zhan? Why is he here?"

"I heard that Horatio's son, Quintus, was crippled in Dragonville some time ago. Horatio hasn't gone out for a long time. Why is he here now?"

"Horatio doesn't have a high position in the Zhan Family. Why would he be in charge of this kind of martial-arts contest? Is it possible that the Zhan Family has ulterior motives?"

"I don't know. Let's wait and see! If it is Horatio, we won't give a damn about him."

......

The crowd was talking about this. At this moment, Fade Chen was also a little surprised and curious. He looked at Horatio a few times. He didn't expect this person to be Quintus Zhan's father. Quintus was crippled by him previously. Taking a closer look, he found that there were indeed some similarities between his eyes and eyebrows with Quintus's.

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Horatio led four or five people to sit down on the rostrum. After coughing a bit, he began to speak. "Today, the Zhan Family has invited all the martial-arts practitioners in the martial-arts circle to this contest. Thank you all for your support and for attending this event."

After that, Horatio took the lead in applauding them.

However, the martial-arts practitioners below weren't having any of it. They hissed and shouted at the same time.

"What is the deal with this martial-arts contest? Hurry up and tell us the main points. Don't talk nonsense and give us a meaningless speech!"

"That's right. We aren't holding a sports meeting for primary school students. Why do we have to talk about this?"

"If there's nothing else, don't waste everyone's time."

"Horatio, you may leave!"

. . . . . . . . .

Such a situation caused Horatio's expression to seem a little unpleasant. However, when he thought of the plans that he had, he felt courageous. He looked at the people below him and his face fell. Then, he knocked on the microphone to calm everyone down, and he said in a low voice, "Since everyone has requested for me to talk directly, I will get straight to the point."

"Go ahead!"

"Don't beat around the bush!"

"Tell us now!"

. . . . . . . .

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Horatio paused for a moment and his face fell. Then, he lowered his voice and said loudly in an imposing manner, "This time, we have one purpose for inviting all the martial-arts practitioners here. We intend to form a martial-arts coalition gradually. We hope that everyone will join us."

As soon as he spoke, the place became noisy and the voices of discussion were buzzing.

"What coalition? The word sounds so good, but they want to control us!"

"I knew it, but I didn't expect the Zhan Family to do it!"

"Why should we join this coalition? It's not good for us. Instead, we have to listen to the orders of the Zhan Family. It's meaningless for us!"

"That's right. Coalitions or Associations? We've seen so many of these things over the years. They're just changing the names, but it's all the same!"

......

The place was noisy, and the voices of opposition were very loud.

Horatio's expression darkened, and then he said in a clear voice, "Join the Zhan Family coalition. We can guarantee that you can share the resources of our Family, and we can make progress together. We need to create a new world order in this country. We also intend to go abroad and develop into a large international organization."

Horatio talked about the benefits of the coalition, but it seemed like no one was convinced. Many people shook their heads to show that they were not interested.

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"What resources? They will probably give us something they don't want. How could the real resources of the Zhan Family be shared with us?"

"That's right. If the Zhan Family was really serious about this matter, would they send Horatio to preside over this meeting? I don't think we can rely on this coalition!"

"We are a small group, and we are not that ambitious. We don't want to create a new world order, and we don't want to go abroad. It's enough for us to live a good life in our own small territory."

"Yeah, I'm old now. I'm over 60 years old. I don't want to take the risk anymore!"

"If there's nothing else, I think there's no need for the meeting to continue."

.....

Although some groups were attracted by Horatio 's promises, there were still many people who objected to them. Some people even got up directly and prepared to leave.

At this time, Horatio suddenly stood up on the rostrum. With a loud shout, his air was threatening. "Everyone, you'd better sit down and think about this matter carefully. This coalition is backed by our Family. You can decide whether to join or not, after you think about the matter thoroughly."

His words shocked a lot of people. At the same time, it caused many people's expressions to become unpleasant.

"Horatio, what are you trying to say? You want to threaten us with the name of the Zhan Family."

"That's what you mean! If we don't join this coalition, it means we are against the Zhan Family."

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"This is crossing the line. The Zhan Family is being overbearing."

......

"I can't believe this. Old Master Zhan has not bothered us for so many years in South Hanover City. How can he force us to join this coalition now? I think that this is just some false organization created by Horatio in the name of the Zhan Family!" A burly and bald martial-arts practitioner stood up and shouted.

His words immediately won the approval of many people. Everyone nodded and cast a doubtful look at Horatio.

At this time, Nickel Xu suddenly stood up and said to the crowd, "What are you doing? The Zhan Family gave us such a good opportunity, so why are you still dissatisfied?"

"I think all of you are so narrow-minded that you can't see the great potential of the coalition. My Far Peace Martial- Arts Center supports the decision of the Zhan family and we will be the first to join the coalition," Nickel said. He raised his hand and shouted loudly, "If you have the same mindset, join us!"

Nickel tried to encourage the crowd to join, but it didn't work. Only a few people raised their hands. Basically, these people were just from small groups. They were not worth mentioning at all.

The expressions of the rest of the people who looked at Nickel changed, and their tone was full of disdain.

"You're from the second best martial-arts center in South Hanover City. It's ridiculous that you're willing to be a subordinate for others!"

"Haha, what I guessed outside just now turned out to be true. Nickel is really serving the Zhan Family now."

"I feel disgusted when I look at this traitor's face. It's a complete insult to the image of the martial-artists."

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Some people were bold enough to shout at Nickel.

"Nickel, you joined by yourself! Don't drag us in!"

"That's right. Although our martial-arts center is not strong, our will is much stronger than some guys!"

......

The sarcastic words caused Nickel's face to fall, and he shouted unhappily, "You all are being ungrateful. This is a great opportunity given to you by the Zhan Family, but you don't cherish it! You're so self-righteous. You will regret this later."

"Haha, I don't need to regret it. Regret doesn't exist in my world!"

"You're the one regretting it, aren't you? Don't involve us in this."

The sarcasm was still there. Nickel glared at them, and he turned to look at Horatio. He said respectfully, "Mr. Horatio, these people are so stubborn that I have to ask for your help!"

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Listening to Nickel Xu's words, Horatio Zhan snorted heavily. Then, he said in a low voice, "It seems that I have to do this the difficult way. Since all of you don't know what's good for you, don't blame me for being rude!"

Upon hearing this, the martial-arts practitioners below started to boil in anger and indignation. Some of them were even bold enough to fight against Horatio.

"Horatio, what do you mean by that? Are you threatening us?"

"Although we are not strong, not everyone can bully us! Hmm!"

"Horatio, we respect the Zhan Family and Old Master Zhan. However, it doesn't mean that you can do whatever you want in the name of the Zhan Family."

"We won't give in easily."

. . . . . . . . .

As the crowd roared in anger, Horatio's expression became even gloomier. He lowered his head and growled like a beast, "Come out, all of you. Teach them a lesson!"

In an instant, there was a loud noise, and then many figures jumped out. They rushed over directly from all directions of the open space below,

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forming a circle. They surrounded all the martial-arts practitioners on the field.

The martial-arts practitioners could not help but look solemn. They held their weapons and were ready to fight.

When these people stood still and their faces were revealed, the martial-arts practitioners were shocked and they cried out in disbelief.

"Why are there so many foreigners?"

"Why do these foreigners look so familiar?"

"These are the foreigners who were challenging everyone around the city some time ago!"

"It's them, it's them. That bald tattooed man, I still remember clearly that he injured my father."

"How do these foreigners have a relationship with the Zhan Family? Are they in cahoots with them?"

"The foreigners that are here battling the martial-arts practitioners are under the orders of the Zhan Family? What are the Zhan Family's intentions?"

. . . . . . . . .

"No matter who they are, if anyone dares to oppress us, we will never retreat." Facing the foreign martial-arts practitioners, some people were not willing to surrender. Therefore, they shouted loudly and took the lead to rush toward the foreign martial-arts practitioners.

