

Ad Infinitum 861

Chapter 861: Prophecy

A few minutes later, Murray exhaled and said seriously, “It seems like we were controlled.”

“But they didn’t expect us to discover something amiss with the story on the radio today,” replied Benito with a solemn expression.

Murray nodded. “We were pretty lucky.”

It had to be known that they would leave Gesterbourg the day after tomorrow and head to the agreed meeting place in Icefield. If the story on the radio was told two days later, it would be equivalent to them returning to the Eighth Research Institute with a time bomb.

“What should we do now?” Benito asked.

Murray looked at the radio transceiver in a corner of the room. “Of course, we have to report the real situation immediately and see what the research institute wants us to do.”

He found a pen and paper and quickly drafted a telegram. He gave the gist of the entire matter, including the reason for their awakening.

After sending the telegram, Murray and Benito waited for nearly half an hour until they received a reply from the Eighth Research Institute: “Continue according to the original plan. Don’t show that you’ve already sensed the problem.”

Murray stared at the words for a while and smiled. “The research institute is planting a trap for those people...”

...

“The target has already taken the bait and will act according to the original plan.” In the Fire & Iron Hotel, Jiang Baimian, Shang Jianyao, Bai Chen, and Long Yuehong heard Gitis’s voice at the same time.

Although Long Yuehong knew that this would happen, he couldn't help but look at his teammates. "Did you hear that? How did she do it? The Subhuti domain has the ability to transmit sound across distances?"

He started using certain words from the Old World's entertainment.

"Yes," Bai Chen was the first to answer.

"She likely used the figurine to give us Heavenly Ears in reverse, allowing us to converse. Think about it carefully, and you will discover that there's plenty of background noise coming from the other rooms." Jiang Baimian laughed. "This is the same as our encounter in Sikhara Temple."

Long Yuehong thought for a moment and recalled many sounds, but they were suppressed by Gitis's words.

"Your imagination is still lacking." Shang Jianyao expected better from her. He then praised in amazement, "That Subhuti figurine is really a divine artifact."

At this moment, Genava asked, "What did Gitis say?"

He was unaffected, so he naturally didn't hear anything.

"The fish has taken the bait." Jiang Baimian stood up and said, "Let's go find Gitis now. Some things have to be communicated face-to-face to be safer and more effective."

The Old Task Force—who already knew where Gitis lived—went directly to meet the intelligence peddler.

"Where's Uncle and Auntie?" Shang Jianyao asked very politely.

Gitis fell into a daze for a moment before combing her honey-colored hair. "I got them to visit their former colleagues. It's better if they don't know some things."

After using a special biological agent provided by the Old Task Force, the health of Gitis's mother clearly improved. Although she couldn't be considered healthy, it was incomparable to the past when it took a great deal of effort just to go downstairs.

Of course, according to Jiang Baimian and Genava's judgment, this was the best it could do. After all, it wasn't a very compatible drug.

If Gitis's mother didn't engage in relatively heavy physical labor in the future and had sufficient sleep, she should still be able to maintain her current state until she reached old age, when her physical condition would inevitably deteriorate.

As for Gitis's father, he mainly coughed. He had difficulty breathing in the cold air and was accustomed to breathing heavily. The current climate was relatively mild, and he wasn't in bad condition. He could go out with Gitis's mother.

Jiang Baimian had already sorted out everything she could say into a telegram yesterday and sent it to the company. She had emphasized the conditions of Gitis's parents and had yet to receive a reply.

"Can you tell me the details?" Jiang Baimian requested.

Gitis's focus returned to her eyes and described the details she had 'seen.'

"There's a trap!" Not only was Shang Jianyao not afraid, but he was also abnormally excited.

Bai Chen pursed her lips and said, "The question now is: Will the trap be at the meeting place, on the way to the meeting place, or will it be activated in Gesterbourg in the next two days?"

The last possibility she raised referred to the fact that the Eighth Research Institute's plan to have Murray and Benito act according to their original plan was only a cover. They wanted to use this to numb the Old Task Force on the surface, but they were actually sending out powerhouses secretly to launch an attack in Gesterbourg when Jiang Baimian and the others were most relaxed and least vigilant. They wanted to take the Old Task Force by surprise.

"How sinister!" Shang Jianyao commented without realizing the irony.

After all, he wasn't the ruthless one now.

Jiang Baimian smiled. “Therefore, I brought you to visit Gitis. I plan on borrowing her Subhuti figurine to predict the future.”

She used the team’s internal conversation to transmit the request to Gitis.

The Subhuti figurine could only predict the owner’s future for a period of time. This was relatively rigid, so the Old Task Force couldn’t get Gitis to do it on their behalf.

Gitis fell silent for a moment before saying, “It can only be used in this room.”

In that case, she still had a certain level of control.

“No problem.” Jiang Baimian agreed without hesitation.

Gitis opened her backpack and took out the wooden Subhuti figurine with a bitter expression.

Shang Jianyao reached out to take it and suddenly exclaimed, “No negative effects?”

“There is.” Gitis fell silent for a few seconds.

“What is it? Why don’t I feel anything?” Shang Jianyao had a stunned expression.

“You can’t lie,” Gitis replied truthfully. “Therefore, either I’m silent, or I tell the truth in a sense when facing a question I don’t want to answer. This can form a certain level of misdirection.”

Jiang Baimian came to a realization. “Regarding the Subhuti figurine, you’ve consistently claimed that you didn’t gather any information that’s different from the Hunter’s Guild. This is also considered the truth because there’s no need to gather additional information regarding yourself.

“Also, you said that one has to pay a sufficient price to pry open their mouths and obtain the corresponding answer. The ‘they’ here actually refers to Mor and Smith, not Aester, Eman, and Frances.”

“That’s right.” Gitis nodded.

Smack!?

Shang Jianyao slapped his thigh with his free left hand. “It’s no wonder I don’t feel anything. I’ve always been honest! I don’t even speak partial truths but the entire truth.”

With that said, he looked at Gitis and asked excitedly, “Then, what’s your true opinion of us?”

Gitis shut her mouth and didn’t answer.

Shang Jianyao shook his head regretfully and switched to holding the Subhuti figurine with both hands. He then half-closed his eyes and muttered.

A few seconds later, he opened his eyes and said, “That’s not right. Why isn’t there a prophecy?”

Gitis took a deep breath and inquired, “What period was your prophecy focused on?”

“What will happen in 28 minutes.” Shang Jianyao had a ‘what’s wrong?’ expression. “I just want to experiment first.”

Gitis was no longer in a daze, and her eyes turned sharp. She fell silent for a moment before saying, “You can’t use such a precise timing. You have to give a relatively vague description. For example, by today or in the coming month.”

“Why didn’t you say so earlier!?” Shang Jianyao said as though he was in the right.

Jiang Baimian felt her blood pressure rise as she listened, so she glanced at Gitis sympathetically.

Gitis chose to remain silent.

Shang Jianyao closed his eyes again and muttered a few words.

After a while, he opened his eyes and excitedly stated, “We will encounter a bloody disaster in three days!”

What’s there to be happy about??Long Yuehong felt his scalp tingle.

Although this was within the Old Task Force’s expectations, a ‘bloody disaster’ didn’t sound that comforting.

Jiang Baimian tersely acknowledged it. “Do you know the approximate time?”

