

48 Hours 531

Chapter 531 Bait

The Arc of Light had proved worthy of being one of the three major guilds. Although it was established after the other two significant guilds, it was weaker than the rest. Grow into a guild comparable to the other two in such a short time was a gargantuan task, to say the least.

Unlike the union's haphazard workings, Arc of Light had been planning for this operation for a very long time. Their management was infamously arrogant and efficient, a known fact among players—whether planning or execution, they were ready even before the get-go-going as far as to plant one of their own in the union. This came in the form of a president of a small-time guild, voluntarily joining the union when it was first established, and even becoming one of its representatives later on.

It meant that, while the union was locked in conclave, Arc of Light watched their every move. They also managed to find out the whereabouts of the four players they hunted. Obviously, the deadline were words that meant nothing to them. After Shen Xixi made the announcement at 11:32 p.m, they would not just there and do nothing to wait for the people from the Arc of Light to look for them.

In fact, at 11.00 p.m, Arc of Light's first assault team had already arrived near the target location. If Shen Xixi was willing to cooperate, it would all end well, and no blood would be spilled. However, if she was still adamant about going against them, the assault team would attack at midnight, and if everything went according to plan, the battle should end in less than ten minutes.

However, Arc of Light was surprised when they received the latest intel. Their targets had apparently been secretly transferred half an hour ago. Arc of Light's internal evaluation of Shen Xixi had always held her in high regard. She was young, no doubt, but an equally mature and calm woman. Not to mention the natural charisma and charm she possessed. For these reasons, Arc of Light knew who they were dealing with and had the ball rolling in advance. The current escapade, however, could be the act of Shen Xixi alone.

It was a question no one could solve. It did not matter who was the one that tried to solve it. The fact that Shen Xixi managed to transfer her people secretly in such a risky situation even had Arc of Light bemused.

There was nothing she could do to fix the situation right now—the union's impending collapse was imminent. Few were willing to stay by Shen Xixi's side—relying on them take on Arc of Light was no different than using an egg to hit a stone. Moreover, Arc of Light had all the information about Shen Xixi and her comrades in their hands.

Although they stated that they wanted to capture and punish the four murderers tonight, they did not promise that those would be the only targets. If they could not locate who they were looking for, they would look for Shen Xixi next. Since she insisted on getting herself into this pool of chaos, they wouldn't mind if they ended up with her anyway. They could then interrogate them about the four murderers.

This was why Zhang Heng couldn't use the extra 24-hours to help her move her people out. Unless Shen Xixi and her allies chose to permanently leave the city and never come back, it would be pointless. She would never take that option unless it was the last resort.

Arc of Light's leader, Eryue Weicheng, had finished work on time at 4:30 in the afternoon. He drove to the elementary school to pick up his daughter and was about to throw a birthday party for her at Sheraton tonight. He invited all her classmates, and since tomorrow happened to be the weekend, he made an exception to allow his daughter an all-nighter with her friends. Everything had to be pinpoint perfect tonight. His daughter was the only princess of the night, and everyone would be giving their best wishes to her. This importance of this had even surpassed the plan.

Everything that needed preparing had been prepared a long time ago, and it made no difference if he stayed to monitor the whole operation or not. Not to mention that there are two vice-leaders and three chairpersons in the current war-room. Naturally, Eryue Weicheng was not worried about the situation at all.

At 00:05.

No one noticed a parliament of owls perching on the telephone pole, staring down at them with their large yellow-brown eyes. This place was an urban village located at the edge of the Fifth Ring Road. Most local farmers built their own houses here, and some were rented out to migrant workers. Since the subway station was quite a distance away, the rent was relatively cheap. That said, a room with a separate bathroom would still cost up to 1,000 yuan. To save on money, some shared rooms with up to four other people. Li Bai's rented apartment was shared among four individuals. The room had two bunk beds, just like the setup of a dormitory. Each of them had to fork out 400 yuan per month, and the landlady decided to shut an eye on the matter.

After Li Bai became a player, his income suddenly blossomed. However, he chose to exchange most of his game points for money and sent them back to his hometown, choosing to live here in this urban village. Two minutes ago, he hurried back to this room. It seemed he had come back to retrieve something, not even bothering to reply to his roommate's jokes.

The two Arc of Light strike teams had quietly surrounded this place. After that, they looked at their superior, a bearded man dressed like a director, who shook his head. "Try your best not to alarm the residents here. Just wait until he comes downstairs."

Everyone then waited for another five minutes, but still, Li Bai was nowhere in sight. The bearded man realized something was wrong and immediately led a group to the rental house. Inside, three men were topless, drinking beer and playing Honor of Kings. Li Bai was nowhere to be seen. The one guarding the window saw no one coming out of the room either.

Had Li Bai fooled them?

However, the bearded man did not seem too worried. He turned and said to a man behind him, "Find him."

The latter nodded, lit a handful of weird tobacco, took a deep breath, and made an odd cry. He then rolled his eyes, and at the same time, the group of owls standing on the telephone pole outside the door seemed to have received a message. They quickly spread their wings one after the other and flew in all directions.

The bearded man knew that their target had realized he was being trailed. That meant he probably didn't come back to get anything. He just wanted to take advantage of the urban village's complicated

layout to distract the strike team. On the other hand, Shen Xixi was preparing to get the four out of the city. It was a pity that they made the wrong move tonight. The second strike team was prepared for this situation.

Those owls were used to deal with this situation. The bearded man knew that Li Bai had been with Shen Xixi for a long time, and he could be considered as a veteran in Shen Xixi's team. As long they capture him, he would be able to make him tell them the whereabouts of their targets.

There was no problem with his plan. However, he had underestimated Shen Xixi's determination.

To be more precise, everyone had underestimated Shen Xixi's determination. She knew all too well how precarious tonight's situation would be. The strength between the two factions was severely unequal, and it was pointless for her side to mount a defense. From the beginning, she never intended to adopt a defensive strategy, and beyond expectation, chose an offensive tactic instead.

Arc of Light wanted to capture her ally to force her to surrender. At the same time, she wanted to capture the Arc of Light's senior management as a bargaining chip to negotiate with them.

Li Bai was bait, but not to distract Arc of Light.

He was the bait to draw them in.

Chapter 532 Barber's Pole

Li Bai kept on running without looking back. Since he was familiar with the terrain, he could easily throw off the enemy's scents. But no matter how fast he ran, he failed to get rid of the pesky owl above his head.

The latter clung to him like sticky candy. The owl practically served as a feathery Global Positioning System for his enemies. And it would not leave no matter how hard Li Bai tried to scare it off. Naturally, the bird wouldn't get too close to him that could ensure its safety. Too bad Li Bai didn't have any long-range weapons. All he could do right now was to flee in embarrassment. At times, he even had to run into others' homes.

Both Li Bai and his enemies shared a common goal-none of them wanted to alert the residents living in this area. Li Bai only entered houses that their owners had still not returned from work.

The bearded man was impressed by Li Bai's stamina. After running for a quarter of an hour, Li Bai was sweating profusely but showed no sign of slowing down. It was a pity that he was a player, or he should have tried marathons. Perhaps he would have earned himself a chance to be an Olympic champion after some training.

Arc of Light sent more than two teams of players to deal with them tonight. The other group of players wasn't as friendly. While Li Bai was running away, he still kept an eye on the enemies that were going after him, but after running for a while, a golf club stuck out from behind the wall in front of him and hit him directly on the right leg.

