Countless people had already set everything in place to seize everything they could from Lin Group the moment they fell at the last two gantries.

But in the end, Lin Group made it!

The only one they could think of was the Long family. It had to be the Long family!

Several heads of powerful families sat together with nasty expressions on their faces. They looked at one another but they didn't know what to say.

This ending was completely unexpected. It made them feel even

more fearful and they felt like they couldn't understand the north anymore. It seemed like there were still many people in the north who wanted Lin Group to enter the north.

Or rather, they weren't supporting Lin Group. They were supporting the Long family!

"Master, our assets have been attacked and we've lost a lot!" a subordinate of one of the powerful families came running in to report with anxiety and fear in his voice.

"Master, Young Master has died! Someone dumped him in the sewage..." another subordinate of a different family came running and



# crying.

"Master! Master! A few of our projects have suddenly been investigated..."

All the heads of the powerful families looked nastier and nastier as they heard such news come in one after another.

There was fear, regret, indignation, fury and even confusion...

They didn't know what was happening in the north at all.

Who was this opponent? Who was this enemy? And who was trying to wipe all of them out?



#### Meanwhile.

Jiang Ning was leisurely drinking his tea in the teahouse that he bought over.

"Big Boss, we've settled all of them. Everyone who secretly attacked any of the Lin Group staff as well as all those who had plans to attack Lin Group have all disappeared." Brother Gou didn't say anymore. He took the men to hide in the darkness once more.

Jiang Ning had already said their trip to the north this time would make them famous in the north. Brother Gou and the wolves knew what he meant.



Jiang Ning poured a cup of tea for Li Dong.

"The obstacles are all gone, so are there anymore problems left to solve before Lin Group can enter the north?"

As long as there was a problem, Jiang Ning was going to resolve it.

"No."

Li Dong was both excited and very motivated.

He didn't even know how to describe that adrenaline rush he felt when he worked alongside Jiang Ning.



# It just felt really good!

"Then get ready and tell Yuzhen that the Lin Group goods can come into the north. I think those people watching Lin Group are even more excited than us," said Jiang Ning calmly as he narrowed his eyes.

He was going to create a storm in the north and make sure all the powerful families understood what trouble they were in.

He was going to make the supremely powerful families start to suspect each other and kill each other off.

He was going to cause turmoil throughout the north.

But it really felt as if an earthquake had gone through the north.

In just a short time, Lin Group had taken down all five gantries and paved their way into the north. More than a dozen powerful families had also suffered tremendous losses as a result and fell into the depths of hell.

This sort of power made everyone wary.

And many were even more suspicious that the fight between Lin Group and Linglong Group was just a ruse.

The Long family was the ambitious

### one!

The Long family was the one who wanted to dominate the north. They wanted to step on the other powerful families to get to the top, and they wanted to get rid of all the threats within Linglong Group.

All the powerful families in the north feared for their lives, especially those who had any involvement with Linglong Group. They were even more fearful and uneasy.

Liu Hong was feeling the worst among them.

He was now like a monkey, anxious and restless. He didn't have any of

the confidence and calmness he used to have.

He had arrived at the bamboo forest as agreed but still hadn't gotten to see the person he wanted to, so Liu Hong was getting more and more antsy.

"Why isn't he here yet?"

It was hard for him not to be anxious.

He had purposely allowed Cheng Feng to buy up all the raw material and then sell it to Lin Group so as to push Lin Group to come into the north. He wanted to take this chance to destroy Lin Group and get what he wanted.

But he never expected Lin Group to really succeed.

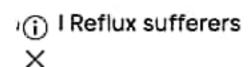
He felt like he had just been slapped in the face.

What made Liu Hong even more afraid was that the Long family might really be the ones behind Lin Group. His actions would make others think that he was on the same side as the Long family.

That was now a crime that deserved death!

"Why isn't he here yet?"

Liu Hong was really on the verge of tears now.



#### Swoosh.

Suddenly, a figure swooshed in and stood in front of Liu Hong. But the eye catching tattoo of a red cloud on his neck made Liu Hong shiver and his face instantly paled.

# "Wh-why is it you?!"



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Liu Hong's expression changed completely. The one he was waiting for wasn't this man.