However, many people were doubtful. Their courage was greatly reduced at this moment, and they began to hesitate.

"These foreigners are all masters. We can't beat them!"

"Yes, my uncle was injured and he is a master at the late-stage of the yellow level. It's impossible for me to defeat them."

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"Maybe, we should listen to the plan of the Zhan Family's coalition. Maybe it wont be that bad!"

......

Although a lot of people hesitated, many people were even angrier. After all, their friends and relatives were injured by these foreigners. At this moment, they were furious when they saw their enemies, and they took action and rushed up to fight these foreigners.

- When those foreigners saw the attack, they sneered and looked up at the rostrum.
- Horatio nodded and said, "Take action. Be careful. Don't go too far."
- The foreigners nodded and rushed up, facing the attack.
- Suddenly, there was a series of attacks. The angry martial-arts practitioners and the foreigners were fighting each other. The loud sound of surging energies, the collision of weapons, and the screams of the injured caused the scene to become even more chaotic.
- However, the battlefield calmed down quickly.
- There were around fifty or sixty angry martial-arts practitioners, and there were only twenty foreigners. However, the strength of the martial-arts practitioners was only at the middle-stage of the yellow level, and there was a huge gap between them and the foreigners. Therefore, they were no match for them at all.
- However, after more than a dozen martial-arts practitioners were beaten to a pulp, the other people who were restless could not help but shrink back a little timidly.
- The chaos subsided gradually. In the end, almost all the martial-artists were driven out, except for the dozen people who were groaning and wailing on the ground. There was only one strong man left, and his head was covered with blood. However, he was still unwilling to surrender.

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The burly martial-arts practitioner's opponent was a brown-haired foreigner, who was impatient after being pestered by the burly warrior. With a snort, a dagger appeared in his hand, and he wanted to stab the burly martial-arts practitioner fiercely.

However, at this time on the stage, Horatio said, "Wait a minute!"

The brown-haired foreigner stopped, with a look of displeasure on his face. Horatio's eyes fell on the burly man and he said, "Basile Hu, you are an experienced and qualified person in the martial-arts world of South Hanover City. I respect your sense of integrity and character. Now, I'll give you a chance to lay down your weapon immediately, and I can stop them from taking action."

The burly man spat out a mouthful of bloody saliva and said fiercely, "Horatio, you want me to give in and be a subordinate of yours. Don't even think about that!"

A hint of anger appeared on Horatio's face. He said in a low voice, "Basile, I'm willing to spare you due to the fact that the Zhan family and yourself have been friends for many years. Don't be ungrateful!"

Basile sneered and said, "You don't have to pity me. Even if I die, I have to be a decent man instead of being an enslaved dog."

His bold words immediately attracted a lot of enthusiastic response from the audience. Some martial-arts practitioners, who were hesitant because of fear, felt the blood boiling in their hearts at this moment. A sense of heroism rose from within them and they suddenly stood up.

"Basile, that's a good point. Today, I, Old Wang, will be a decent man with you."

"Senior Hu, you're a great hero. I admire you and support you."

"Count me in!"

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"Me too!"

"Come on, let's kill them together. I would like to see how powerful the Zhan family is, and see how they try to kill all of us."

.....

Horatio, who was about to command the curly-haired foreigner to attack, suddenly became timid when he noticed this situation. His expression darkened and he couldn't help but take two steps backward with his lips trembling slightly.

He didn't expect this group of people to have such courage when their lives were threatened. For a moment, he didn't know what to do.

Just as Horatio had an unpleasant expression and was hesitating, Nickel quickly winked at him and reminded him, saying, "Horatio, hurry up, ask him to come forward! Otherwise, the situation will be out of control."

Upon hearing this, Horatio nodded, turned around, and shouted, "Cousin, come forward now!"

As soon as he finished speaking, everyone was stunned. They wondered who Horatio was calling. They were full of doubts in their hearts, as if they couldn't remember which powerful person in the Zhan Family was Horatio's cousin.

Just as everyone was feeling confused, a gust of overwhelming energy swept over them and enveloped the whole field suddenly.

All the martial-arts practitioners felt that there was a layer of curtains on top of their heads, covering the skies and completely enveloping them. Then, this gust of energy kept pressing down on them, and the momentum from this energy was oppressive and tense.

For a moment, everyone was shocked. They looked up and saw a dark figure falling guickly from the invisible curtain.

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Almost everyone in the field raised their heads at this moment, staring at the dark falling figure.

"Who is that? How can he have such a powerful sense of strength and energy?"

"If he jumps down from such a high place, isn't he afraid of falling to his death?"

"Could it be that the Zhan family has invited some expert here?"

"That's not right. Didn't Horatio Zhan say that his cousin was coming."

......

Just as everyone was feeling confused, the dark figure started approaching them closely. At this moment, with a loud crash, it fell directly onto the field.

Suddenly, there was a loud rumbling sound, and the whole field was quaking. Cracks appeared on the ground around the falling figure, and they spread to the surrounding area.

At the same time, a layer of smoke rose up from the figure's side and enveloped him. His appearance could not be seen at all.

A breeze blew by, and the smoke and dust dissipated gradually. The figure inside suddenly revealed his appearance, and the eyes of all the people were focused on him at this moment.

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It was a middle-aged man in his forties. The man had short hair and he was almost bald. He wore a ragged old military uniform, and it seemed to be a foreign uniform.

The muscles on his body were bulging, and his military uniform seemed like it was expanding. His uniform seemed like it might explode at any time.

"Who is this? Is he from the Zhan family? Why haven't I seen him before?"

"No matter who this is, this person's energy and strength is so powerful. He is an expert, an absolute expert."

"The Zhan family is about to take action. We all need to be careful."

"Is he Horatio's cousin? Who on earth is he?"

Just as everyone was confused, Basile Hu stood up and rushed toward the man. "Who do you think you are? I won't give in to you,"he said.

With a shout, Basile rushed toward the short-haired man like a tank.

Facing Basile's attack, the short-haired man stood still. He looked like a sculpture. He didn't even blink his eyelids and he looked indifferently at Basile who was rushing toward him.

When Basile rushed to the man, and was about three meters away, he roared angrily. He folded his fists together, and they seemed like a giant hammer. With a powerful sense of energy and strength, he raised his fists with great force. Then, he slammed them down heavily.

In the face of this fierce attack, the short-haired man raised the corners of his mouth slightly, revealing a sneer. He said disdainfully, "You are looking for death."

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As soon as he finished speaking, the short-haired man moved. With his left leg as the center, he lifted his right leg and rotated his body a little. He launched his right leg with great ferocity and made a move to kick Basile's waist.

This move was extremely fast, and the opponent's leg was obviously longer than Basile's arms. That was why he had waited before acting. Before Basile's move reached his opponent, the opponent kicked Basile's waist heavily, causing a loud sound.

Suddenly, Basile was swept away by this huge force. His burly body flew backward like a piece of paper. He spat out a mouthful of blood. The droplets of blood dripped down from the air like bloody rain falling from the sky.

Everyone was shocked. Before Basile landed on the ground, the short-haired man moved again. He raised his right hand and made a movement of grabbing the air.

In an instant, a stream of energy shot out from his right hand like a sharp arrow. This energy penetrated Basile's chest directly, and after an explosion, there was a hole in his chest. The invisible energy was like a large hand, pulling out a bloody heart forcefully from the hole.

The invisible large hand formed from the surging energy was holding the heart, and all kinds of blood vessels were connected to Basile's heart. Blood was still flowing and surging, and the heart was still beating violently.

When the short-haired man saw this, a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth. He couldn't help licking his tongue and whispered, "Fresh blood, how delicious." Then, he focused his eyes and made a sudden grabbing movement with his right hand.