Li Bai suffered a sharp pain in his calf. It seemed like the bones insides his leg was shattered. Though he was suffering from excruciating pain, he chose to endure it, gritted his teeth, and not said a word about it.

Li Bai then kept running with his other leg. The person who attacked him was in no hurry. He waved to stop his allies, who were about to pounce at Li Bai. "Run! Just keep running. Aren't you good at running? Although we were asked to capture you alive, as long as you are still breathing, we can do whatever we want to you... really thought you could kill our people and stash away the murderer? You know you have to pay the price, right?"

While talking, the man loosened the tie on his suit and walked up menacingly to Li Bai with the golf club. Li Bai, running in front of him, tripped on something and fell to the ground. Despite that, he said nothing, continuing to crawl toward the barbershop that wasn't too far away.

At that time, the two assault teams with the bearded man finally caught up. The bearded man frowned when he saw what happened. "Let's not create more troubles for us. Just capture him and hand him in."

"There's no need to rush. Gotta have some fun after working your ass off for so long," sneered the man in the suit. He then swung the golf club twice but found Li Bai had stopped running. He was leaning against the door of the closed barber, looking at it coldly.

For some reason, anxiety burdened the bearded man's heart. He quickly pulled out a pistol from his waist. Before he could fully draw his weapon out, his body froze. His mind was still working, though, and he immediately realized what the problem was. The barber's pole in front of the barbershop seemed to have been around for a long time and looked like a game item. Once the person took a look at it, they would be rendered immobile.

As long as one person got to remind the people at the back not to look at the light, they would regain their freedom. By the time they realized it, it was too late. Everybody quickly followed suit, given a rude awakening when they realized they couldn't open their mouths.

A total of twenty-four people were frozen in place. At the same time, Rabbit and Shen Xixi walked out of the barbershop. The rabbit ran up to Li Bai. "What a mad lad you are! Are you okay?"

Although Li Bai's calf hurt like hell, he still managed to squeeze out an ugly smile. "It's okay. I had to let him hit me. If I stopped here abruptly, they might catch on about something fishy, and they wouldn't have fallen into this trap."

Shen Xixi nodded at Li Bai in return. "Hold on. I will ask the faceless man and old K to drive the car here. We will take you to the hospital first."

"No, it's just a fracture. I won't die from it," reassured Li Bai, wincing a little from the awful pain. "We finally caught so many of them, and there should be two small leaders within. The man holding the golf club and the bearded one are the leaders. Let's use them to negotiate with Arc of Light."

A strange voice suddenly echoed in everyone's ears.

"I'm afraid those chips aren't quite enough for a negotiation us."

It was a woman who seemed to be Shen Xixi's age. She was dressed in sportswear and appeared to be a night runner. She took off the Bluetooth earphones and put them in her pocket, seemingly oblivious to her people were frozen, not far away from her. She then looked at Shen Xixi, and a smile appeared on her face after a while.

“Very well. Just like what we analyzed, you are not the kind of person that would just wait to die.”

“You are?” asked Shen Xixi solemnly.

“You can call me Xiao Bing. Although I have always hated this nickname, all those guild bastards keep calling me Xiaobin anyway. So, it doesn’t matter to me,” the woman named Xiaobing lamented. “I am from Arc of Light’s Department of Strategic Analysis. For the past month, I have spent most of my time studying you.”

“So, last night’s attack was really premeditated?!” Li Bai exclaimed, “You’ve been preparing for this a month, right?”

Xiaobing rolled her eyes and looked at Shen Xixi, deeply bothered by the fact that her ally was asking stupid questions.

Shen Xixi ignored her dirty looks. “What have you learned about me?”

“Almost everything,” Xiaobing snapped her fingers. “I have studied your personality, horoscope, interpersonal relationships, acting style, values, outlook on life, and even the concept of mate selection. So no matter what you do, it’s no secret to me.”

“After talking so much nonsense, many of your allies still got defeated by us!” snorted Rabbit coldly. After seeing Li Bai was injured, she was furious at what they did to him.

“Wrong, little sister,” Xiaobing shook his head, “I said we have anticipated your every move. So, of course, we know that you want to take our people hostage, which is exactly why I sent them here for you to capture them.”

The bearded man did not know what the man in the suit was thinking. If he could speak now, he would have begun to curse her.

However, Shen Xixi seemed to have thought of something when she heard the words, and her face changed.

“Yes, that’s right. I’m talking about two of your allies who are in charge of taking care of our targets. However, the higher-ups need us to capture a few of your people to force you to hand in the four murderers to us. But I think that since we want to capture all of you, it is better to do it all at once. I don’t want any unexpected troubles. I have to thank you for helping us. After you capture our people, you notified your people to come to you. Otherwise, I wouldn’t know where to find you.” Xiaobing smiled.

Chapter 533 First Target

Shen Xixi realized how precarious the situation she was in now— Not only because the enemies may have captured the faceless man and Old K, but the barber’s pole’s effect also would not last forever. After 160 seconds, the enemies would regain their freedom, and half of that time had already passed.

Shen Xixi did not intend to waste any more time talking nonsense with the enemies. She looked at Rabbit, and the two approached Xiao Bing together. The latter had no intention to put up a fight, quickly turning around to run instead. At the same time, four more teams appeared at both ends of the road, surrounding Shen Xixi and her allies. After running for a while, Xiao Bing stopped, turned around, and

put on a smile. She did not know that the barber's pole would only work for 160 seconds, running to draw Shen Xixi and Rabbit out of the pole's area of effect and to prepare for the next battle. However, just when she thought everything was set, a flare suddenly fell in front of her. The intense light made everyone's eyes on the street close involuntarily. When Xiao Bing opened her eyes again, Shen Xixi and her allies had disappeared. Midnight was finally here.

Thus, began the war between Arc of Light and the union in this urban village.

At the beginning of the battle, most players on the forum had accurately predicted the situation. Arc of Light displayed an overwhelming advantage right from the start. What was really surprising though was Shen Xixi's strength— The union had collapsed within an hour of the announcement of Horizon's withdrawal.

According to the statistical analysis from the Arc of Light's Strategy Department, few were left on Shen Xixi's team to help her. When the battle began, however, Arc of Light soon discovered that wasn't the case. They seemed to have sorely underestimated Shen Xixi's reputation and influence in the union. Not only was Shen Xixi rescued in front of the barbershop, but Xiao Bing also received news that the mysterious force had killed the strike team which captured Old K and the faceless man. But after receiving the news, she was not surprised but rejoiced. For Arc of Light, they were supposed to be undefeated, especially in this battle. Since that was the case, she didn't mind the slight twists and turns amid the war. Now, she could highlight the importance of the Strategy Department. She could also use this reason to request more funds for the department.

In a hotel room two kilometers away from the urban village, Zhang Heng set up his CS5 on the window sill. And at the same time, he turned on the TV and turned up the volume. He did not intervene right away in the battle happening in the urban village. Besides the fact that he was confident enough that Shen Xixi would not lose the battle so quickly, he also had more pressing matters at hand.

Zhang Heng's luck was pretty decent tonight. He managed to use the extra 24 hours to locate an Arc of Light frontline commander, obtaining a copy of the battle plan used to deal with the union. Although it was only a simplified version, the execution time, route, and personnel deployment were all recorded. Other than that, Zhang Heng also obtained the latter's account and password used to login to the internal OA of Light Arc.