"Where's Agent 3? Where's Mr Yan?" he asked with a trembling voice.

"You have no right to know." The voice of the man in a mask was as low as a subwoofer. It sounded soft in volume, but the vibration alone made one's eardrums hurt.

"You..." Liu Hong's voice was shaking and he seemed to be afraid of the person in front of him.

"I'm here to see Agent 3! Not you, not..."

He didn't want to say anymore and turned to escape. But with another swoosh, the man blocked his way.

"What do you want?!" yelled Liu Hong.

But this bamboo forest was so secluded, nobody would have heard him no matter how loudly he shouted.

"I'm going to kill you!"

The masked man didn't bother saying anymore. He suddenly used his palm to slice the air and there was a spurting sound.

Liu Hong's eyes immediately widened



as he clutched his own throat tightly. But fresh blood continued to flow out between his fingers.

"Unghhh..."

His entire body was trembling as he stumbled a few steps back. His breathing became more and more harried, and he couldn't get a word out.

"A traitor ought to die!"

The masked man didn't even take a second look at him and disappeared quickly into the bamboo forest.

Liu Hong took a few steps back and eventually lost his balance and fell to





the ground. His body was cramping up and there was a thin slit on his throat. He didn't know what was used to cut his throat, but it was a really clean cut.

Fresh blood continued to gush out from the slit and dyed the ground red.

"I-I-I didn't...I...I'm not from the Long family..." Liu Hong's lips trembled as his eyes widened. His face slowly drained of its color and his voice faded into silence.

Meanwhile.

Back at that small house in the mountains.

The man kneeling on one knee outside of the blinds that covered the pavilion was the masked man who had just killed Liu Hong.

"My Lord, Agent 3 has gone missing."

"I've already tried to contact him many times but he didn't reply. My Lord, you cannot let him continue like this," said the masked man politely as he quickly bowed his head.

"Agent 3 does things like that. It will not be easy for you to locate him," said the man behind the blinds with a faint laugh. "He's the last one who knows Xingyiquan. The things he wants are way more than what you want."

The man kneeling outside didn't say anything.

There was a deep look in the eyes beneath the mask.

"Everyone is after the same thing, just that some people want more of it and some want less. But either way, I'm able to give all of you what you want. As for whether you have second thoughts or other ideas, I don't care."

His Lordship's tone of voice sounded very calm and he didn't sound the slightest bit angry or furious.

But the masked man heard him very differently.

## THUD!

He immediately fell on both knees and kowtowed formally. The glint in his eye was becoming brighter.

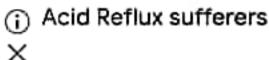
"Your servant here deserves to die!"

"Oh? Why do you deserve to die?" His Lordship's voice remained calm. Even calmer than the tea in his cup.

"I...I had other ambitions!"

"Oh? What other sort of ambitions do you have?"

The masked man swallowed, then slowly looked up. He stared straight at the person behind the blinds and



he suddenly clenched his fists.

His feet stomped on the ground suddenly and propelled himself forward at high speed like a sharp arrow.

Swoosh!

His speed was incredible!

He was definitely an extremely powerful grandmaster level fighter!

"My ambition...is to kill you! And replace you!"

An intense air instantly burst out from the masked man. His body boomed loudly like thunder as he



# lifted his fists high to make a fatal move. A whole series of air blasts made its way towards the blinds!



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## BAM!

But in the next moment, he was sent flying out faster than his attack.

### CRAAACK!

That was the sound of bones cracking!

The masked man crashed hard against the ground. His chest caved in and he tumbled a few times before he steadied himself. He knelt on one knee and stared straight at the man behind the blinds.

### PFFT!

He opened his mouth to spew a





mouthful of blood. The look in his eyes had faded.

"Hoho, nine out of ten have the same ambition as you."

The voice behind the blinds was still calm. It was as if he didn't care for this assault attempt at all.

"Do you know why I've allowed Yan Ru to do whatever he likes?"

"That's because he's always been direct with me. From the very first day, he said he wanted to kill me. Every time he comes to see me, he will try to assassinate me and say that he wants to replace my position in Hidden Sect. But the rest of you





are too hypocritical."

The masked man didn't dare to say anything. The fear in his eyes grew.