Immediately, the invisible gust of energy responded to his action. With a loud crash, Basile's heart was pinched directly by the short-haired man. A stream of blood was suddenly released in the air after an explosion, and countless droplets gushed out. The light bloody rain just now turned into a torrential downpour of blood, and a putrid and foul stench appeared.

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Basile instantly lost his breath. The light in his eyes was extinguished along with the explosion of his heart. His whole body fell heavily on the ground with a loud crash. Blood gushed out from him and the yellow ground was dyed red.

Witnessing such a bloodcurdling and brutal scene, almost all the martial-arts practitioners in the field were stunned. They could not believe what they just saw.

Even though most of the martial-arts practitioners present had experiences in fighting, killing and seeing blood, they were dumbfounded and were incredulous in the face of such a brutal and barbaric scene. Many of them looked pale and their throats reacted. Some of them had the urge to vomit.

At this time, the short-haired man seemed indifferent. He did not seem to think that this scene was shocking at all. There was even a faint smile at the corner of his mouth. After withdrawing his right hand, he looked at his right hand and murmured, "The smell of fresh blood is appetizing indeed."

Seeing this, Basile's friends and companions couldn't stand it. They let out angry roars and rushed toward the short-haired man .They were furious and their eyes were red.

The short-haired man showed a sneer at the corner of his mouth. Looking at the people rushing toward him, he licked his tongue and said, "Are you looking for death? I haven't tasted the blood of martial-arts practitioners in this country for a long time. I'm going to taste it this time."

At this moment, someone suddenly thought of something and exclaimed, "He, is he that person? That man, is he back?"

"Who is it? Why are you so surprised? Who are you talking about?"

"Who are you thinking of?"

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"He, he is Lazzaro Zhan!" Someone exclaimed.

When they heard the name "Lazzaro Zhan", the martial-art practitioners were stunned. Then, in an instant, many people recalled this person, and their faces turned pale. The scene also became noisy and turbulent.

"It turns out that he is the genius of the Zhan Family, Lazzaro!"

"He was well-known as a martial-arts genius across the country when he was only in his teens?"

"Hasn't he been abroad for decades? Why is he back now?"

"So it's Lazzaro. No wonder he's so powerful!"

"He has reached the peak of the Black Level, hasn't he?"

"I think it's more than that. It's possible that he has reached the Earth Level."

"His level isn't the most important aspect. The courage to kill is crucial. Even if a master at his level fights him, it'll be difficult to defeat him, as he has barbaric methods and a ruthless attitude."

.....

When the name of Lazzaro was heard, even Basile's companions and friends froze at this moment. They were aware of the terrifying history of Lazzaro, and they understood what he represented .

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Everyone looked at the short-haired middle-aged man in horror. He was still licking his lips. There was fear in their eyes, and their bodies trembled slightly.

Seeing this, Lazzaro Zhan felt a little disappointed and said, "Well, knowing my identity, you do not dare to make any move. What a pity. Should I personally take action?"

While speaking, Lazzaro stepped forward and walked toward them.

At this moment, Horatio Zhan came over and said, "Cousin, we have to deal with more important matters. Let's put these trivial matters aside for now."

Hearing this, Lazzaro licked his lips and nodded. He stopped looking at the crowd and walked to Horatio's side. Then, he gave an order and shouted, "All Flamebird members, return to your positions."

In an instant, the 20 plus foreigners took action. In less than three seconds, they returned quickly to Lazzaro's side. They stood up straight, raised their heads, and puffed out their chests. They were quite obedient.

Witnessing this scene, everyone could not help but feel curious and surprised.

Lazzaro explained with a smile, " I will tell you the truth. These people are my people. The coalition that Horatio wants you to join is actually my organization. Previously, I was afraid that all of you wouldn't be able to accept this fact, so I used the Zhan Family's name to present this

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organization to you."

Everyone looked at Lazzaro and no one not dare to speak. Their eyes were full of surprise and doubt.

Lazzaro pointed to the foreign martial-arts practitioners who were in line and explained, "These people are mercenaries who belong to an organization called Flamebird, and I am the deputy commander of Flamebird and their boss."

"A group of mercenaries. Did Lazzaro join a foreign organization of mercenaries?"

"He is crossing the line. He actually brought foreigners here to fight against his compatriots. That's too abominable."

"What does Lazzaro really want to do?"

.....

As they discussed in low voices, all sorts of doubts and thoughts of dissatisfaction welled up in their minds.

Seeing this, Lazzaro was not affected at all. He continued to say, "I might as well tell you that I commanded them to challenge all of you here around South Hanover City in the past few months. I did this is to let you know that your fancy martial-arts skills are not worth mentioning in my eyes. You can't fight against members of Flamebird."

After a pause, Lazzaro said in a deep voice, "Although you are not good enough, you all have foundations in the martial-arts skills. You can barely meet the requirements of Flamebird. Therefore, I request all of you to join Flamebird."

His deafening words shocked the martial-arts practitioners. They were completely thunderstruck and flabbergasted. They could not come to their senses.

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Even Fade Chen and Casper Zhu frowned at this moment.

They didn't expect that these foreign martial-arts practitioners, who were throwing their weight around everywhere, were part of the Zhan Family's genius's plan. He had the intention to force the martial-arts practitioners in China to join Flamebird, a mercenary group he was part of.

For a moment, their expressions became gloomy.

At this time, Lazzaro's gaze was cold and he continued to say in a clear voice, "Well, I've said what I needed to say. Now, anyone who is unwilling to join Flamebird can come forward on his own, and I can grant your wish."

After that, Lazzaro revealed a cold and bizarre smile. His voice was terrifying, like a ghoul from hell, and many people felt cold and shuddered when they heard it.

The martial-arts practitioners there were silent, and no one dared to say anything.

After all, Lazzaro was well-known for his power and status, especially in the vicinity of South Hanover City. He was almost like a legend. No one dared to rebel against him, and the scene of Basile Hu's brutal and cruel death appeared in their minds at this moment.

Therefore, at this moment, no one dared to take any action.

Seeing that no one was making any sound below, Lazzaro nodded with satisfaction, and a smile appeared at the corner of his mouth.

On the other hand, Horatio waved his hand and announced, "Since that's the case, come up one by one and declare your loyalty to Flamebird!"

As soon as he said that, many other martial-arts practitioners were still hesitating and trembling. However, Nickel Xu couldn't wait to rush up. He knelt respectfully in front of Lazzaro, groveled before him a few times, and then said with a flattering smile, "Senior Lazzaro, my Far Peace Martial-Arts Center is willing to join Flamebird."

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"Not bad, not bad!" Lazzaro nodded. Then, he took out a black pill the size of a soybean from his fingertips. He handed it to Nickel and said, "Eat this!"

- Without hesitation, Nickel took the pill with both hands, threw it into his mouth, and swallowed it.
- Seeing this, Lazzaro nodded with a satisfied smile. After praising him, he asked Nickel to wait behind him.
- Seeing this, many martial-arts practitioners below couldn't help but scold Nickel in their hearts for his shamelessness and opportunistic behavior. However, more people saw him as a role model, and they rushed forward. They bowed to Lazzaro and took the pills at the same time.
- One of them, a clever guy, didn't forget about the gift that he was going to give Old Master Zhan. He handed it to Lazzaro respectfully after declaring his loyalty to him.
- Although the gift was not considered precious, this gesture of respect and submission caused Lazzaro to feel quite pleased. He nodded with satisfaction, and his face was full of smiles.
- As a result, the people after him imitated that guy. Regardless whether they brought gifts or not, they brought out all their possessions that they had with them and presented them to Lazzaro respectfully.
- More people went on stage, and there were less people below the stage. While the rest of these people were thinking about this matter, they kept glancing at Casper. After all, Casper was the chieftain of the Eternal Pride Martial-Arts Center, the most powerful martial-arts center in South Hanover City, and he had a high status in South Hanover City.
- His attitude toward Lazzaro would be definitive for a considerable number of people. If he gave in, perhaps no one could fight against Lazzaro, and all of the remaining people would surrender to the Zhan family.