However, it seemed the Arc of Light guild had their fair share of computer experts. Zhang Heng tried to hack into the player forum jointly created by the three major guilds, and as expected, it was a failed attempt. With the USB flash drive from the Whistleblower quest, however, the three significant guilds failed to track him down.

The Arc of Light's internal OA used the same firewalls for the player forum. It was certainly no easy hack, but with the freshly acquired account and password, Zhang Heng could now log in to the system and retrieve more information about the battle that would soon take place.

His first target was a group of elite long-range strike teams. Zhang Heng bought the CS5 with game points from Miss Bartender. It meant Arc of Light could do the same thing as well. And as one of the three major guilds, there definitely had some gun masters among their players.

Arc of Light had initially planned to capture Shen Xixi's team alive, hence there was no need to deploy long-range weapons. But now, the tables had turned-It turned out that many were still helping Shen Xixi even after the union's collapse. Arc of Light saw this, and feeling threatened, they wanted to obliterate them entirely.

Besides, they wanted to warn players on the forum to not get involved in this matter. Once these people rushed to the urban village, the fragile balance between would be broken. And Zhang Heng was there to make sure that this would not happen.

Not far away, Zhang Heng saw two black MPVs passing by the traffic lights from his scope. As they sped toward the urban village, two remote-control ground locks suddenly appeared on the road ahead. The driver of the first car did not expect such an obstruction to pop up smack in the middle of the road. He jammed his foot on the brakes and swerved the vehicle in another direction. Though he managed to avoid the poles in front of him, he couldn't avoid the vehicle barreling in from behind. In the end, the car overturned and rolled twice on the ground.

At the same time, Zhang Heng pulled the trigger.

Reaper was the first name on his list.

The driver of the second car was shot in the head by a bullet that came from nowhere. It caused his right foot to slip off the brake pad, and after rammed into the back of the car in front of it, it skidded to the remote ground locks. Its passengers were tossed around like ragdolls as the vehicle hit the steel poles head on.

The people in the first car suffered the same fate as well. They did not expect an enemy ambush, thinking it must have been a traffic accident. However, the road that they were traveling on was relatively remote. Besides, it was past midnight. There were no other vehicles on the road except for them. When they heard the pattering of bullets on their cars, their question was answered.

The first person who got out of the car fell to the ground before standing up. Blood was splattered all over on the seat. The others quickly realized what had happened-all of them masters of the gun. Naturally, they knew that a sniper was attacking them. So, they promptly unfastened their seat belts and looked for cover.

In less than ten seconds, Arc of Light had lost three more men.

The two six-person teams were now left with only seven members. Fortunately, these ones seemed to be seasoned and experienced fighters. Within a few minutes, they managed to get their hands on their weapons and retreated to the back of the car. They hoped to maintain the stalemate with Zhang Heng until backup arrived.

Of course, Zhang Heng wasn't about to let that happen. Seeing that all his enemies had retreated to the back of the car, Zhang Heng detonated a canister of tear gas hidden in the dumpster by the roadside.

The pungent chemical concoction irritated their eyes and noses, causing them to cough violently, with tears flowing out from their eyes. The white smoke from the tear gas provided them with a good cover, and they were hopeful once again. If they could take this opportunity to retreat to the closed supermarket behind them, they would no longer have to worry about their lives.

They did not know that Zhang Heng had taken out the Filter Lens from his backpack.

Chapter 534 Surrounded

Xiao Bing, too received news that the long-range attack team had been assaulted. Ten minutes had passed since their last message—"preparing to escape into the supermarket and waiting for support." After that, she received no more messages from them. It was these sorts of silence that made hearts drop, the precursor to something awful that might have befallen them.

After backup hurriedly arrived, they confirmed that something terrible had indeed happened to the long-range attack team. Two multi-purpose vehicles had overturned on the road, and dead were scattered all over the place. However, the killer was nowhere to be found. And this was just the beginning. A quarter of an hour later, she received another piece of bad news.

A small team carrying essential game items had been ambushed by the mysterious killer as well. In the end, not only did they lose what they were transporting, five out of eight of their members were killed, and two were seriously injured. Unfortunately, the mysterious killer fled the scene five minutes before backup arrived. Before she even had time to digest the awful news, she was told that the squad responsible for escorting the prisoners had also been wiped out twenty minutes later.

The players in the forum were rattled by the tremendous shock. No one thought that the war, one that was supposed to have been over and dusted within ten minutes, would encounter such a plot twist. It seemed a team of players had been secretly helping Shen Xixi. They managed to stop Arc of Light's first wave of attacks. But what was even more surprising was that some war-god had appeared to have taken the union's side. Since the two elite long-range attack teams were assaulted, casualties on Arc of Light's side had begun to soar.

More than an hour had passed since the first Arc of Light's assault teams were wiped out. The information about the mysterious sniper was analyzed, including his weapons, the route he chose, and the time spent in each battle. Players lurking on the forum marveled at the mysterious sniper's exceptional marksmanship

—the way he positioned himself, and how he had always managed to flee right before Arc of Light's backup arrived. It appeared this sniper knew the inner workings of their plan, picking off targets that only increased in strategic value one after the other. Not to mention how he managed to eliminate all his enemies in a tiny amount of time.

Was he going to turn the tide of the battle all on his own?

Before tonight, no one would have the slightest inclination that something so absurd could happen to them. But now, Zhang Heng had seemingly done the impossible. Just as players' praises began pouring in, he encountered his first hiccup of the night.

Zhang Heng once again set up his CS5 on the rooftop, about to execute his fifth target. He would reduce each battle's time by five minutes, and other than preventing Arc of Light's reinforcements from attacking him, he had to ensure that things moved along quickly. Although he knew their troop deployment and route, preparations could only be made along the way based on information he collected. Working with the OA battle squad to determine the specific target, he knew that obtaining internal command information wouldn't come so easy.

Arc of Light soon realized their servers were getting infiltrated as more and more of their strategic targets were hit. As long as they changed their passwords, their information would no longer be accessible. Zhang Heng would only encounter more danger as he moved on. The target driving the Highlander was approaching, and a plump man in the passenger seat was holding his mobile phone, seemingly ignorant of the fate that awaited him.

Zhang Heng sensed that something was sorely amiss. He swiftly tucked away his gun, turning around to see behind him. Someone had been approaching him without realization, prompting Zhang Heng to pull the trigger. It was a stunt learned from Simone. At an almost point-blank range, he could hit the target blindly without using the scope. The next moment, though, he felt a burning sensation raging where his palm touched the barrel.

Zhang Heng instantly threw away the CS5 in his hand. Unfortunately, the exceptionally high temperatures had burned his palm, leaving it badly scalded and blistered. The barrel of the CS5 on the ground glowed even redder after a few seconds as if it had just been removed from the kiln. The mysterious person did not approach Zhang Heng after disarming him, staring at him instead, in a hood and mask with great interest.

“So you’re the one who’s been causing us trouble tonight?” asked the person after a moment’s silence.

Zhang Heng remained mum.

“Why won’t you speak? Are you dumb?” The person uttered a pitiful tut, “It seems we have got ourselves a little celebrity tonight! You have become very famous on the forum. Half the posts are about you now, and everyone is curious about your identity. Why don’t you take off that mask and let me see your face?”