“At a later time, the preliminary judgment is that it will be the day after tomorrow,” Shang Jianyao replied truthfully.

“What’s the exact content of the bloody disaster?” Bai Chen interrupted and asked.

Shang Jianyao shook his head. “I saw a swath of blood. Yes, let me predict what kind of bloody disaster it will be.”

“The same thing can only be prophesied once,” Gitis reminded helplessly.

Without giving Shang Jianyao a chance to speak, Jiang Baimian nodded and said, “That day happens to be the day Murray and Benito leave Gesterbourg for the Eighth Research Institute.”

“That matches.” Long Yuehong exhaled.

At this moment, Shang Jianyao looked at Gitis and asked in confusion, “We all know that there will be a bloody disaster, so we should be able to avoid it when the time comes. Doesn’t this mean that the prophecy is wrong?”

“All the prophecies I’ve made have come true in a way so far,” Gitis reminded.

Shang Jianyao slowly nodded and looked at Long Yuehong before chuckling. “Why don’t I stab you first and satisfy the condition of ‘bloody disaster?’”

If it weren't for an outsider's presence, Long Yuehong would definitely have let this fellow stab himself instead of choosing to remain silent.

Shang Jianyao then became excited. "Since there's a bloody disaster the day after tomorrow, we have to get a good meal and relax for the next two days!"

Chapter 862: Wee Hours of the Night

After having their fill and returning to the Fire & Iron Hotel, Jiang Baimian looked around and said, "That's the end of our R&R. Get yourself together and be highly vigilant. You have to recall Eidolon Nun's gaze or Master Zhuang's dream from time to time."

"Why?" Shang Jianyao was the first to express his confusion. "There will only be a bloody disaster the day after tomorrow!"

Jiang Baimian exclaimed. "There are too many explanations for a prophecy. We can't place all our bets on one possibility."

"Yes, yes, yes!" Shang Jianyao immediately changed his view.

"That's right, that's right." Long Yuehong nodded in agreement.

Shang Jianyao then said, "Indeed. There are too many examples in the Old World's entertainment that misread prophecies and produce counterproductive results."

Don't remind me that my experience in prophecies comes from the Old World's entertainment...? Jiang Baimian muttered silently.

The Old Task Force had yet to encounter many prophecies at the moment. One came from the Crystal Consciousness Church, one came from the Asceticism Department, and the other came from the Subhuti figurine.

Jiang Baimian further explained, "Even if the bloody disaster really happens the day after tomorrow, it doesn't mean that there won't be any dangers in the next two days. What if the enemy launches an attack tonight and controls us? What if they only execute us the day after tomorrow? That will still be in line with the prophecy."

“Also, the Eighth Research Institute might come in the next two days to flip through our memories to confirm the situation here and prepare for the ambush the day after tomorrow. When the time comes, we will be in big trouble if they know our plan and use it against us.”

“How cunning!” It was unknown if Shang Jianyao was cursing the prophecy for being misleading or the Eighth Research Institute’s people for acting so furtively. He then applauded Jiang Baimian.

Clap! Clap! Clap!

Bai Chen nodded slightly. “These are indeed situations that match the prophecy and require vigilance.”

“Under normal circumstances, it won’t be difficult to recall Eidolon Nun’s gaze and Master Zhuang’s dream from time to time. However, we still have to sleep. Who can make themselves recall specific memories in a dream?” Long Yuehong raised a technical problem.

The red light in Genava’s eyes flickered. “Ask Gitis to use Destiny Connection?”

Jiang Baimian denied this thought. “This will affect her condition. She’s different from us; she hasn’t undergone genetic enhancement. She usually has to focus on controlling many bodies, and that consumes a lot of her mental energy. She probably hasn’t kept up with her daily training.”

She then gave a smile that terrified Long Yuehong. “Since we can’t control ourselves and find it difficult to recall those memories when sleeping, we can resolve this problem at the root.”

“How?” Shang Jianyao was a perfect assistant in stand-up comedy.

Jiang Baimian looked around and said, “No sleep! We can totally handle not sleeping for today and tomorrow. We will still have good combat strength.”

“...” Long Yuehong fell silent for a few seconds before saying, “That’s true.”

He didn’t have much of a problem staying awake for just two days. He just didn’t expect his team leader’s solution to be so simple and crude.

“You guys.” Shang Jianyao became proud. “You’re really inferior to me in this regard. We can take turns resting.”

How do you smoothly switch between ‘I’ and ‘We?’?Jiang Baimian criticized inwardly and ignored him before looking at Genava. “Old Ge, pay attention to the electricity expenditure and replenish it in time.”

As a smart bot, it was a piece of cake for Genava to not sleep for months and have his components get some rest.

“Any other questions?” Jiang Baimian had always known how to use the intelligence of the masses to find any flaws.

Shang Jianyao raised his hand. “I do.”

“Speak.” Jiang Baimian habitually composed herself.

Shang Jianyao asked, “Since we have to be wary of the situation you mentioned, why didn’t you say anything previously and instead allowed us to eat and drink without any vigilance?”

Without waiting for Jiang Baimian to speak, he ‘came to a realization.’ “To teach us a lesson!”

“You’re the only one who needs to be taught a lesson. Thank you very much,” Jiang Baimian replied bluntly. “Do the math. How long has it been since Murray and Benito ‘woke up’ and sent a telegram to the Eighth Research Institute from us having dinner? Unless the Eighth Research Institute’s people had long sensed something abnormal and had secretly planned against us for a long time, it won’t be that fast. If they had their sights on us from the beginning, they would’ve ‘seen’ everything we did. There were no secrets to keep, and it didn’t matter if we relaxed while eating.”

Jiang Baimian paused and said, “Actually, there shouldn’t be any problems for the next few hours. But since we have nothing to do, we might as well begin early and adapt to a highly vigilant life as soon as possible.”

“Yes, yes.” Long Yuehong and the others nodded.

After agreeing to this, the Old Task Force entered combat readiness.

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In the safe house where Murray and Benito lived at midnight.

One of them was lying on the bed, and the other was on the sofa, sleeping soundly.

Suddenly, something invisible seemed to fluctuate in the deep night, turning into two invisible, untouchable tentacles that silently stretched toward Murray and Benito and drilled into their heads.

Shortly after, the two invisible tentacles—which seemed to be a nightmare—retracted and melted into the darkness.

After an unknown period of time, a large number of invisible, colorless, tentacle-like objects rose from the darkness in the block where Mor lived. They were inseparable from each other in the darkness as they extended toward different rooms.

Just like that, the tentacles were like a nightmare monster in legends that ate human brains. They rose and retreated in different streets of Gesterbourg.

Someone woke up, but there was nothing abnormal. With his eyes half-closed, he left the bed and staggered to the toilet to relieve his bulging bladder that he had been holding in.

The invisible tentacles followed a certain pattern or traced a certain trajectory before finally arriving at the Fire & Iron Hotel.

A few minutes after one of them reached into Spant's head, the night surged. It separated into four tentacles and quietly stretched toward the Old Task Force's suite.

The lights were still on in the suite's living room.

Jiang Baimian, Shang Jianyao, Bai Chen, and Long Yuehong were either sitting in different spots or squeezed together. None of them had slept.