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Due to this fact, everyone's eyes naturally fell on Casper and his companions.

At this moment, Nickel wanted to stir up trouble and sow seeds of chaos. He said, "Casper, as the chieftain of the most powerful martial-arts center in South Hanover City, why are you being hesitant? After all, Lazzaro is valiant, magnanimous and willing to take you in."

Casper's expression changed and he wanted to refute him. However, in the face of a master like Lazzaro, he was still a little timid at the moment. In the end, he could only grunt in a muffled tone.

Nickel did not want to let him off the hook. With a smile on his face, he whispered in a flattering manner to Lazzaro, "Commander, Casper has a high position in South Hanover City. If he joins Flamebird, the rest of the people can be easily dealt with."

Hearing Nickel's words, Lazzaro nodded and lowered his head to think for a moment. Then, he looked up and gazed at Casper. He said, "Casper, I can promise you the position of captain in Flamebird if you join me now."

"Are you willing to be under me?" Lazzaro looked at Casper and asked.

Casper's expression changed. He gazed at Lazzaro and then looked at the few remaining martial-art practitioners to aid him with his decision. His lips trembled a few times, but he did not speak for a while

Seeing this, Lazzaro seemed to be a little dissatisfied. Lazzaro frowned and was about to lose his temper. At this time, Nickel bent over and whispered something in his ear, which caused Lazzaro's brows to relax slightly.

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Lazzaro Zhan nodded slightly, then he raised his head and looked at Casper Zhu, saying, "Chieftain Zhu, I'll give you some time to think about this matter so that you can make a final decision. I hope you won't let me down!"

- Upon hearing his words, Casper's expression softened a little, but he still could not conceal the sorrow on his face.
- At this time, Lazzaro turned his eyes toward the rest of the people. He allowed these people to salute him and present gifts to him on the stage.
- A few more people went up to the stage one after another, leaving only a dozen martial-arts practitioners behind. Casper was the most prominent person among those who did not go onstage.
- Seeing that Casper had no intention of going on stage, Lazzaro snorted and then glanced at Nickel Xu.
- Nickel understood the hint. He stood up and said in a clear voice, "Far Peace Martial-Arts Center wants to show our loyalty to Flamebird and present a great gift to our commander."
- Hearing this, everyone could not help but look at Nickel curiously. They all looked at him to see what the gift was.
- Under everyone's gazes, Nickel clapped his hands. Then, four subordinates came forward with an item similar to a sedan chair. After putting the sedan chair on the rostrum, the four subordinates opened the sedan chair, and then a figure covered in red cloth appeared.

Seeing this figure, everyone was shocked.

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"Is this a great gift? A living person?"

"What on earth is Nickel doing? It's strange to bring a person here as a gift!"

"Judging by the figure, this person seems to be a woman. Does Nickel want to flatter Lazzaro by sending a beauty to him?"

"There's no need to make such a big fuss. Wouldn't it be better to send her to Lazzaro's room in secret?"

......

While the crowd was discussing this matter, Nickel clapped his hands and said, "Bring her here!"

Four men lifted the woman inside the red cloth in front of Nickel, and then Nickel pulled off the woman's hood, revealing a beautiful face. It was a woman in her late twenties. Her face was delicate, beautiful, and she was attractive at first glance.

When the other people on the stage saw this, their eyes could not help but light up and they all began to whisper.

"What a beauty! Nickel is so bold!"

"No wonder Nickel said that this stunning beauty was a great gift!"

"This time, Nickel has done well in front of the commander. In the future, he will have a stable position in Flamebird."

"Why didn't I think of sending a beauty! I didn't have such an idea!"

......

Nickel smiled and looked at the crowd who was amazed. Then, he said, "This woman is the great gift that I am giving to the commander. She is a great gift not only due to her appearance, but also due to her identity."

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When it came to her identity, everyone couldn't help but be curious again and they began to guess the identity of this woman.

Just as everyone on the stage was discussing this matter curiously, Fade Chen and Jimmy Wei, who were standing below the stage, saw the woman's face. Their expressions changed drastically and their faces fell.

This woman was none other than Lily Wei.

Some time ago, due to the matter of the blind date, Lily chose to take a vacation to relax. She also said that she would go to South Hanover City for a tour and look for her father to reminisce about the past. Unexpectedly, she had fallen into Nickel's hands.

"Sister Lily!"

"Lily!"

Fade and Jimmy's expression were dark and gloomy.

At this time, Nickel did not notice that both their expressions had changed. He continued to introduce her with a smile, saying, "This woman's name is Lily. Everyone here may not be familiar with this name, but if another city is mentioned, it will ring a bell. This woman belongs to Fade."

When Fade's name was mentioned, all the martial-art practitioners present were very excited.

"Fade, the new top master in Long City!"

"He is the legendary youthful Earth Level master who had defeated Francesca Sun."

"Earth Level Master? He's just bragging. I think at most he is at the peak of the Black level."

. . . . . . . . .

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Some people were intuitive and they remembered something. Their expressions changed, and they looked at Lazzaro and Horatio.

" Horatio's son, Quintus Zhan, was crippled by Fade!"

"Horatio and Lazzaro have a good relationship. Looks like Lazzaro is going to avenge his nephew this time."

" Nickel's intention is clear! He wanted to send this beauty to the commander and also send a threatening message to the commander's enemies!"

......

As everyone exclaimed in surprise, Lazzaro said in a deep voice, "You must have heard how Quintus was crippled by Fade. I won't let go of this matter since Quintus was bullied in such a manner. He is after all a member of the Zhan family."

"Fade's woman today, is just an example. I want everyone to know what the result will be if you go against me and Flamebird!"

After the deafening cry, Lazzaro looked at Lily and he narrowed his eyes, revealing a cold expression. Then, he waved his hand and shouted, "
Strip her! Today, I would like to see what's so special about this woman, who belongs to the most powerful person in Long city. Haha!"

While speaking, a few of his subordinates pounced on Lily like wolves and tigers. Lily's pretty face became pale with fear, and her body trembled.

The people around them all had different expressions. Some of them had lustful expressions on their faces, and they licked their tongues and stared at her. Some had sympathy written on their faces and they turned their heads away, unwilling to look at her. Some people shook their heads and sighed secretly. They felt that Lazzaro's actions were crossing the line.

With the sound of ripping, the red cloth around Lily was torn.

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The hungry gazes of the surrounding people, who were like wolves, fell on Lily. Their gazes were like spikes that intended to pierce Lily's body. "Let's do this!" The corner of Lazzaro's mouth revealed a cold smile as he spoke.

At this critical moment, a cold voice could be heard suddenly. "A group of powerful men bullying an innocent woman. Don't you feel ashamed of yourselves?"

The voice came from below the stage, and then a thin figure walked to the rostrum.

The voice caught everyone's attention. It was a young man in his early twenties, who looked delicate.

"Who are you? How dare you talk nonsense here?"

"Get out!"

"Casper, take good care of your people!"

. . . . . . . . . .

Lazzaro glanced at Fade in disdain. He waved his hand and said, "Break two of his limbs and throw him out!"

"Yes!" The two men walked toward Fade with cold expressions, each holding a thick wooden stick. Their expressions were cruel.

"Brat, you-"

The two men had just opened their mouths. However, before they could get close, Fade raised his eyebrows slightly and waved his hand to release a gust of powerful energy, which knocked them over directly. They fell down, spat out a mouthful of blood and fainted. Fade continued to move forward with cold eyes.

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Lazzaro was shocked by this move. He looked at Fade and said coldly, "Who are you?" Fade looked at Lazzaro and said coldly, "You want to take revenge on me, but you don't know who I am?"

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Hearing this, Lazzaro Zhan's expression changed, and then he seemed to remember something. He snorted and stared at Fade Chen. "You, you are Fade!" he said.