As the person talked to Zhang Heng, a man with a pair of shadowy wings landed on the roof. On the other side, the door at the stairway was also pushed open, and out came a burly man carrying a gigantic chainsaw. Three enemies now surrounded Zhang Heng from three directions, and he was only two steps away from the edge of the rooftop.

This was no coincidence. Arc of Light’s reacted faster than Zhang Heng imagined, extremely quick to catch where the problem was. Instead of asking everyone to change their passwords, they simply decided to let it be. Instead, they used the people in the Highlander as bait to surround Zhang Heng on the rooftop.

These three individuals looked different from the enemies Zhang Heng had met before. If the people he killed were Arc of Light’s elites, these three people were undoubtedly higher in rank. As expected, the guy who had spoken before spoke again, “I have good news and bad news; which one do you want to hear first?”

Before Zhang Heng could even reply, the man continued, “The bad news is that you crossed paths with us tonight. I advise you to not try anything stupid. There are not many in Arc of Light who are stronger than us. Our people have studied your characteristics, and they know how proficient you are at firearms. We, happen to be your kryptonite! Especially me. As long as I am here, you won’t ever dream of touching a gun again!”

The man expected to see Zhang Heng's panicked and pale face, but he was left a little disappointed. From the start till the end, Zhang Heng's expressions hadn't budged an inch.

"But the good news is, Arc of Light had always been the most open-minded guild of the three major guilds. It is our tradition to value talents. I have to admit that your crazy performance tonight has been impressive. As a result, senior management wants to give you a chance to join our ranks as an Arc of Light member. If you agree to join us, we will no longer hold you responsible for the murders you committed. You can also keep the game items you took from us. How's that sound? It's the best offer you can get from us."

However, he didn't expect Zhang Heng to mount a reply when he was done with his little speech.

"So, Arc of Light sent the three of you to deal with me? Isn't it a little careless of them to make such a decision?"

Chapter 535 Kill One by One

"You guys have been talking there for a long time. Are we going to attack him?" said the burly man with the chainsaw impatiently. "This guy is so arrogant. Let me try to fight him first!"

Before his two companions could answer him, he had already taken a big step, hastily moving toward Zhang Heng. His allies knew all too well about his temper, and after hearing his heated tone, they didn't stop him.

"Just don't destroy him. I still have questions I want to ask," continued the man who spoke with Zhang Heng.

"Then you probably won't have a chance to ask him any questions later. I had a hard time keeping my target alive using my fighting style." The burly man grinned menacingly, and at the same time, flicked the switch on the handle. His chainsaw was not plugged into a power source, its cable still dragging on the ground. Strangely, the phantom of a machine buzzed to life a few moments later.

The piercing whine of the machine broke the silence of the night. Without saying anything, the man lifted the chainsaw and swung it upon Zhang Heng's head! Not only would his skull be shattered, but there was a good chance, Zhang Heng would be split into two! Zhang Heng had no intention to block the man, stepping back to dodge the attack. In the end, the chainsaw landed on the floor, causing a massive cloud of sparks to fly around and grinding a cavity a few centimeters deep into the rock-solid concrete.

"Don't worry. You'll have your turn soon." The burly man laughed wildly and raised the chainsaw again.

It seemed like the reaction did not affect him when the chainsaw created an impact on the ground. Even when the chainsaw landed on the ground, the man remained expressionless, still holding the saw firmly in his hands. Then, with a loud haw, he struck the saw at Zhang Heng's head again. To avoid the weapon's full brunt, Zhang Heng had to dodge also, missing the spinning blades by a couple of millimeters. Even worse was that Zhang Heng was already at the very edge of the rooftop, his foot now halfway off the ground.

Knowing how close he was to certain death, he took a step back, and now, there was only a fist-wide space between him and the busy road beneath. This building he chose as a sniper nest was fifteen stories high. If he fell from this height, there was no way he would survive the fall.

A beam of joy flashed in the eyes of the burly man. He foresaw that Zhang Heng would either stumble and fall from the tall building or split into two by his chainsaw. Once again, he decisively lifted the saw and exclaimed with excitement, "I dare you to be as arrogant as you did now~!"

However, the chainsaw missed its target, and Zhang Heng, against all odds, had seemingly disappeared into thin air!

The burly man did a double-take, sticking his head out to look down the building. Suddenly, he heard a voice from behind him. "Are you looking for me?"

He quickly turned around, and, lo and behold, Zhang Heng had already snuck up from behind.

The burly man's companions stared at each other, unable to believe what they just witnessed. As bystanders, they began to realize what had just taken place. Zhang Heng did jump down from the building, but as he fell, he grabbed the edge of the rooftop only in time to swing his body, creating enough force to bring himself back to a safe spot. His movements were lightning quick, abandoning the opportunity for escape. If Zhang Heng took this opportunity to strike, the strong man with a chainsaw would be really displeased. The man with shadow wings behind him said, "The game is over. Let's take him down together. This guy is tough to deal with!" Zhang Heng's reaction had made him more cautious, prompting him to spread his wings on his back. And the person who messed with Zhang Heng's rifle earlier also took out a deck of playing cards from his pocket.

What they didn't expect was the rooftop's ground suddenly turning into a pool of flowing black liquid! The strong man with the chainsaw fell directly into an office below him. Zhang Heng fell with him as well, and the person who messed with Zhang Heng's rifle fell in the bathroom next door.

The man with shadowy wings escaped because he could fly, but his face could only change when something struck his mind. He charged down from the sky; the pool of black liquid had coagulated back into the reinforced concrete ground. The flyer was caught off guard, crashing into the ground and hitting his head so hard he almost fainted.

(Name: Evil Wall]

[Grade: D]

(Function: Reconstruct the structure of a wall. User is allowed to the state of a wall from solid to liquid. Remaining uses: 0]

Since the three of them came on the rooftop together, Zhang Heng had been waiting for the opportunity to separate them. In a way, the man who messed with Zhang Heng's rifle said the right things. Arc of Light specially formed this squad to deal with him, and since one of them could render a gun useless, Zhang Heng could only resort to close-quarters combat. The strong man with a chainsaw existed solely for a situation like this. His formidable weapon and great strength were suitable for frontal combat. The flyer, on the other hand, had better dexterity to make up for his speed. In other words, the three of them complimented each other perfectly. It was true how Zhang Heng didn't have many opportunities to defeat them all at once.

However, things changed when they were separated.

Zhang Heng deliberately retreated to the side of the platform. Although the strong man with the chainsaw was highly offensive, it was easy for Zhang Heng to dodge those attacks with the training he had from the Black Sail quest. Unfortunately, there were still enemies watching the battle. Zhang Heng needed to look for the perfect timing even if he wanted to take out the Evil Wall from his pocket to use it.

The half-second he had when he fell from the roof was the only time for him to disappear from sight. Now that one enemy was outside the building, and another fell into the bathroom next door, they were officially separated from each other.

So, Zhang Heng only needed to deal with the strong man with a chainsaw. However, he did not have much time left. The enemy in the toilet would break the door in around two minutes, and the guy with wings should also find a window to enter the building. Hence, he needed to defeat the enemy in front of him as fast as possible.

The strong man with the chainsaw got up from the ground and found that his allies were gone. He wasn't afraid but rejoiced instead. Immediately, he picked up the chainsaw on the ground and snorted coldly, "You can only dodge my attack. There's nowhere for you to hide this time!"