Among them, two were on guard while the other two watched the Old World's entertainment to keep themselves from losing their minds. Regardless, both parties would recall Eidolon Nun's gaze or Master Zhuang's dream every few minutes.

The invisible tentacles stopped in the night as if they were blocked by the light. They didn't extend into the room or reach for the four carbon-based humans' heads. Instead, they quietly clung to the curtained window like eyes peeping into the room.

Fifteen minutes passed... Half an hour passed... Two hours passed. The Old Task Force remained awake.

Finally, the invisible tentacles retracted and disappeared into the darkness.

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In the blink of an eye, the day mentioned in the prophecy arrived. This was also the day Murray and Benito left Gesterbourg and returned to the Eighth Research Institute.

The two of them exchanged glances and informed the Old Task Force what time they were setting off and which intersection in Icefield they were heading to according to their original plan.

Genava received their telegram and knew that they were about to set off.

"It's time for us to head out," Jiang Baimian said as she ate a drug that stimulated her brain to maintain her clarity of mind. Although she could still hold on, and her mind was fine, she needed to be in tip-top condition to face the impending enemy.

Long Yuehong, Bai Chen, and Shang Jianyao also took the pill produced by Pangu Biology. They then went downstairs, settled the bill, and got into the jeep.

The jeep drove toward the exit that led from Gesterbourg to Icefield at an adequate speed.

Upon seeing the fortifications on the periphery, a dark-red SUV drove over from another street and moved alongside them.

There was only one person in the SUV—a man in his thirties. He wore a cap and grayish-blue clothes. The tip of his nose was slightly hooked, and there was obvious golden stubble on his face.

After Shang Jianyao and Long Yuehong looked over, the male driver released his left hand and held it vertically like he was chanting Buddhist scripture.

This was the confirmation method that the Old Task Force and Gitis had agreed on in advance.

Shang Jianyao retracted his gaze in satisfaction and nodded at Jiang Baimian.

Jiang Baimian couldn't help but sigh silently. Heavenly Eyes and Heavenly Ears are too useful. There's no need for us to contact her specially. Gitis can work with us in a timely fashion without worrying about being discovered by the hidden monitors...

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Chapter 864: ‘Payback’

After the Old Task Force left the heavily fortified borders of Gesterbourg, the weeds ahead gradually thinned. Looking into the distance, they could vaguely see a wasteland and hills.

“How many kilometers has it been?” Shang Jianyao—who was sitting in the backseat—asked Geneva, the automatic odometer.

“We’re almost two kilometers away from Gesterbourg.” Geneva chose to use more fuzzy data like a human.

Shang Jianyao was disappointed. “It’s less than three kilometers.”

He looked at the driving Bai Chen and opened his mouth to speak before closing it again.

“You want Little White to drive faster?” Jiang Baimian glanced at him.

“That’s right, that’s right.” Shang Jianyao quickly nodded.

“Do you want to reach three kilometers as soon as possible and get Gitis’s body to return?” Jiang Baimian asked again.

Shang Jianyao frankly replied, “The Eighth Research Institute has Awakened from all domains. I wonder who they will send this time. It’s too dangerous—too dangerous!”

That’s right. Gitis isn’t an Awakened yet... Although she uses another body, and it won’t affect her main body even if she loses it, the problem is that we don’t have a complete understanding of the various domains’ abilities. Who knows if they have the ability to restrain Divine Mirror Connection and Destiny Connection...? Jiang Baimian echoed Shang Jianyao inwardly.

They couldn’t bear to involve Gitis in the battle between the Old Task Force and the Eighth Research Institute. They hoped to hit the three-kilometer threshold early and take over the Subhuti figurine from Gitis’s other body.

In any case, the oldest AC-42 military exoskeleton had already been mortgaged to Gitis.

The only problem was that this path was complicated and difficult to traverse. Jiang Baimian didn’t dare to let Bai Chen drive too quickly to prevent any accidents from happening—ones that could be exploited by the Eighth Research Institute.

She composed herself, straightened her body, and looked ahead—where she couldn’t see any vehicles. “Maintain your previous state. Don’t relax.”

From time to time, they would recall Eidolon Nun's gaze and Master Zhuang's dream.

...

Behind a small hill, a figure was leaning against a red pine tree. He had a hand in his pocket and was looking at the distant blue sky.

This formed a sharp contrast to the dark gray smog in Gesterbourg's direction.

The figure was about 1.8 meters tall. He wore a black trench coat, black pants, and black boots. He also wore gloves of the same color and carried a silver Gauss rifle on his back.

His black hair was neatly combed back. He had sword-like eyebrows, an abnormally straight nose, and golden eyes. His face was well-defined and rather handsome.

Qiao Chu!

This person was Qiao Chu, the Eighth Research Institute commissioner who had previously controlled the Old Task Force and led them to Swamp Ruin 1—Dajiang City Ruin! At this moment, he didn't show any uncontrollable charm, or rather, there were no humans or animals around him to prove this.

Suddenly, Qiao Chu touched the white earpiece in his ear as if he were listening to something. Toward the end, he frowned, and his expression turned nasty.

After he lowered his right hand, he muttered to himself, "I'll listen to your instructions for now. It won't be long before I become a Professor!"

If not for the fact that he spent too much time between the Sea of Origins and Mind Corridor, he might've already explored the depths with the Eighth Research Institute's rich Mind Corridor information.

He stretched out his left palm, revealing the ordinary black electronic watch on his wrist. Qiao Chu then took off his watch and threw it to the ground.

In an instant, the red pine tree he was leaning against exuded two completely different phenomena.

The first were the ants circling around the watch; it was as if they had encountered something nasty. The second were the various creatures; they approached Qiao Chu uncontrollably.

The latter came from the price Qiao Chu paid—Uncontrollable Charm. This made him constantly emit a fatal attraction to his surroundings. Be it men, women, or beasts, the target wasn't spared.

After he entered the Mind Corridor, the situation became increasingly serious. He could only apply for the watch from the Eighth Research Institute to reduce the effects.

Qiao Chu didn't like the ability attached to the electronic watch. He used the item's negative effects: Detestable!

Detestable neutralized Qiao Chu's Uncontrollable Charm to a large extent, allowing him to enter and leave the various settlements freely without triggering any abnormalities. He only enjoyed the privilege that good-looking people often obtained.

If not for Gesterbourg's powerhouse holding the fort, he felt that it was better to pay a visit to them yesterday and launch a surprise attack on the team that had once been his slaves.

After adapting to his 'unlocked' state, Qiao Chu turned around, walked out from behind the red pine tree, and walked toward the path that led to Icefield between the hills.

He knew that the target team had an additional robot member, but he wasn't too worried. This was because the basic ability obtained by Monitors after entering the Mind Corridor was Electromagnetic Interference.

Although this couldn't help him finish off the robot, it was still enough to affect the other party's judgment and delay it for almost a minute.

...

"It's three kilometers once we circle around that hill," Genava gave Shang Jianyao a heads up.

Shang Jianyao nodded excitedly and said to Bai Chen in front of him, “Little White, remember to stop the car when the time comes.”

Before Bai Chen could respond, her expression suddenly changed, and her eyes became a little infatuated.

A figure appeared beside the hill—a familiar figure to the Old Task Force.

It was Qiao Chu, the Eighth Research Institute commissioner with his black hair, golden eyes, and sharp eyebrows!