"Yes," Fade said coldly.

"Haha!" Lazzaro laughed. He looked at Fade with disdain and said, "I didn't expect the so-called top master in Long City to look like this. It's ridiculous."

When the other guests heard about Fade 's identity at this moment, they couldn't help but be shocked and they were in disbelief.

"This is Fade? No way, he's too young!"

"Fade is very young!"

"This, this guy, is he really a master at the peak of the Black Level?"

"He's really Fade. I've seen him before. It's him!"

. . . . . . . . .

While everyone's expressions were changing, Nickel Xu couldn't help but feel nervous at this moment. He didn't dare to look at Fade and he couldn't help but take a few steps backward. He had kidnapped Lily Wei, and he couldn't escape Fade's revenge even if he wanted to do so.

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While he was feeling a sense of fear, Nickel suddenly felt a gust of cold wind coming toward him. He couldn't help but lookup. He noticed that Fade was staring at him with cold eyes. His eyes were like icicles attacking him, piercing through his whole body. His body felt cold and he couldn't move at all.

"I, I—" For a moment, Nickel felt that his breath was frozen, and his whole body was stiff on the spot.

- At this time, Lazzaro patted Nickel gently and a warm current rushed through his body. Nickel was instantly free from this chilly wind.
- Nickel was overjoyed. He quickly bowed with his hands cupped in front of his chest and thanked Lazzaro. "Thank you, Commander!" he said.
- At the same time, he calmed down. No matter how powerful Fade was, he couldn't do anything to him. Lazzaro was his backer, so he didn't need to be fearful at all.
- As he was thinking of this, the fear of Nickel's face disappeared. Instead, he became more arrogant. He raised his head slightly and looked at Fade, and the corners of his mouth were raised slightly.
- At this moment, Lazzaro took a step forward, looked at Fade, and said slowly, "Fade, I wanted to go to Long City to settle our issues. However, I didn't expect you to come here by yourself. Since this is the case, I have saved some time."
- After pausing for a while, Lazzaro's tone suddenly became serious. With a stern look in his eyes, he shouted in a condescending tone, "Now, I'll give you a chance. Come here and kneel down before me. Become my subordinate and I'll spare your life."
- Fade shook his head and looked at Lazzaro with coldness in his eyes. "Do you think that you are better than Francesca Sun?"

Lazzaro snorted and said, "Francesca was top master in Long City for many years by relying on some old-fashioned tricks. She is not that special. She hasn't waited for me to return. Otherwise, I would have defeated her instead of you!"

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"You're confident!" Fade said.

Lazzaro stepped forward again and said, "My confidence comes from my strength. I shall ask you one last time, be my subordinate, or die!"

At this time, Nickel also looked confident and shouted at the side, "Fade, did you hear that? The Commander has given you a chance. Don't be ungrateful, otherwise—"

"Shut up!" Without waiting for Nickel to finish his sentence, Fade frowned and waved his hand directly to slap him.

In an instant, a gust of energy rushed out from Fade's palm and turned into a giant virtual palm print, which came down on Nickel from all directions.

Nickel suddenly felt a huge pressure upon him, like a mountain tumbling down toward him. He felt that he was in mortal peril, and his face became extremely pale. He screamed in a hurry, "Help—"

Upon hearing this, Lazzaro grunted coldly and launched a blow with his arm. A fist print marked with blood was launched out to counter Fade's attack.

The two forces were about to collide, and Fade's palm shook slightly. His palm print started to shine brightly suddenly. With a loud crash, he smashed Lazzaro's fist print.

Before Lazzaro could react, Fade's huge palm print, which was like a gigantic mountain, slammed down on Nickel.

"Boom!" A loud sound was heard, and the huge force directly shattered a part of the rostrum. Nickel's whole body was slammed onto the rostrum, and his body was completely transformed into a mass of blurred flesh and blood. It was almost impossible to differentiate the parts of his body.

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Nickel, a famous master of the martial arts in South Hanover City, was killed by one strike from Fade's palm.

At this moment, everyone had witnessed the strength of the top master in Long City. For a moment, the others on the stage couldn't help but gasp and took a few steps back, with a look of horror on their faces.

At this time, Lazzaro glanced at Nickel, who was badly mutilated and then looked at Fade in fury. Nickel's death did not bother him, but Fade had actually killed Nickel in front of him, which was a great provocation to him.

"You are trying to irritate me!" Lazzaro shouted angrily. His roar was like thunder exploding in the air. His burly body trembled and it broke through the old military uniform. His strong muscles turned into a ball of huge energy and he rushed toward Fade.

At the same time, Lazzaro lifted his arms, and his fists turned into two large and heavy hammers. With unstoppable momentum, he was going to destroy everything in front of him.

"Go to hell!"

Lazzaro started to launch out his heavy fists. Their movements were like raindrops and they began to move toward Fade to strike him heavily.

Fade moved his hands to block Lazzaro's attack. At the same time, he kept retreating, as if he could not withstand Lazzaro's forceful attack.

Lazzaro spoke as he increased the momentum of his attacks. He smiled maliciously and roar, "You old-fashioned warriors think that you can improve your strength by meditation? It's ridiculous. Let me tell you, real strength is gained from warfare and blood lust."

"Over the years, I have survived from the mountains of corpses and seas of blood in the turbulence of Africa and the war zone in the middle east. I've trained myself to be this powerful. All of you, who are so-called martial artists, can't compare with me at all."

With a shout, Lazzaro's attack became more furious. He seemed to be forcing Fade to retreat. With his last shout, his fists were launched out

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ferociously. "I will let you have a taste of blood and death!" he yelled.

Witnessing Lazzaro's powerful attack, everyone was stunned. They looked at Lazzaro, who was like a bloodthirsty beast, in disbelief. Their hearts were beating violently and their whole bodies were shaking.

"Is this the extent of Lazzaro's strength?"

"What on earth has Lazzaro been through in all these years?"

"He's too strong! He's too powerful! I can't even imagine how powerful he is!"

"This kind of power is beyond any level . Fade is finished!"

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# Chapter 427

The powerful strength and energy of Lazzaro Zhan's attack caused the hearts of the martial-arts warriors there to beat violently.

At this time, they felt a murderous intent that was cultivated from mountains of corpses and seas of blood. They had never experienced such an intense battle atmosphere. It was so intense that they felt like a strong momentum of energy was rushing toward them. This momentum of energy was like an enormous hatchet that was going to obliterate everything in its way.

- At this moment, everyone looked at Fade Chen in excitement. They felt bloodthirsty and looked forward to the battle.
- They could predict that the top master of Long City, who had risen to prominence swiftly, would be killed by Lazzaro's ferocious attack.
- At this time, even Jimmy Wei and Casper Zhu, who were below the stage, were anxious on behalf of Fade.
- "How can Lazzaro be so powerful?"

"Lazzaro's energy and strength is powerful and swift. His battle instincts are too strong. Mr. Chen, can you really defend yourself against his attack?"

. . . . . . . . .

For a moment, even Jimmy, who had absolute faith in Fade, was nervous. His heart was beating violently like pounding drums.

At this time, Lazzaro's energy and power had reached their peak. Like a monstrous dragon, he attacked Fade crazily. Lazzaro's growling and

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roaring also reached their climax. "Fade, let me tell you, when I spill the blood of my enemies, that is the taste of death!" "Now, be ready to die!" Lazzaro said coldly.

As he roared and growled in fury, Lazzaro's attack was full of energy and power. His fists rumbled like the sound of dragons roaring. With a loud blast, he launched his fists and rushed fiercely toward Fade. The ferocious murderous intent and bloody rays of light from his fists seem to engulf Fade completely.

Just as Fade was about to be overwhelmed by the giant momentum approaching him like a wave, a crimson aura suddenly burst out from Fade's body.