He had been silent for ten years and attempted an assassination because he thought he had a chance. But he couldn't even hold up against one move from His Lordship!

How powerful was His Lordship exactly?

"Work hard. I hope you can surprise me the next time you try to kill me."

His Lordship didn't say anymore.

He wasn't angry with these attempts.





In fact he found them amusing.

The masked man didn't dare to say anymore. He knelt down to kowtow with great respect, then disappeared into the distance.

The smell of the tea became stronger and stronger, and there was steam floating in the air.

All the things that happened in the north didn't escape His Lordship's eyes.

At first he didn't think a small place like Donghai would cause any upheaval. But he started to become wary of them again after Lin Group successfully broke through all five





gantries and made a way into the north.

And the thing that stood out most to him was the rumor that the Long family was the one behind Donghai.

"Tsk, the Long family? This chess game has been set up beautifully," murmured His Lordship to himself. "The game in the north is already set up to go, but the ones playing this game isn't the Long family. It's a game between the person behind Donghai and myself."

He put the teacup down and suddenly burst out laughing.

"Interesting, how very interesting.





The waters of the north have been stirred up – are you trying to draw some large fish out?"

"Just nice, I was thinking of doing the same thing. I'll play this game of chess with you!"

. . . . . .

Lin Group was here!

With great fanfare!

After receiving the call from Li Dong to confirm that Lin Group was able to pass through all five gantries of the north, Lin Yuzhen was so happy and kept praising Li Dong for being amazing and said that she had





chosen the right person for the job.

Li Dong felt so embarrassed when she said these things.

If Jiang Ning hadn't come up north, there was no way he could have gotten everything done so smoothly.

The amazing one wasn't him. It was Jiang Ning!

"CEO Lin, everything is already on standby and we're just waiting for you to bring the goods here. Once the goods arrive, we'll start all the sales and promotional activities!" said Li Dong.

"Also, Brother Ning really misses you





and wants to see you as soon as possible. And the most important thing of all..." Li Dong looked around cautiously as if he was going to steal something as he quickly added on, "I always bring Brother Ning to proper drinking places and there are no hostesses around. Even if there are women around, I won't let them harass Brother Ning, so you don't have to worry!"

Lin Yuzhen grunted in acknowledgment and Li Dong felt that his explanation was of some use.

He took a deep breath after hanging up.





"Brother Ning, are you sure this is appropriate?" Li Dong looked at Jiang Ning seated across him and felt like crying. "CEO Lin is a nice person and even though I doubt she would kill me, I feel some pain here."

He pointed at his heart. He felt like his conscience was being pricked.

Li Dong didn't want to bring Jiang Ning along when he had to entertain clients because he was afraid that women would be attracted to him. Jiang Ning was so charming that even if he wore a helmet, it would be hard to block the sensitive noses of other women.

There would be many rich families'





daughters attending tonight's dinner party, but Jiang Ning said he wanted to attend the party.

"She might not kill you," said Jiang Ning with a smile. "But I would."



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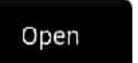


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Chapter 734 Breakthrough Point

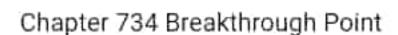
# Li Dong immediately stood up straight.

The expression on his face became strangely solemn as he declared in all seriousness, "Any entertainment is for the sake of Lin Group's advancement, so even if I have to betray my body, I will do it! Brother Ning, I get it now!"

He really got it now.

The invitation to the dinner party came from the Song family in the north.

The Song family who used to control half of the illegal circle of Shenghai.

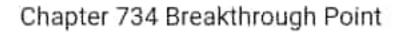


But unlike before, the head of the Song family was now Song Xiaoyu and no longer Song Weiming.

After Song Xiaoyu met with Jiang Ning in Shenghai, he went back to the north and carried out a series of shocking actions within the Song family. Everyone was blown away by the ability that Song Xiaoyu displayed.

Nobody would have thought that the youngest son of the Song family that nobody paid attention to would be this powerful.

He had been hiding his true abilities for years, and once he decided to unleash his power, even Song



Weiming couldn't stop him.

Song Xiaoyu only took three days to completely transform the Song family. Even Song Weiming didn't know what to say. He could only sigh and say that he was blinded and never realized that Song Xiaoyu was truly the future of the Song family.