Bai Chen’s right foot stepped on the brakes and gradually exerted more strength, slowing down the car so that it could stop in front of Qiao Chu steadily.

In the passenger seat, Long Yuehong didn’t stop her. Instead, he wore an expectant expression and praised sincerely and silently, “He’s handsome again.”

Genava—who was in the back row—didn’t seem to notice anything and only asked, “Are we preparing for the Subhuti figurine handover now?”

Beside him, Jiang Baimian and Shang Jianyao remained silent as they stared ahead.

The SUV behind them suddenly accelerated and overtook them.

Gitis’s male body in the cap and grayish-blue clothes was looking at the hill with a burning gaze as if he were searching for the reason for his sudden interest.

The next second, ‘he’ saw Qiao Chu. His expression went adrift for a moment as he revealed obvious confusion.

This was the anomaly Gitis’s main consciousness—which was far away at the edge of Gesterbourg—sensed.

She was naturally unaffected by Qiao Chu's Uncontrollable Charm. However, the male body holding the Subhuti figurine didn't maintain a confused expression for long before quickly returning to its obsession.

Qiao Chu's Uncontrollable Charm constantly exerted influence! Just like that, Gitis's male body constantly switched between resisting and obsession as he slowly drove toward Qiao Chu.

Qiao Chu glanced at the SUV in surprise and frowned at the fact that someone could still struggle.

At this moment, the Old Task Force's jeep overtook the SUV driven by Gitis's male body and stopped not far from Qiao Chu.

Three doors opened as Bai Chen, Long Yuehong, Jiang Baimian, and Shang Jianyao alighted one after another and ran toward Qiao Chu.

Qiao Chu focused and forcefully interfered with the electromagnetic signals received by Genava. He hoped that the four Old Task Force humans wouldn't sense anything until they came in front of him and formed a human shield. In that case, he could control the robot with Shang Jianyao, Jiang Baimian, Long Yuehong, and Bai Chen as hostages.

Thud! Thud! Thud!

Shang Jianyao ran the fastest and was the first to reach Qiao Chu.

He's indeed the most proactive one...?Qiao Chu recalled what had happened in Swamp Ruin 1 and nodded slightly.

At this moment, Shang Jianyao reared his upper body slightly and pulled his right arm away, his hand clenching into a fist.

Bang!

His heavy fist struck Qiao Chu's well-defined face, causing the commissioner to see stars. A few of his teeth loosened and flew out.

“Return us our military exoskeleton!” Shang Jianyao shouted with gusto.

At this moment, Qiao Chu’s eyes were frozen with disbelief and extreme confusion. This punch made him doubt life.

This punch also stirred Bai Chen, Long Yuehong, Jiang Baimian, and the others. After all, Qiao Chu’s ‘perfect face’ in their hearts had been destroyed.

“How can you not be affected?” Long Yuehong blurted out.

Shang Jianyao punched again and knocked Qiao Chu out. He then replied proudly, “Liking a person only affects me from saving humanity!”

“This...” Long Yuehong was confused.

Jiang Baimian recalled the past and asked in surprise, “Is this the Inference Clowning that you exerted on yourself in Swamp Ruin 1 back then?”

How many years has it been!?! This lunatic has yet to remove that effect, and it has lasted to this day!

“Huh?” Shang Jianyao was confused at first before he came to a realization.

Jiang Baimian then looked around and frowned. “The enemy is only Qiao Chu?”

Impossible! It had to be known that the Old Task Force had a robot that could resist such charm!

Chapter 865: “Arrangements”

Jiang Baimian was most worried about encountering Professor Qin from the Last Man domain. Thus, she quickly recalled Eidolon Nun’s gaze.

After calming down, she immediately knew what the problem was: In the short period of time after being bewitched by Qiao Chu, she, Bai Chen, and Long Yuehong forgot to recall Eidolon Nun’s gaze or Master Zhuang’s dream from time to time.

In other words, if Professor Qin were really lurking in the dark, it would've given him an opportunity.

The problem might become rather serious.

As for whether Shang Jianyao—who had only pretended to be infatuated—had maintained sufficient vigilance and wasn't affected by any possible influence, Jiang Baimian didn't know. However, she suspected that the fellow had rashly dashed over because of his excessive excitement and didn't consider anything else.

At this moment, Long Yuehong drew the United 202 from his belt, aimed at the unconscious Qiao Chu, and pulled the trigger repeatedly.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Blood-red splatters bloomed from the fired bullets in Qiao Chu's chest as his body was mangled.

Perhaps it was because he couldn't bear to, but Long Yuehong didn't blow up Qiao Chu's head directly.

Upon seeing this, Shang Jianyao shouted in surprise and pain, "Why did you kill him? If he dies, we might not be able to get back our military exoskeleton!"

"Huff, huff." Long Yuehong panted. "I feel like his attraction lingers even while he's unconscious. I can't control myself any longer..."

Therefore, for Bai Chen, for himself, and for the team, he might as well go all out. He took the opportunity while Qiao Chu was unconscious to fire a few shots at him and kill him!

Qiao Chu's body twitched a few times. He tried his best to open his eyes, but he failed.

Blood quickly spread from his chest as blood pooled around him. His body quickly stopped moving, and his breathing stopped.

The strange charm vanished.

Qiao Chu might never have imagined that he would die in such a way. The first half was absurd and comical, while the second half was aggrieved and powerless.

“At least let me ask questions.” Shang Jianyao was still nagging.

Long Yuehong turned his head and looked at him with bloodshot eyes. It was as though he was looking at an enemy who had killed his father.

In the dark-red SUV, Gitis’s male body first stopped being obsessed for a short period of time because Qiao Chu’s teeth had fallen off and his face was swollen. Otherwise, it was very likely that ‘he’ would use the Subhuti figurine to stop Long Yuehong’s subsequent murder. Then, ‘he’ would completely regain his clarity of mind following Qiao Chu’s death.

‘He’ rubbed his head and looked at Shang Jianyao and Long Yuehong with coldness and hatred.

These two people had killed ‘his’ beloved! ‘He’ had to take revenge!

This realization instantly synchronized with Gitis—who had specially come to the edge of Gesterbourg.

Her expression warped as anger spewed out of her eyes. However, she quickly sensed that something was amiss.

The ‘true love’ was what the consciousness attached to that body believed in. It didn’t have a deep relationship with her true self. Furthermore, no matter how hard Gitis tried to recall or mobilize her avatar’s memories, she still couldn’t find the appearance of the ‘beloved.’ There was only the bloody scene of Shang Jianyao and Long Yuehong firing.

“There’s a problem!” She immediately came to a realization and recalled that the Old Task Force had informed her about Professor Qin.

Maybe we were bewitched for too short a time, and the memories implanted are far from complete??With a thought, Gitis made the male body sitting in the dark SUV pick up the benevolent-looking Subhuti figurine.

A faint green light lit up as scenes appeared in front of the male body.

Some of them were Shang Jianyao having a ferocious glint in his eyes, Long Yuehong having bloodshot eyes, Jiang Baimian having eyes filled with vigilance and coldness while being quick to draw her gun at any moment, and Bai Chen being overly suspicious with no trust for anyone while being trigger-happy to kill them at any moment. Some were of Shang Jianyao, who appeared extremely detestable as though he was asking for a beating in Long Yuehong's eyes...