Long and narrow beams of light emerged from Fade's fingertips. These rays of light were extended and they became larger in size. Finally, they turned into a burning sword. The sword rose up with Fade's arm and flew above in the air. Then, Fade wielded the sword and sent it chopping downward from the air.

A bright crimson light instantly cut through the sky, slicing through Lazzaro's surging energy. Then, Lazzaro's gust of energy was torn open and it was ignited by the crimson flames, which kept burning and spreading like wild fire.

Lazzaro, who was like a mad man, felt Fade's power, and his body stiffened. Then, his facial muscles began to twitch intensely and his arms shook violently. He released many gusts of inner energy, resisting Fade's attack ferociously.

However, the long piercing scarlet sword fell downward from the sky. It was like a meteorite across the night sky. It increased in speed and was unstoppable.

Lazzaro felt a tremendous weight rushing toward him. He placed his arms in front of his body to resist the attack from the void. His muscles kept

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trembling, his skin began to tear, and traces of blood spurted out from his wounds.

Such a situation completely shocked the martial-artists who were just exclaiming about Lazzaro's power and strength. They couldn't understand what was going on.

"Everyone, attack! Come and help!" The crowd did not come to their senses until Lazzaro let out a painful roar.

The 20 plus foreigners from Flamebird, the mercenary group, rushed over. All of them were loyal to Lazzaro. They did not seem to care for their lives, and they rushed toward Fade to attack him madly.

At this moment, streams of energies and various weapons seemed like raindrops in the air. The scene was chaotic, and loud crackling sounds could be heard. They started aiming for Fade .

Fade flicked his left hand gently and a wall of air appeared, acting like a shield for him. In this way, he defended himself against the attacks in front of him. These attacks bounced off the wall. Then, he swiped his fingertips across the air, and a ray of crimson light immediately appeared in the air. The ray of light proceeded to cut through the bodies of these foreign warriors.

Their bodies were sliced in half in an instant. Parts of their bodies fell to the ground with splashing sounds, and the ground was covered with blood.

Immediately, everyone looked at Fade with fear in their eyes.

However, before they could come to their senses, Fade had already begun with his next attack. The sharp burning sword slashed through the bodies of these foreign warriors, like the grim reaper harvesting the dead with his scythe.

In less than three minutes, these foreigners, who were acting arrogantly in the vicinity of South Hanover City, were killed by Fade. They could not

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fight against him.

The martial-artists who were enthusiastic about surrendering to Lazzaro on the rostrum were eager to help. However, when they saw what was happening, they were completely dumbfounded. They were so frightened that they flinched and hid. They didn't dare to make a sound at all, let alone help.

Lazzaro gritted his teeth and stood firm. When he saw that 20 of his men were killed by Fade so easily, he was in disbelief. He gritted his teeth and glared at Fade, saying, "Who, who are you? What level have you reached?"

"You don't have to know this!" Fade said blandly. He pressed his right hand downward gently, and the burning sword chopped down again on Lazzaro. Bloody wounds appeared on Lazzaro's arms as he tried to resist this attack. The sword continued to chop down deeper.

Lazzaro felt this unstoppable force on his arms and he felt that death was approaching him. Suddenly, a strong sense of fear welled up in his heart. He shouted frantically, "I admit defeat, I admit defeat! Please, let me go."

Fade's right hand did not stop moving and he continued to chop downward. He said coldly, "This is not a competition. This is life and death."

When you threaten me with my loved ones, you have made an appointment with death."

The sharp sword had cut off Lazzaro's arms and it started chopping his shoulder. Blood dripped down from his shoulder.

Despite the intense pain, Lazzaro gritted his teeth and begged for mercy. "I was wrong. I shouldn't have threatened you. I'm sorry. I will apologize to you. I'll surrender and admit defeat. I will give you whatever you want. I only beg you to let me go."

Fade said coldly, "All I want is to kill you."

After that, Fade increased the forces from his arms. The long burning sword kept slicing downward. Blood and fire entered Lazzaro's body and

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took away his last breath. What was left was his one last roar. "You will definitely regret killing me. The Flamebird Mercenary Group will not let you go. They will avenge my death."

"Crack!" The sharp sword chopped down on him completely, splitting Lazzaro into two halves. He lost his breath completely.

The fresh blood stimulated the burning sword. The flames on the sword seem to burn brighter with a bright red color, causing everyone's hearts to tremble when they witnessed this.

At this time, Fade flicked his fingers lightly, and the long burning sword was transformed into gusts of energy and they disappeared into thin air.

Fade revealed a gentle expression on the corner of his mouth. He walked gently to Lily's side, hugged her, and comforted her in a soft voice. She was in a daze. "Sister Lily, I'm here. It's okay!"he said.

Lily didn't come to her senses until Fade held her in his arms. She felt his warm breath on her. When she looked up at Fade's familiar face smiling at her, she could no longer hold back her tears, which were falling down like raindrops.

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## Chapter 428

Fade Chen hugged Lily Wei and comforted her for a long time. This helped her to calm down gradually .

Then, Jimmy Wei also came over and comforted his daughter gently. Finally, Lily's emotions were completely stable.

It was not appropriate for Lily to remain where she was, so Fade asked Jimmy to bring Lily somewhere else and find a place to rest.

As for Fade, his eyes were cold and he gazed at all the warriors there. His cold gaze caused all the people there to be frightened and looks of horror and fear appeared on their faces.

As his eyes swept over them, Fade's eyes fell on Horatio Zhan, who was standing behind the crowd. He shouted coldly, "Come forward!"

Horatio was pushed forward nervously by someone in the crowd. He was flung in front of Fade like a dead dog. He laid on the ground, trembling continuously, and muttered, "I was wrong. Please don't kill me! I was wrong. Don't kill me!"

Fade grabbed Horatio by the neck and lifted him up. He said in a cold voice, "Tell me, what is the Flamebird Mercenary Group planning? Also, what are the Zhan family's intentions? Tell me the truth."

At this moment, Horatio didn't dare to hide anything. Fade shouted and Horatio immediately confessed everything.

Fade had crippled Quintus Zhan, and Horatio was resentful because of what had happened to his son. Knowing that his cousin Lazzaro Zhan would return soon, he contacted him in advance and got updates from him.

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He found out that Lazzaro was now the famous deputy commander of Flamebird Mercenary Group. Lazzaro intended to return to his country to expand Flamebird's territory in China. In this way, Flamebird would grow into the largest mercenary group in the world.

Horatio wanted Lazzaro to help him avenge his son. He also wanted to rely on Lazzaro's strength and power. When he got the updates on Lazzaro's plans, he immediately began to help Lazzaro devise good strategies to fulfill his intentions.

In the end, they decided to let the foreigners enter South Hanover City. In a short period of time, they would focus on challenging the warriors nearby to acquire fame. In the end, they were prepared to reveal their identities in the martial-arts competition to shock the warriors around South Hanover City. Then, they would take down this group of people directly.

In order to carry out this plan, Horatio collected a lot of relevant information on Lazzaro's Flamebird Mercenary Group in advance. Finally, the plan was about to be carried out without problems.

However, Nickel Xu had kidnapped Lily, and this had provoked Fade. This led to the failure of the whole plan.

After listening to the whole plan, Fade's glance turned cold and anger rose in his heart. These foreigners wanted to enter China, and they were becoming unruly.

With a snort, Fade continued to ask, "What's the role of the Zhan family in this matter?"

Horatio said quickly, "This matter has nothing to do with the Zhan family. In fact, my cousin and I have been in contact with each other all this time. The whole plan was basically prepared by the two of us. The other members of the Zhan Family have nothing to do with this."

"Is this true?" Fade asked coldly.

"It's true. It's definitely true!" Horatio said quickly. "The old master and the others have been distracted by us. Most of the remaining members of

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the Zhan family have been working in the army, so they don't know anything about these family matters."

Horatio answered Fade quite resolutely. Perhaps his intention was to preserve the family's reputation or seek another chance at survival. Fade looked at the expressions of the people around him and they seemed to believe Horatio's words.