The Song family was the one who organized this dinner party, and they had invited the younger generation of the north.

Li Dong was the talk of the town, so as Lin Group's representative in the north, he was on the invite list.

But what he didn't know was that the



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Chapter 734 Breakthrough Point

person that Song Xiaoyu really wanted to invite was Jiang Ning.

Lin Group had caused such an uproar recently.

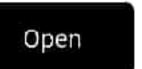
Getting through all five gantries and paving a clear way for themselves into the north had delivered a slap in the face to so many people.

All the powerful families of the north were very wary now. They looked cautious and were on tenterhooks.

And worse still, Lin Group might actually be backed by the Long family, a supremely powerful family!

This made them treat this situation





Chapter 734 Breakthrough Point

even more seriously. They had to be even more careful and didn't dare to act rashly.

But Song Xiaoyu knew that Jiang Ning was behind Lin Group, and there was nobody behind Jiang Ning.

There was no other man more powerful than Jiang Ning in this world.

He had prepared for this networking party a long time ago because he knew what Jiang Ning wanted to do and what he needed. He also knew what Jiang Ning needed him to do.

This was the only chance he had to get Jiang Ning's affirmation.





Chapter 734 Breakthrough Point

But Lin Group had advanced too quickly. They got through to the north half a month earlier than Song Xiaoyu's estimate.

Even though he knew Jiang Ning was powerful, he was still caught by surprise at how powerful Jiang Ning really was.

The invitation card had reached Li Dong, so naturally, it also reached Jiang Ning.

"I heard a lot of pretty ladies will be going?" asked Jiang Ning with a raised eyebrow as he glanced at the invitation card.

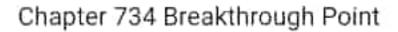
"All the people invited are of the

same generation as the head of the Song family, Song Xiaoyu. Even though he's the head of the family, he's very young, and most people would probably not want to listen to him," said Li Dong. "All the people invited are from powerful families. Most of them are from third tier families, and a few of them are from second tier families, so they're really from the same circle in the north."

He didn't really understand why Song Xiaoyu had invited him.

At one glance, it was clear that this was going to be a party for all the spoilt brats of the powerful families.

It didn't seem appropriate for



someone who didn't belong to this circle like him to go.

"Have you checked what businesses these powerful families run?"

"I've checked, and only two families are competitors of Lin Group." Li Dong paused and added on, "But if you compare their standing with Linglong Group, then you can pretty much ignore them."

Lin Group was going to face Linglong Group, that huge conglomerate that stood tall in the north. That was the company that was filled with complex networks involving an enormous number of powers and benefits!

Li Dong didn't think much of the other small fry in the industry.

"You're getting complacent," Jiang Ning rolled his eyes at Li Dong. He quietly said, "But I like that."

He got up.

"Let's go and get ready. These spoilt brats are Lin Group's breakthrough point, especially the Song family. If Lin Group wants to stand firm in the northern region, then we need someone to support us in the north. Do you get what I mean?"

"Yes!"

Li Dong's eyes lit up. He was an





### intelligent man.

Once Jiang Ning said this, he immediately realized why Song Xiaoyu wanted to hold this networking party.

He wanted to see Jiang Ning, but he didn't want to do it too directly or overtly.

After all, anyone who came into contact with someone from Lin Group would be watched closely.

"I'll get everything ready right now." Li Dong got up to leave.

"Wait a minute," Jiang Ning called out to him. "You know what to say when





# Yuzhen gets here, right?"



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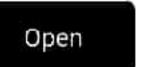


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"Don't worry, Brother Ning! We didn't see any women at all!" declared Li Dong with a serious face.

Li Dong breathed a sigh of relief when he saw Jiang Ning nod satisfactorily.

He wasn't sure if he was afraid of Jiang Ning or if Jiang Ning was afraid of Lin Yuzhen.

How could such an incredibly tough man be so afraid of his wife?

Meanwhile.

At the Song house.

The Song family had been the hot





### topic of the north recently.

If Lin Group hadn't taken away most of the attention with their breakthrough to the north, their attention would still be focused on the Song family now.

Nobody expected the Song family to go through such a huge change. The family originally suffered severe losses and were about to drop out from the list of second tier families when they suddenly made a turn around and became even stronger than before!