Some of the other images came from humans in the nearby area, and some came from certain animals. They formed a complete surveillance picture without any blind spots.

At this moment, Genova—who had already alighted—quickly analyzed the most likely situation. Coupled with his teammates' performance, he immediately followed the plan and shouted, "Don't be rash! Think back to the past and realize that there are no such problems, nor are the current feelings you're having genuine! This means that a portion of your memories has been tampered with or that a fake scene has been implanted in you!

"I know that you won't believe me so easily, and proving the plan requires too much time. It's not suitable for this dangerous situation. I only hope that you can restrain yourselves and not do certain things impulsively to prevent any future regrets. If there are any grudges, it won't be too late to resolve them after the Eighth Research Institute."

"That's right, that's right!" Shang Jianyao was the first to respond.

The rash Shang Jianyao had already been suppressed.

Bai Chen's expression changed a few times. She glanced at the robot that she equated to 'reliability' in her heart and nodded indiscernibly. She then took a few steps to the side and distanced herself from Shang Jianyao and Jiang Baimian—just in case.

Long Yuehong followed closely behind her and stared at Jiang Baimian and Shang Jianyao warily as if he could be harmed at any moment.

Jiang Baimian sensed her surroundings in two ways as she quickly filtered her memories. Suddenly, she laughed. "He actually fabricated a memory of Little White stealing my man, Little Red having an affair, and Hey being a traitor. He doesn't understand us at all!

“Besides, there aren’t any details; there’s only a vague understanding. Is this because there wasn’t enough time? Although we were bewitched, we woke up less than a minute later and didn’t give him any room to carry out the operations accurately?”

The Old Task Force could wake up so quickly because Shang Jianyao wasn’t bewitched from the beginning. He only wanted to run to Qiao Chu quickly and rush him for payment.

“This doesn’t seem bad...” Shang Jianyao was very interested in the role swap. He then looked around. “I don’t sense any additional human consciousness.”

In the 300-meter range he could sense, there were no other humans apart from his team and Gitis’s avatar.

Jiang Baimian tersely acknowledged his words and nodded thoughtfully. “After you knocked Qiao Chu out, that person should’ve retracted his consciousness and hidden himself.”

As she spoke, she looked around and realized that there were more hills in the ambush area chosen by the Eighth Research Institute. She didn’t feel like she could see everything.

In such an environment, it was rather difficult to find a human without giving them a chance to escape.

Jiang Baimian turned around and looked at the dark-red SUV.

The door to the SUV’s driver’s seat opened. Gitis’s male body wore a cap and held the Subhuti figurine in his hand as he gently jumped down.

Jiang Baimian didn’t mention Heavenly Eyes and directly asked, “Did you discover any suspicious figures?”

Gitis’s male body replied in a rather hoarse voice, “There are still too few active animals in this season.”

She meant that there weren't enough informants and that there was no way to confirm the situation across the vast lands.

This indirectly answered Jiang Baimian's question: There were no suspects!

Jiang Baimian thought for a moment before inquiring, "Are there other humans?"

As they conversed, she, Shang Jianyao, and the others constantly recalled Eidolon Nun's gaze and Master Zhuang's dream to prevent themselves from being affected.

"A few." Gitis's male body didn't hide anything. "They are all people I know. They are locals who usually like to plant something in this area, dig rat holes, and hunt for prey."

They were hundreds of meters away from Shang Jianyao's perception range or even further.

Shang Jianyao thought for a moment and suddenly laughed. "I have an idea."

"What is it?" Jiang Baimian asked cooperatively.

Shang Jianyao smiled. "Although we don't have enough manpower, this place isn't far from Gesterbourg. We can completely summon the White Knights to help us search this area to find the hiding rat."

That's not a rat but a venomous snake in hiding... Although he has failed to achieve his desired goal due to Qiao Chu's swift, unexpected death and has no choice but to hide, we might screw up if we dare to underestimate him...? Jiang Baimian chuckled and said to Shang Jianyao, "That's assuming you can monitor the area's entrances and exits. Otherwise, the target will sneak away at some point in time."

"We can split into three teams and guard different directions." Shang Jianyao corrected his plan.

Jiang Baimian smirked and deliberately said, "In that case, we can actually save time. The range of memory control is definitely smaller than your abilities. Professor Qin has also gone deep into the Mind Corridor like you, so even if he's stronger, he won't be much stronger than you. Therefore, I believe he's within 350 meters.

“This isn’t considered a large range. We can completely divide the area and exchange it for high-quality grenades. We can each guard a direction and plow the ground with firepower to ensure that there are no blind spots. I don’t believe he can resist a grenade with his body!”

Chapter 866: Professor Qin

On a hill more than 200 meters away from Jiang Baimian, Shang Jianyao, and the others, a short figure was hiding in a spot concealed by rocks and red pine trees as he watched the Old Task Force and the dark-red SUV.

He looked like a seven-year-old child, but his hair was sparse. There were unconcealed wrinkles at the corners of his eyes, mouth, and forehead—it was as if a middle-aged man’s head was placed on a child’s neck. It looked incongruous.

He was Professor Qin, the person in charge of Gesterbourg’s matters.

Back then, the price he paid was Stunted Growth. He thought that he had gotten off easy because he was done with his adolescence. He was already 18 years old, so what puberty was there left?

But as time passed, he finally understood why his tutor had a strange expression when he heard him recount the Awakening process.

His tutor didn’t know what changes would happen when one’s Stunted Growth worsened, but he insisted that seemingly harmless prices often ended up being worse.

Not only had Professor Qin’s growth stopped, but he was also regressing. After entering the Mind Corridor, the situation became worse. This resulted in him looking only seven or eight years old.

What pained Professor Qin the most was that reality wasn’t a novel. There were no deities or angels.

Such a regression was definitely accompanied by all kinds of diseases. Otherwise, how could a normal person ‘shrink’ for no reason?

This left him in excruciating pain. This was also the reason why he yearned to become a Professor’s Association member.

He hoped to establish a connection with Vice President and the other New World powerhouses and obtain their guidance to find the door that led to the New World in the Mind Corridor as soon as possible.

As long as he entered the New World, he could abandon his current body! Although he would still be affected by the negative effects of the price, his consciousness was only typically that of a seven or eight-year-old, and the figure he projected would still be the same, he could at least reduce the terrifying degenerative pain that plagued him.

Professor Qin had once undergone genetic modification in an attempt to save his body, but it had undoubtedly failed.

He only walked away with better vision, just like Qiao Chu. However, he chose to keep a low profile and still made his eyes appear the usual dark-brown. He didn't change them to a striking golden color.

Although he couldn't hear what Jiang Baimian, Shang Jianyao, and the others were saying, he could see their actions. He realized that they either gathered grenade launchers, wore military exoskeletons, or switched to the corresponding ammunition.

This made Professor Qin suspect that the enemy wanted to carry out indiscriminate bombardment and use this opportunity to force him out.

He wasn't sure if the Old Task Force's ammunition could support such an action, so he could only assume that it was possible and not have any wishful thinking.

The solemn Professor Qin's first reaction was to retreat in a direction that the enemy couldn't see because he had taken matters into his own hands in this operation.