Zhang Heng did not reply to him. Instead, he drew out two Nepalese swords from his backpack. Since Scarlet's negotiations were not concluded, he had to buy these to deal with his enemies tonight. He ordered it from Miss Bartender together with the CS5, and although the sabers weren't game items by any means, they should suffice for tonight's situation.

Chapter 536 Free Falling

The man who messed with Zhang Heng's gun surely wasn't in luck tonight. Falling through the roof, he landed in the bathroom, crashing his head on the toilet bowl, hitting it so hard that bright red blood started to gush out. Around ten seconds later, he finally figured Zhang Heng's plan.

After the massive blow to his head, he struggled to stand up from the ground, stumbling around a little. When he finally got to his feet, he hurriedly collected the playing cards that were scattered all over the floor, even fishing out some floating in the toilet bowl. Those playing cards were game items; every single one of them precious to him. Once making sure that he had all his cards, he pushed the bathroom door open, slowly limping and wincing.

As soon as he got out of the bathroom, he heard the burly man holding the chainsaw bellowing. But unlike the time when he was on the rooftop, this was a roar filled with fear. It caused the one who messed with Zhang Heng's gun to waste no more time. He tried to push open the door, only to find it locked.

He then drew an ace of hearts from the card box and threw it at the tempered glass beside the door. When the card touched the glass, powerful kinetic energy was emitted, and what resembled a spiderweb spread across the glass surface.

Without hesitation, he drew a second card, and this time, the glass gave way, shattering into smithereens. He quickly rushed to where the strong man was, but the scene before him almost scared him to death. The strong man was sitting on the boss' chair behind a desk, eyes wide open, face frozen, and very much dead. His body was covered with multiple open wounds, and both his arms were covered

in blood. The injury that cost him his life, however, was the deep gash that slit his throat wide open, the part where Zhang Heng struck his Nepalese saber, thereby extinguishing the man's life.

When Zhang Heng took the saber out, the sneak attack behind him was here. The man who messed with Zhang Heng's rifle knew that this was a perilous moment. Besides, his leg was still injured. There was no way for him to escape now. Hence, he could only stay back and fight. To stay alive, he had to use everything at his disposal to deal with Zhang Heng. As an act of desperation, he threw his playing cards at his opponent. At almost the exact instant, Zhang Heng kicked the desk over and ducked behind it. The rain of playing cards whooshed through the air, striking the table and cutting deeply through the hard rosewood with ease. Zhang Heng attempted to pry the cards out using his Nepalese sword, only to find that they were so sharp they even left scratches on the surface of the blade!

Seeing that the first wave of attacks failed to injure Zhang Heng, the man that messed with his rifle became even more nervous. He then took out three more cards to throw at Zhang Heng. When he saw that the overturned desk had shielded Zhang Heng, he charged him in a rage, but he was stopped when he saw something. Left in fear with the hairs on his neck standing, he threw the remaining cards in his hand at Zhang Heng. The salvo of cards somewhat managed to halt Zhang Heng's advance, and he managed to retreat. Soon, he had successfully drawn some distance between him and Zhang Heng, but before he could catch a breath, he realized that his card box was empty. His expressions changed, his face fell to the ground, thinking that he would surely meet his end here like the strong man. At that time, his ally with shadow wings had finally arrived, and he could breathe a sigh of relief. Even if the two failed to beat Zhang Heng, they could at least escape by air.

However, the happy expression on his face only lasted for less than a second. It was then that he noticed the Nepalese saber stuck in his chest, with Zhang Heng standing adjacent to him still in the throwing posture. The last thought crossing his mind was how Zhang Heng could have managed to hit him from such a distance?

The two battles lasted less than three minutes. They ended later than expected, but luckily, Zhang Heng managed to kill them both before they got to reunite. Initially, the man with shadow wings wanted to pounce on Zhang Heng, but after discovering his two companions getting killed one after the other, he quickly changed his mind. He couldn't have imagined that Zhang Heng, having lost his gun, would fight so fiercely. A slight delay had cost both his allies their lives.

This time, the analysts in the guild's strategy department had made a colossal mistake. The reports provided by them were utterly inaccurate—it mentioned that Zhang Heng was only good at firearms and that his weakness was close-quarters combat.

Zhang Heng did separate the three of them before the battle began officially. However, the fact that he could kill the strongman with chainsaw one-on-one, and his ally by throwing the saber, were all considered close-quarters combat. If he were to join Arc of Light, he could have quickly become one of their top fighters, not to mention his excellent marksmanship.

The man with shadow wings knew this information had to be sent back to the headquarters. Since he was the only one left, getting rid of Zhang Heng would be a tall order. Fortunately, unlike the other two, had had a pair of shadow wings. It enabled him to have an easy escape if he couldn't defeat Zhang Heng in the end.

Now that he had made up his mind, he did not stay where he was. He had just entered the building and only two steps away from the window. It would be a quick and easy escape. Although Zhang Heng's CS5 was now ready to fire again, the rifle fell into oblivion when the roof collapsed. He only needed to look out for Zhang Heng's throwing saber.

However, what he did not expect was that Zhang Heng would untie the longbow behind him. The man with shadow wings felt a strong sense of uneasiness. Although he did not believe that Zhang Heng could master archery after he mastered marksmanship and swordsmanship, he had witnessed enough miracles tonight, and his faith was sorely shaken.

However, he had no intention to stand there and see himself getting killed. Seeing that Zhang Heng was ready to draw his bow, he jumped out of the window as fast as possible. This time, he kept his wings folded, free-falling like a stone that was dropping from a great height. The last thing that he saw was Zhang Heng pulling the bowstring. Judging by the arrow's trajectory of the arrow, keeping up with speed he was falling at was impossible.

So, he was relieved. He was planning to fly to the back of the opposite office building first to be completely safe from Zhang Heng's attack. When his wings were spread halfway, the arrow that had been released from a great distance away drew an arc in the air, defying the law of physics.

And it hit his heart, dead right in the center.

Standing by the window, Zhang Heng witnessed the guy with shadowy wings behind him tumbling and struggling in the air. In the end, he still could not change his destiny. Despite his efforts, he only met a grim fate, slamming into an SUV parked by the roadside, the impact so severe it caused the SUV's roof to cave in. The windows were all shattered as well.

Then, the SUV's alarm was triggered.

Chapter 537 Admiral Rank?

The birthday party was coming to an end in the small auditorium on the Sheraton Hotel's fourth floor. After cutting the cake and singing the birthday song, it was finally time for tonight's highlight, a Disney-themed part at midnight.

Everyone present could choose a costume they liked and dress up as their favorite Disney character. The daughter of Eryue Weicheng chose Elsa from Frozen, and Eryue Weicheng himself chose the dead old king. He watched his daughter and a plump kid dressed as Prince Aladdin perform the last dance. After that, his cell phone rang.

Eryue Weicheng frowned. Not only was he Arc of Light's leader, but he was director of two listed companies. He now had two mobile phones and three numbers. One was used to answer business calls and family, while the second was dealing with the guilds and players.

He muted his business calls phone tonight, which could only mean that the phone that he used to deal with guild matter had to be the one ringing now. He glanced at his Patek Philippe watch and realized that it was 1 a.m.

Was the war with the union over?