Without any hesitation, Fade continued to ask, "I have one last question. Why did Lazzaro say that the Flamebird Mercenary Group will not let me go? Do they still have masters around here? Or did someone secretly inform the Flamebird Mercenary Group of these incidents?"

Hearing this, Horatio couldn't help but be shocked. He was stunned for a moment, then waved his hand and said, "No, no-"

Seeing his expression, Fade shouted. He raised his finger and cut off one of Horatio's hands. He said coldly, "Are you still not telling the truth?"

Horatio almost fainted when he felt the intense pain, but he didn't dare to hide the truth as he faced Fade's cruel expression. He endured the pain and nodded, "There are indeed masters of the Flamebird Mercenary Group in China."

"Oh!" Fade raised his eyebrows. He didn't expect to hear that. "What masters? Where are they?"

This incident involving Lily reminded Fade that although he was strong, it was impossible for him to protect all his relatives and friends from life-threatening situations at all times. Knowing that his enemies were in China now, Fade had to kill them at all costs. He couldn't give them the chance to hurt his friends and relatives again.

Horatio hesitated for a moment, then looked at Fade and said, "You, if you promise to spare my life, I'll give you this information."

"You don't have the right to bargain with me!" Fade said. A gust of energy burst out from his fingertips and he looked toward Horatio coldly.

Horatio trembled and hesitated for a few seconds. When he saw Fade frowning in impatience, Horatio finally said, "Two of the four masters of the Flamebird Mercenary Group are on a cruise ship at sea close to South Hanover City."

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"They were initially waiting for Lazzaro to send news back to them after the success of this matter. But now, it is impossible for Lazzaro to send them any news. They will soon know that there is something wrong here. At that time, they will definitely come here to investigate the situation."

Fade frowned slightly when he heard this. He immediately asked, "Who are these four masters of the Flamebird Mercenary Group? What level of strength are they at?"

Horatio explained, "Lazzaro told me that in Flamebird Mercenary Group, the leader was the most powerful person. The second most powerful was not Lazzaro, but the four masters in the mercenary group. All of these four masters are powerful, comparable to Earth Level masters. Even my cousin thought that he was no match for them."

"Furthermore, their battle tactics are even more vicious than my cousin's. They grew up in the war zone and have gotten used to warfare and bloodshed."

- Before Fade could react, the martial-art warriors around him could not help but gasp.
- Lazzaro's strength and vicious tactics had already brought them unimaginable terror.
- But now, not far away, there were two masters who were even more terrifying than Lazzaro. They couldn't help but feel a chill in their heart, and a sense of indescribable fear rose up in their heart. For a moment, everyone's eyes were fixed on Fade.
- Fade frowned slightly. He did not have a good feeling about these bloodthirsty maniacs. They had no boundaries. In order to achieve their goals, they would resort to all means.

In other words, they were very likely to threaten Fade's friends and relatives in order to take revenge on him. Thinking of this, Fade felt a chill in his heart and he whispered coldly, "I don't care who these people are. They had better not act rashly, otherwise, death is the only option!"

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After that, Fade Chen looked at Horatio Zhan and asked, "Do you have any other information?"

Horatio shook his head and said, "No. I've told you everything I know!"

After that, Horatio looked nervously at Fade. His heart was full of uneasiness. He was worried that Fade would slap him to death, and that would be a tragedy.

Fortunately, Fade thought for a moment and seemed to have no intention of killing him. Instead, he said, "In that case, I'll wait for the two masters to come here!"

Horatio and the warriors were stunned. They didn't grasp who Fade was talking about until they came to their senses. Suddenly, their expressions changed. Their mouths moved and they wanted to persuade him otherwise, but they didn't dare to do so.

Flamebird Mercenary Group was a world-renowned mercenary organization. The four masters of this organization were definitely not to be messed with. Moreover, Horatio had already said that the strength of these two masters were even more powerful than Lazzaro's. Even if Fade was really an Earth Level master, he probably would not be able to defeat these experts!

For a moment, everyone was anxious and they looked nervous. They were not worried about Fade's safety, but they were worried that they would get in a fight and get themselves in trouble.

Fade understood what they were thinking, and he didn't want to say anything more. He just waved his hand and allowed them to leave and

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return to their respective homes.

- This group of warriors immediately felt as though they had been granted amnesty and they fled from the scene. In the end, only Jimmy Wei and Casper Zhu stayed with Fade. Of course, Horatio could not leave at all.
- Looking at Horatio, who was extremely nervous, Fade said, "Arrange for us to stay here. I'll wait for them here."
- Horatio was stunned, and his face was full of bitterness. However, he didn't dare to refuse. He could only nod and agree to Fade's request. Then, he immediately went out to arrange for Fade and his companions' accommodations.
- They rested in the Zhan family's manor. After dinner, Jimmy and Casper came to Fade's room. They were worried and they asked about the two masters of Flamebird Mercenary Group.
- Even Jimmy, who had absolute faith in Fade, couldn't help but feel a little nervous at this time. After all, according to his impression, Fade's strength was at the Earth Level. This time, there were two Earth Level experts coming. Fade would be in danger.
- Fade knew what they were worried about, so he smiled confidently and said, "Don't worry, I'll be fine. Two Earth Level masters can't hurt me."
- Jimmy and Casper still wanted to say something, but they didn't know what to say. The words seem to be stuck on their lips. After all, they were here now, and there was no better option for them.
- It was not Fade's style to just leave directly. Fade's relatives and friends would be in great danger as well. After all, Lily Wei had just been kidnapped. If the two masters could not find Fade, it was very likely that they would retaliate against Fade's relatives and friends.
- After thinking about this, the two of them stopped giving advice and allowed Fade to have a good rest. Then, they went out from his room.

After sending them off, Fade was about to close the door and go back to his room to rest.

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At this moment, a figure flashed in front of the door.

Fade was slightly shocked, and then he saw a slim figure rushing toward him. He felt a sense of warmth and gentleness on his body, and there was a faint floral scent wafting in the air.

Instantly, Fade felt warm and his heart felt soft. He said gently, "Sister Lily!"

She fell into Fade's arms and buried her head in Fade's chest. She whispered, "Let us go in and talk!"

Hearing this, Fade couldn't help but feel a sense of warmth in his heart. He brought Lily into the room and then shut the door behind him.

In the room, Lily still held Fade tightly. She almost buried herself in Fade's arms. Her body trembled slightly and she sobbed and twitched slightly.

When she cried, Fade suddenly panicked and he said in a hurry, "Sister Lily, what, what's wrong with you? Don't cry, I, I-"

Noticing Fade's sense of panic, Lily raised her head in Fade's arms. With a tear-stained smile on her delicate face, she said, "I am happy."

"Sister Lily, this—" Fade had never seen Lily in such a state. For a moment, Fade was overwhelmed because she was so emotional and she had taken the initiative to meet him. He could only stare quietly at Lily.

Looking at Fade's stunned expression, Lily couldn't help laughing. "Why are you staring at me?" she asked.

Seeing Lily's childish and cheeky expression, Fade couldn't help but feel a sense of warmth in his heart. He smiled and said, "I'm staring at a beautiful woman!"

"Am I beautiful?" Lily squinted slightly and asked.

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Fade nodded quickly and replied, "Yes, you are. Sister Lily is definitely a great beauty."

"Am I prettier than Quin Lin?" Lily continued to ask.

Fade was immediately stuck. His expression froze and he stuttered, "This, both of you can't be compared to each other. Each of you have your own merits!"

"Hmph, you are not telling the truth," Lily said softly. Following that, she let out a soft sigh and said with some sadness, "I know, I'm not as good as Quin. I'm not as powerful as Quin. You have Quin as your wife, and I'm certain that you won't fancy me."

Fade felt warmth gushing in his heart. He shook his head and said, "No, of course not. I have a crush on you, sister Lily."