That was because the current head of the Song family, Song Xiaoyu, was simply too aggressive.





Song Xiaoyu was seated on the seat reserved for the head of the family in the main hall. He no longer had that childish look on his face.

His face now exuded steadiness, determination and decisiveness. His eyes were sharp and there was a glint of viciousness in them.

"Is everything good to go?" Song Xiaoyu read through the itinerary that his assistant passed to him very seriously.

"Everything is prepared, Master Song."

The assistant looked very cautious and didn't dare to be careless at all.





Song Xiaoyu used to be very easygoing. Even if he made a mistake, he would just get ticked off.

But now, even the smallest mistake could result in serious consequences.

He might even lose his life.

Now the entire Song family was extremely careful and cautious when they did anything, which made the Song house very different from before.

"Have you invited everybody who should be invited?" asked Song Xiaoyu.





"I've done everything according to your arrangements. The young masters of the Wu family, Zhou family and the like have all been invited. Given your current standing, I'm sure they will all turn up."

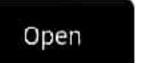
Song Xiaoyu's expression changed and immediately fell at the last part.

The assistant immediately knew he had said the wrong thing.

"My current standing?" Song Xiaoyu scoffed. "I'm just a lowly and inadequate person. What standing could I have?"

"Master Song, I..." The assistant began to panic.





"I tell you, the north is not just a complex group of small and large powers, but also a place where many powers hide in secret," Song Xiaoyu's voice got colder and colder. "If you take one wrong step or make one wrong decision, you might never get back on your feet again."

He glared at his assistant and his gaze was icy cold.

"You'd better remember this well. Get back to work."

"Yes, Master Song!"

The assistant breathed a sigh of relief when he realized that Song Xiaoyu wasn't going to punish him.





But his respect for Song Xiaoyu was even greater now.

All the heads of other powerful families thought that they were of high standing and they were all conceited people.

But Song Xiaoyu always placed himself at the lowest position and he hated it the most when others said that he was in a high position of power.

He had never seen any head of the family behave like this!

Song Xiaoyu remained seated in the hall. The grim look on his face never lightened up at all.





He knew better than anyone else that the people facing the greatest danger now were those so called powerful families!

Those supposedly supremely powerful families!

Because someone was going to change the way things worked here!

Every time he thought of Jiang Ning, he would remind himself about how terrifying this man was and how he must never become an enemy of Jiang Ning. Even if he had to die, he must not become enemies with Jiang Ning.

And now he even had the chance to





### become friends with Jiang Ning.

Even if they were just cooperative partners, that would already be considered the best thing that happened to the Song family in the last few decades.

Song Xiaoyu shut his eyes and started to think about everything that had happened during this period of time. He had revealed the power and the trump cards he had been holding onto secretly for more than ten years and gained full control of the Song family.

But the future of the Song family was still an unknown.





Open

Chapter 735 Not the Same Anymore

He needed new trump cards.

He needed one invincible trump card that could allow the Song family to live peacefully for the next hundred years!

Jiang Ning!

Some people genuinely wanted to be friends. Some people were friends just to exchange benefits. And some people were friends only on the surface, but were secretly rivals.

But no matter which sort of friendship it was going to be, Song Xiaoyu was clear on one thing. He had to be friends with Jiang Ning and never an enemy.





Because any enemy of Jiang Ning's was definitely going to die.

"This time, I will seize the opportunity to prove my value to you." He opened his eyes again and they were filled with determination. "I know what you want to do, and I can help you!"

The invitation from the Song family had caused quite a stir among the younger generation of the powerful families in the north.

Nobody in this circle of children born into wealthy families had any impression of talking about Song Xiaoyu from the Song family. Some of them had never even heard of this fellow before.





But in a short time, Song Xiaoyu's name was so well known, it was hard for them not to know who he was.

Many of the elders in their families would nod and praise him whenever there was mention of Song Xiaoyu. They would say, "I didn't expect this young fellow to be this impressive!"

So there were many who were more than willing to turn up to a party hosted by Song Xiaoyu.

But everyone had a different motive for going.

Especially the two powerful families behind the last two gantries that fell in the north – the Wu family and the





# Zhou family!



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