Eryue Weicheng was not in a hurry. After Elsa and Aladdin were done with their dance, he stood up and took the lead to applaud for them. After that, the hotel staff began to clean up the stage, taking out a PS4 and other fun stuff. The birthday party had ended, and the kids could do whatever they wanted. Those wanting to keep playing could stay in the auditorium, and those who didn't could retreat to the room upstairs to sleep. Eryue Weicheng walked to a secluded corner and returned the call to the number that called him. Swordfish, one of Arc of Light's directors, answered the phone, sounding a little more than helpless.

"Something went wrong."

"What is the problem? Has the target been caught?"

"Something went wrong with the plan tonight," Swordfish reiterated. "A powerful guy is helping the union."

"Huh?!"

Eryue Weicheng was surprised by what he heard. The union wasn't small by any means, but not many powerful players had joined them either. As for the slightly more famous players, Arc of Light had come up with a plan to deal with them, where the operation should theoretically have a 100% success rate. Since he had the caliber to become the most powerful guild leader, doubling up as the director of two listed companies, he was used to solving such conundrums. Quickly calming his mind, he asked, "How big is the trouble?"

"Within an hour, he has killed five of our members and also robbed two Grade-C game items from us. He even managed to hack into our OA. He knows our every move. To settle the issue, the guild sent a special operations team to deal with him. They were supposed to seal his skills and defeat him, not to mention how all three were 'Seven Warlords of the Sea' level."

The most commonly used method among players to evaluate combat power was the rounds of games they completed, but the technique had many shortcomings. First of all, players completing the single-player dungeons were generally stronger than those who completed the quest with a team. In a team, every player developed in a different direction. Some players specialized in combat, for instance.

So Arc of Light developed its combat power rating system based on One Piece. In addition to the Seven Warlords of the Seas, there was an admiral, emperor, and king.

Although the Seven Warlords of the Seas were at the bottom of this system, anyone who was qualified to enter was regarded as a master. Most elite players of the guild couldn't even make it to this list-out of the three thousand members, only less than a hundred made it. A total of 14 had reached the admiral level. The king level saw even fewer. Eryue Weisheng was one of them, and thus far, nobody had a higher position than him. It was frankly a pointless rating; other than the fact it was cool; it was a One Piece concept. Players from the Strategy Department must have been One Piece otakus. They described the emperor ranked player as having the ability to destroy the world. However, as the guild leader, February Siege further confirmed that the whole point of creating the ranking system was to copy the idea from the original work. It looked perfect since it was based on the number of rounds the player completed. Nonetheless, it was not absolute.

The battle results also had to consider environmental factors, whether one side was weaker against the other, and various other variables. It did not mean that the Seven Lords of the Sea would not defeat the admiral. Like the goons sent by the Arc of Light, they were there to cripple Zhang Heng's sniping ability and were supposed to suppress him with close-quarters combat. The results, however, was as undesirable as it was unexpected.

"An admiral-level master player?" Eryue Weisheng's interest was aroused. The first question he asked was the possibility of recruiting Zhang Heng.

"The three players who were killed by him were asked to recruit him." Swordfish, on the other end of the phone, smiled bitterly. "But at that time, we thought that guy was also at Seven Lords of the Sea level. So, I guess they were not very polite when they recruit him. Should we try to recruit him again?"

Eryue Weisheng disagreed. Since Zhang Heng had refused the recruitment by action, it was pointless to try again.

After a while, he said, "Let the woman deal with him. She started this incident, so she should end it."

On the other side, Zhang Heng had finally entered the urban village.

After losing the information that he acquired from OA, it was impossible to target the Arc of Light's strike team one by one. So, he decided that he would go to the battlefield to face his enemies.

Xiao Bing, the front line commander, felt she was about to face a tough battle. The other party's brutal combat methods and terrifying effectiveness had been fully demonstrated in the past hour, the reason why she received no support from headquarters. Otherwise, the war would not have dragged on until now.

The three 'Seven Lords of the Sea' leveled players couldn't even defeat Zhang Heng even after they worked with each other. The men that she had were still fighting the union, and as of now, she did not have anyone strong enough to deal with Zhang Heng. In fact, she was on the ready to retreat a quarter of an hour ago. Like a firefly in the dark, she knew once her opponent dealt with the people she had, he would be coming for her.

As a result, her situation did not look too good now. She did not want to follow in the footsteps of those men that perished on the battlefield. So she has quietly retreated to a small hotel. It seemed like her bad premonition was coming true. After a while, she had lost contact with the team that was supposed to guard the place. Something terrible was about to happen to her. Xiao Bing turned off the light in the room and held a pistol, alone in the guest room's bathroom, pointing it at the door.

Chapter 538 Suggestion

Although Zhang Heng picked up the CS5 later, it was no longer usable-high temperatures had damaged the rifle's internal structure. That said, Zhang Heng possessed the Infinite Building Blocks, a fine fit for dealing with such situations.

Three minutes later, a new CS5 reappeared in his hands. He disassembled it, put its parts into a box, and carried it to the urban village. He then found a relatively tall residential building and decided to ascend it.

The battle between Arc of Light and the Union had raged on for a long time. Although they had tried their best to avoid attracting the attention of the ordinary, youths of the day had evolved into pseudo-nocturnals. Many were wide awake even after midnight, and some noticed something unusual taking place outside their windows.

However, Arc of Light dealt with it very quickly. They cut off communication signals in the area, temporarily blocking it; not to mention a bespoke game item they had that allowed them to erase the people's memories. They wouldn't remember a thing that happened during the past two hours. According to the original plan, the battle should have ended now.

Zhang Heng had all but disrupted Light of Arc's plans. While on the rooftop, he took a monocular from his backpack and zeroed-in some Arc of Light members retreating to a specific place. On the other side, a small hotel attracted his attention. There were no suspicious people outside, but the same couldn't be said for the nearby buildings. Zhang Heng realized that someone important had to be hidden there; they must have retreated in a different direction to protect the people hiding inside the hotel.

Putting down the scope, Zhang Heng reassembled the rifle as quickly as he could, ignoring those retreating. He then zoomed to the street where the hotel was located. Not hasty to eliminate his enemy, he first used the CS5 to take out a man in a rental house not far away from him—the man would come out to check his surroundings from time to time. Another four people hiding in the grocery store next door got sniped as well. Unfortunately, the last shot finally exposed Zhang Heng's location, prompting the enemies to fire back immediately in a rage.

Zhang Heng squatted down and paid attention to where the firing sound was coming from. With his excellent hearing, he located the enemies firing at him. He then took out a pocket mirror, looked at it quickly, and pulled it back, using the opportunity to change position. After counting to three in his heart, he poked his head out from a different spot and fired his rifle before the enemies could react. In that short stint, he managed to bag another two kills.

Zhang Heng took out the elite long-range assault team dispatched by Arc of Light, leaving behind ordinary marksman players. They had submachine guns for weapons and could only be used for frontal assaults. Once a certain distance was put in between, the submachine gun's accuracy would drop drastically. Even if Zhang Heng stood there and allowed them to shoot at him, there was a good chance they would land no accurate shots. It also meant that he would dominate the battle eventually.

Zhang Heng fired the rifle at his own pace. After repeating the same step several times, all the marksmen on the enemy's side had been killed. He took a little more time to clean up a few enemy remnants still holding up in the building. When that was done, he walked to the small hotel with the CS5 in hand.