Hearing this, Lily rolled her eyes and looked at Fade with a sly expression. She said, "What do you mean by saying that you have a crush on me? Do you want to..."

"Ahem, this, this—" For a moment, Fade really did not know how to explain himself. Was he going to admit that he wanted to do something with his wife's best friend?

"Then, that means you don't have any feelings toward me. In that case, I'd better leave. I don't want to bother you,"Lily said. With a sad look, Lily pushed Fade away and was about to leave.

Fade was anxious. He hugged Lily and said, "I like you. I like you. Sister Lily, you are so beautiful. How can I not like you?"

"But you just-" Lily's body softened again and she buried herself in Fade's arms.

Fade explained, "I, I'm just worried that you don't fancy me."

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"Sister Lily, you are beautiful and have a good career. You have good character, a good figure and everything you do is wonderful. As for me, I am just a kid. I have nothing and I am married. I am afraid that you will be hurt, so I dare not..." Fade said.

Listening to Fade's explanation, Lily arched her eyebrows and smiled. She then shook her head and said, "Let us not worry too much about these matters. The previous blind date and my recent trip have led me to understand something."

"Life is hard and short, and we need to live for ourselves. If you have things that you want to achieve, just go for it. Don't care about other people's opinions and do what you want to do. Only in this way, you won't have any regrets when you are old."

"So, I don't want to think about other things or those restrictions. I just want to tell you that I like you. Now, I just want to ask you, Fade, do you like me?"

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Fade Chen gazed into Sister Lily's affectionate and solemn eyes. He felt Lily Wei's heart beating violently, and felt an irrepressible warmth in his heart.

- He looked serious and he bit his lip gently. Finally, he stared at Lily, nodded seriously and said, "I like you. I like Sister Lily. I like Lily!"
- Hearing Fade's words, Lily instantly revealed an ecstatic smile. Her eyebrows were arched. Her whole body seemed to be like liquid as she melted in Fade's embrace. Her delicate body was transformed into a ball of fiery flame, burning in his arms.
- Lily bit her red lips gently. She looked at Fade with misty eyes and whispered, "Kiss me."
- These words were like a barrel of gunpowder that was ignited, instantly causing Fade's body to burn with heat.
- Fade exerted the strength in his arms and held Lily tightly in his arms. Then, he leaned over and kissed her red lips. Warm sensations and the fragrant scent were blended together in this instant. Their bodies were like molten liquid, constantly molding each other, and they were about to be fused together in perfect harmony.
- The fragrance was wafting in the air, and lust was burning within them.
- Every time they breathed, they were like smoldering flames, and the temperature of their bodies rose with the heat.
- Fade hugged Lily instinctively and he walked directly to the large bed in the room. He threw Lily onto the bed, and then Fade pounced on her.

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Both pieces of scorching charcoal were about to be set ablaze, but at this moment, there was a sudden knock on the door.

The clattering sound startled Fade. He frowned and asked impatiently, "Who's there?"

Jimmy Wei's voice could be heard. He coughed and said, "Fade, it's me! Are you asleep?"

Hearing Jimmy's voice, Fade's heart skipped a beat and a complicated expression appeared on his face. After all, he had his daughter on his bed right now.

After a dry cough, Fade allowed his breath to eased a little. Then, he asked, "Uncle Wei, any problems?"

Jimmy said, "Well, I went to Lily's room and found that she was not in her room. Do you know where she is?"

Fade looked down and noticed the charming beauty below him. He couldn't help but smile and said, "Uncle Wei, I don't know. Maybe she is dealing with some of her own affairs."

Jimmy said, "She was just kidnapped recently, and the matter with the Flamebird Mercenary Group hasn't been resolved. I am very worried about her. Fade, why don't you come with me and look for her together?"

Fade really wanted to tell Jimmy that there was no need to search for her. Her daughter was on his bed. However, how could he say that? He could only stand up helplessly and promised him, "Well, please wait a moment, Uncle Wei. I'll come out after I get dressed."

"Well, sorry to trouble you," Jimmy said.

Fade took a glance at the charming beauty on the bed, but he could only resist the heat surging in his body. He tidied up his clothes and stood up. Then, he whispered to Lily, "Sister Lily, I'm going out. Later, you can find an opportunity to return to your room secretly!"

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Lily bit her red lips and pulled her clothes gently, revealing her skin which was as white as snow. She touched her red lips coquettishly and said, "I don't want to go back though. What should I do?"

Seeing Sister Lily's seductive appearance, Fade almost couldn't resist her. He could only glare at Lily and said, "Sister Lily, don't try to seduce me anymore. Otherwise, I will have to punish you and give you what you want."

"I don't mind that, but do you dare to do so?" Lily said in an alluring manner. She winked at Fade. licked her red lips, and tried to tempt him.

Fade suddenly felt that his throat was dry. He called her a goblin secretly, and he didn't dare to say anything more. He quickly turned and walked to the door.

As he opened the door, Fade pretended as if nothing had happened and said, "Uncle Wei."

"I don't know where Lily has gone to in the middle of the night! I'm so worried," Jimmy said. He looked anxious.

Fade coughed lightly. He restrained himself from looking back and closed the door. He said to Jimmy, "Uncle Wei, don't worry. The Zhan family's manor is quite safe. Everything will be fine."

"Let's go and find her together!" Fade and Jimmy went out and began to look for Lily.

About ten minutes later, in a small courtyard, Fade had "good fortune" and found Lily, who was staring at the stars. Then, under Jimmy's instructions, they sent Lily back to her room.

After settling this matter, Fade went back to his room. He laid on the bed, and was ready to sleep.

As soon as he laid down, Fade found himself in a tragedy. Sister Lily's unique floral fragrance was lingering on his bed. It was impossible for

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Fade to fall asleep. Whenever he closed his eyes, the scene of Sister Lily's affectionate confession and the temptation of the beauty on his bed would emerge in his head.

- Therefore, this night, Fade tossed and turned. He was unable to sleep. It was not until the middle of the night when he somehow fell asleep.
- The next day, when the sun had risen, Fade rubbed the dark circles on his eyes and got up from the bed.
- Lily was in good spirits. Her face was full of smiles, and her complexion was smooth and fresh. She was more charming and lovely than before, which caused Fade to feel warm. He almost lost control of himself in the morning.
- After breakfast, Fade called Horatio Zhan over and inquired about the two masters of Flamebird Mercenary Group.
- Horatio did not dare to hide any news from Fade, so he immediately told Fade about the latest updates.
- According to the surveillance radar, a small boat was released last night from the large ship cruising on the high seas. This small boat had evaded the surveillance radar, approached the coastline and disappeared.
- Fade knew that it was easy for the two masters to evade any ordinary surveillance radar. They were after all comparable to masters at the Earth Level.
- According to the boat's arrival time last night, it was estimated that the two masters will arrive at South Hanover City either around evening that day or the next day.
- It seemed that a great battle was inevitable.
- Horatio was frightened and anxious when he thought of the impending battle. However, Fade was calm and he was unperturbed. After the meal,

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he was interested to tour the Zhan family's manor.

In the end, he learnt a lot about the family. Fade was prepared to inform Tom Wei about all these matters when he saw him in Long City. He would assist Tom in the future to be more professional when he opened his martial-arts center.

Just as Fade was touring the Zhan family's manor, two guests came to visit them.

One of them was not really a guest, but the patriarch of the Zhan family. He was Harald Zhan, Horatio's father, the old Master of the Zhan family.

Next to Harald Zhan, there was a middle-aged man in his forties wearing a suit. He seemed to be a martial-arts warrior.

Since Harald had returned, Fade naturally wanted to see him.

Fade and his companions met Harald in the hall of the Zhan family's manor.

Old Zhan was in his sixties. He had short grey hair and looked very energetic. His eyes were bright and clear. He looked at Fade with gleaming and penetrating eyes.

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