The order issued by the Eighth Research Institute's Professor's Association to Professor Qin was to lure the target team to Icefield and rendezvous with the two reinforcement commissioners after they left Gesterbourg to form an encirclement. That way, they could avoid the possible interference stemming from the sleeping one in Gesterbourg.

As for why the Professor's Association didn't get him to directly invite New World powerhouses or Vice President and the others to descend remotely and deal with this enemy team that had been hounding them all this while, Professor Qin actually knew the reason.

After the previous matter, Doctor hadn't appeared or issued any orders for a long time. It was rumored that he was still suffering from the terror.

Therefore, after discovering that the enemy was prepared, Professor Qin decisively gave up on the idea of flipping through their memories and implanting the corresponding scene in them. He chose to find another opportunity.

Even the Eighth Research Institute's Professor's Association members probably wouldn't dare to use that person's strength unless it was a matter of life and death. There was a high chance that it would bring about backlash!

Professor Qin previously felt that with Qiao Chu and him, they could complement each other very well and avoid certain risk factors. Therefore, he decided to carry out the operation in this hilly area in advance to catch the enemy off-guard and show his abilities to the Vice President.

This place was almost three kilometers away from Gesterbourg's borders, and it was even further away from the ancient castle. As long as they acted quickly and didn't cause too much of a commotion, the sleeping one in Gesterbourg definitely wouldn't discover them, much less respond correctly. The team leaving the city would most likely still be immersed in the illusion that they were in a safe area and had sufficient protection.

Professor Qin hoped that Qiao Chu would bewitch that group of people and prevent them from recalling the scenes related to the Kalendarium. This way, he could silently and calmly invade their brains and implant some designated memories.

He would then enjoy a massacre from afar as a bystander.

When the time came, the final 'victor' would also choose to commit suicide by detonating the 'bomb' buried in their memory upon realization of the grave mistake they had committed.

However, Professor Qin didn't expect Qiao Chu—who had previously never met with failure—to encounter his nemesis.

That person wasn't bewitched!

Was he still human?

Professor Qin could only believe that the enemy had made the corresponding preparations against the few commissioners they knew as though they were gambling. This minimized the influence of Qiao Chu's bewitchment.

This resulted in him being pressed for time and not being able to complete the planned implant. It also resulted in him losing an assistant and having to consider evacuating.

Although he would definitely be reprimanded by the Professor's Association if he retreated now, he still had a chance to turn the situation around as long as he remained alive and met up with reinforcements in Icefield. He could still make up for his mistakes.

Professor Qin's thoughts raced as he quickly made a decision.

Retreating was necessary, but blindly retreating in a panic might not be a good thing. If he chose to continue hiding here, the enemy had little chance of discovering him. But once he acted by retreating in Icefield's direction, it might not be possible to hide from the robot.

After all, he didn't know what modules the robot had installed or if it was a long-range detection model, nor could he flip through the other party's memories.

Also, he had to go to the spot where he had hidden the car. It was impossible for him to enter Icefield on foot—that would be suicide. This way, the journey would take a lot of time, and the risk of being exposed was high.

Professor Qin's plan was to advance as a form of retreat. This was a strategy that often appeared in the Old World's wars: First launch an offensive and suppress the enemy before seizing an opportunity to retreat. Otherwise, all the troops might collapse under the enemy's pursuit. It was better to stand fast.

Furthermore, Professor Qin had been tortured by his body, and he had long become a little extreme. The act of launching an attack in advance with Qiao Chu was in itself a gamble.

He still wanted to take a gamble.

If he really suppressed the enemy completely, he didn't mind turning the feint into a real attack and resolving the problem on the spot.

If he didn't achieve such an effect, he would naturally choose to retreat.

Professor Qin then picked up the glasses on the ground beside him and placed them on the bridge of his nose. This came from the Shattered Mirror domain and could give the target hallucinations.

If not for Professor Qin secretly using this item to affect Genava, it would've been very difficult for Qiao Chu—who had yet to reach the Mind Corridor's depths—to experience such a good effect with his Electromagnetic Interference.

At this moment, Professor Qin also planned on using it to deal with the robot.

The negative price of this item was hydrophobia—it was like contracting rabies. Therefore, Professor Qin would definitely find an opportunity to take off the glasses while retreating to prevent himself from collapsing or going crazy from the puddles and streams he encountered along the way.

He then took out a gorgeous and classical pen from his small backpack.

This item was called Pen of Hobbies. It could create a hobby for a certain number of people within a certain range. This hobby's priority would exceed most things, allowing the targets to take the initiative to satisfy their hobbies.

The price of the Pen of Hobbies was 'anger.' It easily made people lose their minds.

Fortunately, Professor Qin's body had deteriorated severely. Even in rage, it wouldn't last long. This gave him sufficient reaction time, allowing him to control himself to a certain extent.

Professor Qin looked at the Old Task Force—which had donned the exoskeletons, changed to grenade launchers, and was about to scatter. They were each in charge of an area.

Professor Qin no longer hesitated and made the classic pen in his hand reflect a faint red glow.

He created a hobby for the humans in the vicinity—the hobby of having a good nap when taking in the refreshing morning breeze and the warm sun while out in the suburbs.

Without bothering to see the enemy’s reaction, he made the glasses on his nose flash with fine light again. He was distorting the environmental information and creating illusions for the robot!

Upon seeing Genava stop, Professor Qin quickly turned his gaze back to the group of humans.

They fell to the ground haphazardly, and even the wooden figurine fell to the side.

At this moment, Professor Qin saw a person stand up with difficulty. Even though his eyes were tightly shut and he looked sleepy, he still stood up with difficulty.

Chapter 867: Excellent, Excellent

Shang Jianyao—who was wearing a military exoskeleton—closed his eyes, staggered to his feet, and slowly turned to where Professor Qin was.

He kept muttering to himself, “Can’t sleep; can’t sleep. This is a critical moment in saving all of humanity. How can I sleep?”

Although he couldn’t hear what the fellow was saying, Professor Qin remained stunned. Isn’t this willpower too strong? Or does he have some kind of persistence that can resist his greatest hobby?

Almost at the same time, a bolt of lightning flashed.

Jiang Baimian—who wasn’t donning an exoskeleton—trembled as she sat up. She had electrocuted herself with her left hand!

Considering the common control abilities, she chose to set up a command in the auxiliary chip to monitor if she fell asleep like the previous few times when resisting Forced Sleep. Who knew that she would hit the jackpot?

It was precisely because of this order that Jiang Baimian couldn’t fend off Qiao Chu. She thought that with Genava around, it wouldn’t be a problem even if she really encountered Qiao Chu.

Smart bots couldn't be bewitched!

Another one!? Professor Qin was stunned by this group of people. He felt that they were a synthesis of monsters.

While his attention was attracted by Shang Jianyao and Jiang Baimian, Gitis—who was at the edge of Gesterbourg—suddenly coughed twice and woke up. She was no longer sleepy.

She was still in a settlement. The air quality was poor, and the sunlight wasn't warm. How could there be an environment conducive for sleeping on the streets?

As soon as her main consciousness recovered, Gitis immediately knew that something was amiss. She then remotely controlled the male body's consciousness.

The man in the cap sat up and grabbed the Subhuti figurine beside him.

The Subhuti figurine lit up with a blurry green glow, helping 'him' sense Professor Qin.