To avoid causing bad memories for the receptionist on the first floor, Zhang Heng climbed to the second-floor window. Once he got into the hotel, he opened the door, seeing no one in the corridor. He had initially planned to search room by room, but he heard footsteps outside the corridor before he could carry that out.

He raised his CS5 and pointed in the direction of the emergency exit. When he came into the hotel, the street was still empty. The waiter at the front desk was asleep, which meant the person was definitely here for him. Arc of Light had displayed their full strength when he got assaulted once on the rooftop

earlier. As one of the three major guilds, they would have many master players as members. Nonetheless, he was surprised his enemy came for him so fast.

He did not hesitate this time. When the footsteps approached the door, Zhang Heng shot half a second ahead of time. The bullet passed through the enemy's body, leaving not so much as a single trace. Zhang Heng was dumbfounded. The bullet continued on its trajectory, hitting the wall behind her. It was as if the bullet had just penetrated a phantom.

Zhang Heng managed to take a good look at his enemy this time. It was a woman in a white dress. Barefoot with her long black hair hanging down to her waist, it was hard telling her age. Also, with her was a long sword. She wasn't that tall but exuded a thick heroic aura.

She then looked at her chest where the bullet passed through. She was just as surprised as Zhang Heng. After a while, she looked up.

"Even if you know I am from Arc of Light, you should at least listen to my introduction before you shoot me." "You didn't ask where I came from when your guild set those traps to deal with me," replied Zhang Heng. He knew that Arc of Light would send someone to disable his sniping. Hence, he did expect his rifle to leave the woman in white unscathed. He was simply unsure if it was the agent's own ability or an effect of a game item that made her immune to his bullets. To test his theory, Zhang Heng pulled the trigger again without saying hello. Even after he emptied the bullet cartridge, the woman in white's body remained unchanged. She shook her head afterward, seemingly disapproving of Zhang Heng's approach.

"This is a bit too messy."

At this point, Zhang Heng was sure that the opponent's ability to defend those bullets was very likely her own ability. If she had relied on game items, it should have exceeded the number of uses by now. Still, he couldn't tell if her ability was similar to that of Piercings. Previously, the Piercings had turned himself into a water giant, neutralizing bullets and blocking melee attacks. In the end, Zhang Heng had to place his hope on the Paris Arrow.

The woman in white was in no rush to do anything to Zhang Heng. And she had no intention to draw the long sword as well, standing there silently and waiting for Zhang Heng to end the attack before she spoke again.

"Are you a friend of that child?"

Although she did not mention the name, Zhang Heng knew that the child the woman in white was referring to was Shen Xixi. He saw that Arc of Light seemed to send people who tended to prefer negotiation. So, Zhang Heng stopped his attack. It was undeniable that tonight, he had killed his fair share of enemies. Still, the ultimate goal was to help Shen Xixi solve her problem. Since the enemy was open to negotiation, he didn't mind cooperating. "As long as the Arc of Light stops all the attack on the Union, and stop pursuing what happened last night, I can promise you that I will stop the killing," said Zhang Heng.

However, what the woman in white said next left Zhang Heng shocked.

"I have to admit, from my personal point of view, I appreciate what you did tonight. However, I have to say sorry. Even if Arc of Light accepts your terms, I cannot. What if we talk about another proposal."

"What proposal?"

"You stop the killing tonight, and if we do meet again in the future, I promise not to hurt you," the woman in white said.

Chapter 539 On the Same Path

"Don't reject my offer first," said the woman in white. "If you really care about her, you should listen to me and avail yourself from this war."

"Why?"

"I appreciate your bravery, standing up for your friends and all. Unfortunately, not everything in this world can be shared. Sometimes you have to learn to bear it all alone. Certain paths are tailored for only a single person, and some battles are meant to be faced by one alone by design. This is her battle, not yours."

"Which side are you from?" asked Zhang Heng, a deep frown forming across his forehead.

This was a question he'd been wanting to ask since a long time ago. The woman in white said that even if Arc of Light was willing to accept the truce, she wouldn't. Zhang Heng initially thought that she must have had some conflict with Shen Xixi, but now, that didn't seem to be the case. Based on what she said, it was apparent she was complimenting Shen Xixi. However, she stopped Zhang Heng from finding the person hiding in this hotel.

Clearly, she did not want the war to end.

"I do not take anyone's side. I am not Arc of Light, nor am I from the union," said the woman in white. "I am just walking my own path." "Don't you think your path is domineering? Why do you have to worry about how others will choose their path?"

The woman in white smiled, "I can ignore how others choose their path, but I have to take care of that child because she walks the same path as me."

Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows, "Are you not human?"

Although the woman in white's narrative was somewhat cryptic, Zhang Heng managed to figure out the reason behind it.

"Are you choosing an agent by using this method?"

"Your observation is very keen, but unfortunately, you do not travel the same path as me." The woman in white said lightly, "You are a righteous man. The fact you shot before trying to talk made me realize you are the kind who sides righteousness if it doesn't hurt your interest. You have no other faiths or beliefs in your heart."

"Righteousness? Are you Themis or Astria? No... you are Justitia!"

Zhang Heng finally determined the identity of the lady in white.

When it came to the god of justice, Zhang Heng first thought of Themis, the goddess of justice that maintained law and order in ancient Greek mythology. She was the second wife of Zeus, and she was the one that maintained Olympus's order. On almost all the statues dedicated to her, she had a serious expression on her face, with a tray in one hand and a scepter in the other. As for Astria, she held lightning and a torch and was the goddess of the stars and purity.

The most famous goddess of justice, however, was Justitia. She was a goddess created by the ancient Romans who combined all the gods that were related to justice in Greek mythology. She held a sword in one hand and a scale in the other. Simultaneously, she was blindfolded, symbolizing how she would always pursue the truth and not be blinded by her senses. Although the lady in white was holding only a sword with no scale and she wasn't blindfolded, she still stood out among the moral beings. Based on what Zhang Heng remembered, Justitia was a goddess who liked white since it symbolized her flawless morality and her upright nature.

During the Renaissance, statues of Justitia decorated almost every courthouse. Even today, there were many statues of Justitia outside the courthouse in Europe. There were virtually no legal practitioners who did not know her name, an indication that this woman was different from the small-time gods almost eliminated by time. Although Justitia was an ancient god, she was considered to be among the most powerful deities. Her true strength should be comparable to that of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse.

Zhang Heng was not sure if he could defeat her, and obviously, Shen Xixi's being favored by the Goddess of Justice was something he'd been expecting. Just like what Justitia said, Shen Xixi was destined to take this path, and Justitia should have paid attention to her for some time now. Her perseverance, intelligence, and strength made her the perfect candidate as Justitia's agent.

"Since she is yours, why are you stopping me?" Zhang Heng looked into Justitia's eyes and asked.

"Everyone has a righteous seed in their heart, but it's hard to grow this seed into a towering tree. Challenges and difficulties are the best nutrients for the seed's growth. The road to light is destined to be full of thorns. I shall see if she possesses enough courage to carry out her beliefs," proclaimed Justitia sternly. "As I said before, this is her war, and it has nothing to do with anyone else. In fact, I was the one who convinced Arc of Light to go to war with the union."