After Professor Qin created a hobby for them and was in a rush to affect Geneva, he didn't have the time to hide his consciousness. Furthermore, he wanted to turn the situation around, believing that he would take action soon. It was a waste of time to hide his consciousness first.

Without any hesitation, Gitis's male body used its abilities: Six Realms of Rebirth and Existence—Hell realm!

Professor Qin immediately felt the pain in his bones and his nerves twitch as if he had been squashed by a large truck.

This had been his nightmare for a long time. Every time it acted up, he felt like he had fallen into hell.

Now, hell seemed to have truly descended.

Professor Qin let out a suppressed and pained cry as the Pen of Hobbies in his hand fell to the ground.

Taking the opportunity, Gitis's male body used another ability: Visual Deprivation!

The reason 'he' didn't strip Professor Qin of his vision from the beginning was that he was worried this couldn't completely break down the other party's combat strength and give him a chance to counterattack.

After falling into hell and suffering pain, the enemy basically couldn't counterattack effectively.

Although Gitis wasn't an Awakened, she had used the Subhuti figurine for almost three years. Frances and the others she controlled were Awakened and had sufficient experience. She naturally knew which abilities to use first and which to use last at critical moments.

There was another reason: The Subhuti figurine could directly strip an enemy's consciousness, but she—who wasn't an Awakened—couldn't power it. She had to strip away all five senses before she could use it.

This required her to control Professor Qin before depriving him of his senses.

As Professor Qin wailed in pain, his vision turned pitch-black. He couldn't see anything else.

At this moment, although Shang Jianyao—who wasn't under the effect of continual influence—still had that hobby, he barely defeated the other party and narrowed his eyes. He then picked up the blue and white loudspeaker hanging from his belt and shouted at Professor Qin, "Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!"

"Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!"

His shout was like a magical voice that constantly echoed in Professor Qin's mind, making the slightly relieved enemy hesitate. He didn't know if he should grit his teeth and counterattack with all his might.

Right on the heels of that, Gitis's male body picked up the Subhuti figurine, making the green light brighter.

Olfactory Deprivation!

Knowing that ‘his’ collaborator’s abilities were mainly reflected in his words, ‘he’ wasn’t stupid enough to strip Professor Qin of his hearing now.

“Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!

“Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!” Shang Jianyao went on repeat.

Not far from him, Jiang Baimian also stood up and aimed the grenade launcher in her hand at the hill where Professor Qin was.

Her abilities and items couldn’t affect the enemy more than 200 meters away, but she had powerful weapons and had already switched the explosives in advance.

Relying on her experience and mental calculations, an imaginary trajectory surfaced in Jiang Baimian’s mind as she adjusted the muzzle’s direction. However, she didn’t fire directly because the Old Task Force still wanted to capture Professor Qin and obtain the Eighth Research Institute’s exact location.

Professor Qin—who couldn’t see or smell anything—could only hear Shang Jianyao’s looping ‘replay.’ The pain of falling into hell continued plaguing him.

He fell into a daze and seriously considered giving up resisting. If he didn’t give up, he felt that he might not be spared in the current situation.

Amidst his hesitation, Giti’s male body methodically used her abilities. Taste Deprivation!

This didn’t affect the current Professor Qin, but it was a necessary step.

“Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!

“Surrender, and you will be dealt with leniency!” Shang Jianyao held the blue and white loudspeaker and constantly enhanced the effects of Thought Implantation as he jumped toward the hill.

He was closing the distance between the two to prevent any accidents.

If Gitis couldn't successfully use her abilities or if it was difficult to achieve her desired goal, Shang Jianyao could use the Six Senses Beads and directly use Consciousness Deprivation once he was within 120 meters of Professor Qin.

Touch Deprivation!

Professor Qin could no longer feel the ground, nor did he seem to have the red pine tree beside him. He no longer had anything to lean on.

This made him feel like a wanderer exiled into the darkness. He couldn't help but feel heartfelt fear.

Running away from such darkness was everyone's instinct.

At this moment, the effects of Hell realm had greatly subsided, and Professor Qin had the ability to think.

Not good. I'll encounter Consciousness Deprivation after another two to three more times—max...? Professor Qin came from the Eighth Research Institute and had a sufficient understanding of Awakened abilities. He just couldn't determine if he had been deprived of three or four of his senses.

I can't just sit back and do nothing. I have to counter-attack immediately and strive for an opportunity... No, it's better to give up resisting. That will result in leniency...? Professor Qin 'woke up' and fell into an internal struggle.

Gitis's male body followed the orders of the main consciousness and activated 'his' abilities step by step. Auditory Deprivation!

Professor Qin's ears buzzed, and he couldn't hear anything.

The devilish voice echoing in his mind vanished. However, this didn't mean that the effects of Thought Implantation would immediately be dispelled. Before encountering a negative example, it would still affect the target.

Now, Professor Qin—who couldn't hear or see anything—couldn't deduce from the clues that giving up on resisting wouldn't result in leniency. Only his fear of Consciousness Deprivation made him feel that surrendering didn't seem like a good idea.

In a flash, he—who had been pushed to his limits—broke down. Professor Qin reflexively extended his mind to the group of humans, attempting to implant false memories into them at all costs to make them think that this was only a misunderstanding.

At the same time, Professor Qin also planned on activating the Maze Glasses on his nose bridge to make the enemies hallucinate.

Unfortunately, his resistance appeared too late at this point. Just as he extended his psyche, the Subhuti figurine in the hand of Gitis's male body illuminated the surroundings a hazy green.

Consciousness Deprivation!

Professor Qin fell back and lost consciousness.

“Success!” Shang Jianyao—who was wearing a military exoskeleton—widened his eyes and yawned. He then looked at Gitis's male body. “Lend me the Subhuti figurine. I want to use Destiny Connection to stir his memories and check for the corresponding information!”

Gitis hesitated for a few seconds before saying through the male body, “Use it beside me.”

This way, she wouldn't escape the Subhuti figurine's influence, and the consciousness she shared wouldn't be forcefully retracted, causing the body to die on the spot.

“Alright!” Shang Jianyao had always readily agreed with such matters.

He jumped up and came to Gitis's male body before extending his right palm that was covered in metal bones.

Jiang Baimian said to Genava—who had escaped his hallucination, “Wake Little White and Little Red up. Don't let down your guard.”

At this moment, Gitis's male body handed the Subhuti figurine in 'his' hand to Shang Jianyao.

“Excellent, excellent.” Shang Jianyao raised his left palm vertically and praised him before taking it.

Chapter 868: Harvest

After receiving the Subhuti figurine, Shang Jianyao was in no rush to use it. He rambled on. “I have to make some preparations...”

He then unzipped his tactical backpack slung from his body and took out the Six Senses Beads and the small jade Buddha. He wore one on his wrist and held the other in his hand. Following that, he took out the Life Angel necklace.

His left leg sank and coupled with the adjustments from the programming, the exoskeleton supported his body.

Beside Shang Jianyao, Gitis's male body was a little stunned when seeing him take out several items as if he were performing a magic trick.

After wearing the Life Angel necklace around his neck, Shang Jianyao held the small jade Buddha in one hand and the Subhuti figurine in the other as he cast his gaze at Professor Qin—who was 200 meters away.

A green light lit up. Shang Jianyao's consciousness jumped as he entered the target's Sea of Origins.