"So, everything that is happening right now is to test her? For that reason, you did not hesitate to cause the two major forces to be at war and make the innocent pay with their lives?!" Zhang Heng shook his head. "What kind of justice is this?"

"You misunderstood me. Although I started this war between the union and Arc of Light, it was actually inevitable. This is a conflict of interests between two parties. Arc of Light's leader is a typical businessman and will always make the most rational choices. In a way, you two share many similarities. This city reached its limits when it accommodated the two major forces. There is absolutely no space for a third party to interfere with the battle. Whether it be today or tomorrow, the battle between Arc of Light and the Union was bound to happen anyway."

"Then, why not do it tomorrow? Even when the union grows, and even if they still can't fight Arc of Light, at least they won't collapse just like that."

“What’s the point? Arc of Light will be the eventual winners, and by that time, I am afraid that they would have fought a few battles. Thousands of players will be involved, and it will eventually evolve into a long-term war. Many more will be injured and die, and more people like you who have nothing to do with the war will be dragged into it as well. So, why not just let the union disintegrate today?”

“So you want Shen Xixi to surrender?”

“I don’t want her to admit defeat,” Justitia shook her head. “I want to watch her fight for justice in her heart. Even if her strength is weak and her hope is slim, that doesn’t mean she will lose the battle. Justice does not mean victory. Although we all firmly believe that the light will eventually come to us, we must venture into the darkness before that. This is her darkness and her dawn.”

After hearing this, Zhang Heng was silent for a moment before finally putting down the CS5. Justitia thought that she had managed to convince Zhang Heng to walk away from this battle. So, she put a smile on her face. A few seconds later, she saw Zhang Heng taking out two Nepalese sabers from his backpack.

He held them in his hands and said, “I don’t think that someone like Shen Xixi needs you to arrange her path. She is not trying to get anyone’s approval. You and she have nothing in common. She is warm-blooded, and you are a reptile.”

Chapter 540 I Called For Backup

A look of surprise flashed across Justitia’s face. “Are you still going to fight me after knowing who I am?”

“Well, I’ve killed a similar guy before, and I don’t mind adding another name to the list,” replied Zhang Heng. “Are you referring to Pestilence from the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse? Did you kill him? How is that possible?!”

Justitia’s expression finally changed.

“If you tell me you killed other gods, I would have an easier time believing you. The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse come from hell. No mortal can cause them any harm. Have a Grade-B or higher grade item that helped you restrain him?”

“You will soon find out the answer to that.”

Zhang Heng didn’t just stand there and wait for his opponent to take the first shot this time. Justitia’s strength was probably higher than Pestilence, where she had demonstrated her ability to allow bullets to pass through her. It almost looked like she was hacking life itself. Zhang Heng knew that this time, he had to be cautious.

He rarely struck first, but the Nepalese saber slashed an arc in the air, slicing directly into the goddess of justice’s chest. In Roman mythology, detailed descriptions of Justitia’s appearance and priesthood were recorded. However, her battle records were blank. It certainly didn’t mean Zhang Heng took his opponent’s sword for a display piece. On her other hand, the scale was there to measure good and evil, and after she looked at it, it was time she executed judgment with her sword. She was neither the god of blacksmiths, nor was she a war goddess like Venus. The best thing Zhang Heng could right now was to end the battle before she could attack him. This time, he went all out.

He had no intention to drag the battle.

On the other hand, Justitia stopped relying on her ability to resist damage. She was even swifter than him, but after sizing up her agility, Zhang Heng breathed a sigh of relief. Her movement speed was still within human limits, and he could make up for it with his Lv3 saber skill.

Including the battle with Pestilence at the hospital, this was the second time he fought against a god. Zhang Heng also discovered some secrets, where there was a big difference in physical strength between different gods. In fact, some gods were no stronger than a mortal. Of course, each had their own bespoke ability. In a way, they were like enhanced versions of the agent.

Gods were different from the players-as long as a player completed a quest, they would grow to become better. Meanwhile, the strength of the celestial beings was more uncertain, fluctuating over time. As for ancient gods, especially those born ages ago, their strength had dropped drastically. Just like Black Sail's ancient Celtic god, there was no news about her at all after the quest was completed. Zhang Heng even suspected that she must be dead.

The gods that were still alive had also contracted human diseases, such as the old man in the Tang suit, who loved sweets so much he got diabetes. Even Pestilence's phone held many contacts of medical representatives

– He even had an appointment with the hospital's chairman to play tennis on Saturday. Ironically, it seemed that a god was interested in improving his health.

As they quietly thrived among the mortals, few could actually tell the difference between them and the regular neighbors. Of course, when they decided a display of powers was in order, people would surely remember the legends tied to these beings. Justitia must have been working in the courthouse for a long time now, and her muscles hadn't been oiled much. Nonetheless, she managed to escape most of Zhang Heng's attacks with only her bare feet. After the battle with Zhang Heng ensued for a while, she retreated to the corridor's end.

Justitia frowned, finally drawing out the sword on her waist.

“Condemnation!”

Justitia chuckled softly, and a ball of golden holy light appeared on the sword. Before he knew it, Zhang Heng's blade collided with the sword.

The next second, Zhang Heng discovered that he had already left the small hotel's corridor and was now standing on a grass patch. Justitia was nowhere to be found.

Had it all been an illusion?

As Zhang Heng's eyes fell upon a person not far away from him, he immediately retracted that thought.

“Are you the one that messed with me?”

The Tang suited elderly uncle had a straw hat and rubber shoes on, looking as if he was going fishing. Half a year had passed since they last met.

He sneezed as a cold gust of wind blew, complaining, "You think I wanted to do that? Why did you provoke that woman? If I didn't stop the time and bring you out, you would have been killed!"

Zhang Heng raised his eyebrows. "I would have been killed by her?"

"Well, it's possible you are powerful enough to kill her. But what's the point? It's the 21st century now. The Second World War has ended for more than 70 years. Don't bring yourself down by talking about killing all the time. What she does has nothing to do with you."

"I owe Shen Xixi and her team a favor," said Zhang Heng.

The old man opened a bag of QQ candies and poured a whole bunch of them into his mouth, "They can't die anyway. You can make her pay next time."

"These have nothing to do with you. Why so worried?" asked Zhang Heng, his eyes darting around his surroundings curiously, trying hard to determine where he was. Almost all grasslands looked the same at night. And not a soul was in sight, which wasn't good news.

"Stop looking around. We are on a dam now," said the old man in the Tang suit with a shrug. "When you go back, the battle over there should be over. Also, you are my agent. Of course, I have to take care of you."

The old man made it sound reasonable, but Zhang Heng didn't appear to appreciate the gesture very much. He had become increasingly suspicious of him ever since he discovered that his parents and the old man knew each other for a long time. 17 years ago, they were all in the same expedition, and it was very likely that he had seen him at that time.

Whatever Zhang Heng was investigating most likely had a lot to do with the old man. Zhang Heng was wary of him when they first met but he didn't ask much. The old man in the Tang suit seemed unaware of it and complained about the mosquitoes in the grassland.

Zhang Heng ignored him and walked to the Volvo nearby, the car that the old man must have driven him here with. When the fuel tank was checked, he found out it to be devoid of gas.

"The nearest homestay is 20 kilometers away," the old man kindly reminded Zhang Heng.

Zhang Heng was a little speechless. "Then how are you going back?"

"I have called backup to come and get me in about two hours. Want to come with me?"