Light formed an ocean here that shimmered quietly. There was no wind or waves.

Shang Jianyao levitated in midair and looked around. He sat cross-legged and chanted a Buddhist proclamation in a very professional manner. “Namo Annutara-Samyak-Subhuti...”

Amidst the recital, the Sea of Origins began to stir. The faint light highlighted the past, forming huge waves that surged into the sky wave after wave.

With a destination in mind, Shang Jianyao quickly gained something: As a quasi-high-ranking member of the Eighth Research Institute, Professor Qin did know the organization's exact location!

When he came and went, he didn't need to blindfold or stuff his ears. If there was no wind, snow, or corresponding alerts, he would take a helicopter. Otherwise, he would enter by car. There were specialized personnel to handle his tracks.

Even the Eighth Research Institute wouldn't be willing to go out in such weather if they encountered a blizzard.

From Professor Qin's memories, Shang Jianyao actually couldn't determine where the Eighth Research Institute was. After all, Professor Qin didn't need to pilot the helicopter or drive the corresponding vehicle; there was no need to memorize the exact coordinates.

Shang Jianyao could only remember the route he took and the geographical characteristics along the way. He would then leave it to Geneva to calculate the target's exact location.

After achieving his original goal, Shang Jianyao relaxed. He skipped the chanting of the Buddhist proclamation and continued using the Subhuti figurine's power to stir up Professor Qin's memories regarding the Eighth Research Institute.

This wasn't much different from what Murray and Benito had provided them, but it was more detailed and accurate.

Perhaps it was because Professor Qin had been tortured by his body all year round and had an extremely gloomy personality, but he felt that the Professor's Association members were nothing good. He treated them as his competitors in entering the New World.

He had secretly flipped through many relevant memories from the subordinates and juniors of these high-ranking members and grasped the price of some. At the same time, he also learned a lot about the shortcomings.

Among them, there was no lack of information that left Shang Jianyao in marvel. For example, a certain Professor's Association member firmly believed that he was a tree. He kept silent at every meeting and occasionally moved with the wind. He relied on his descendants to escort him back and forth.

If not for his family injecting nutrient fluids into him in the name of watering him, he might've long starved to death.

From Professor Qin's point of view, it was a waste of resources for such a fellow to take a seat in the Professor's Association. He yearned for him to die early every day to make room.

However, the tenured Professor was really strong. Nobody even knew if he was just a virtual fabrication.

The Eighth Research Institute's information indicated that self-awareness of being inhuman was a price in the Shattered Mirror domain.

As he quickly explored, Shang Jianyao soon made another discovery: Something seemed to be hidden deep in the Eighth Research Institute. The Professor's Association and even one of their organization's missions was to guard the passage and prevent anyone from approaching.

"Interesting..." Shang Jianyao laughed.

After a while, his consciousness returned to his body.

"Here." Shang Jianyao handed the Subhuti figurine to Gitis's male body.

The man in the cap fell into a daze for a few seconds before saying, "That fast?"

According to 'his' experience, it would take at least a few minutes for people who attempted Destiny Connection for the first time to adapt and understand what to do. It was also a matter of practice to find the corresponding information from the vast sea of memories. A rookie might instantly be knocked out by the deluge of information, and only skilled people knew how to filter through them.

Shang Jianyao revealed a benevolent expression. Unfortunately, this was blocked by the military exoskeleton's visor.

“Namo Annutara-Samyak-Subhuti. This Penniless Monk is also a Buddhist.” After handing over the Subhuti figurine, he raised his left palm vertically again.

“I couldn't tell,” Gitis's male body said honestly.

Jiang Baimian approached and asked, “How was it?”

Shang Jianyao replied smugly, “Found something. I realized that most Awakened have personality flaws. Sometimes, it really can be bad. There aren't many like me—uh, us.”

As he spoke, he deviated from the topic.

Jiang Baimian glanced at Gitis's male body. Considering the urgency of time, she didn't want to involve the other party in the Eighth Research Institute's matters and nodded at Shang Jianyao. “Let's discuss it when we get back. We'll deal with the scene now.”

At this moment, Long Yuehong and Bai Chen had already been woken up by Genava.

Due to the incomplete memories implanted and the contradictions they noticed, they escaped the influence. They treated it as if they had watched a movie starring them—no, it couldn't be considered a movie. It was only a few edited scenes.

“How should we deal with Professor Qin?” Bai Chen—who was wearing a military exoskeleton—asked Jiang Baimian. She had already locked onto the unconscious target through the comprehensive warning system.

Before Jiang Baimian could answer, ‘ ‘ Shang Jianyao spoke first. “I promised him that he would be dealt with leniency if he surrendered!”

You bought into your own kool-aid? As expected, there are still some repercussions regarding Thought Implantation. Yes, it might also be a certain Shang Jianyao's characteristic...?Jiang Baimian muttered inwardly.

“This is your promise, so you don’t have to interfere with how we deal with him,” Bai Chen replied calmly.

Shang Jianyao fell into deep thought as if he had encountered a computer bug.

Jiang Baimian then said, “Compared to handing Professor Qin to the White Knights and the various large factions to suffer prolonged torture, finishing him off now might be a lenient punishment.”

Controlling an Awakened deep in the Mind Corridor wasn’t easy for the Old Task Force. It was unknown when they might commit a mistake.

With Thought Implantation, who knew what would cause the effects to collapse? With prolonged injections of anesthetic, Professor Qin might develop a certain level of resistance and quietly wake up before the expected time.

“Alright.” Shang Jianyao finally nodded in agreement.

Jiang Baimian then said to Bai Chen, Long Yuehong, and Genava, “Go over, eliminate the target, and bury the corpse. Yes, Old Ge will be in charge of checking the other party’s items.”

“Alright,” Bai Chen replied coldly.

Long Yuehong nodded. He then looked at Qiao Chu’s corpse not far away, and it was all red.

He really didn’t expect that he would end up killing this Old Task Force ‘acquaintance’ at close range.

At this moment, a joke from back then flashed across his mind: “Kill them and turn them into specimens...”

It’s all Hey’s fault for always saying disgusting things! Long Yuehong cursed Shang Jianyao inwardly and rushed to the hill with Bai Chen and Genava.

He was wearing the Blackmarsh Iron Snake bionic artificial intelligence armor, so he definitely couldn't match the military exoskeleton's speed and ended up straggling. When he arrived, Bai Chen had already given Professor Qin a short burst and ended his life.

Genava picked up the Pen of Hobbies that had fallen to the side, pulled off Professor Qin's Maze Glasses, and said to his companion, "These two should be items."

Bai Chen and Long Yuehong didn't dare to touch them. They only nodded to indicate that they would get their team leader and Hey to confirm it later.

Genava then searched Professor Qin, rummaged through his small backpack, and found a pistol, bullets, and explosives, but he didn't find any money.

"Does he usually freeload using his abilities?" Shang Jianyao had a look of indignation when he heard this. He no longer had the dilemma of wanting to deal with them leniently.

On the other hand, they found two Grand Knight gold coins and more than ten Knight silver coins on Qiao Chu.

Jiang Baimian then turned her head and said to Gitis's male body, "You can choose either of the two items. You can also take half of the other spoils, including the Gauss rifle."

Gitis played a rather important role in this battle.

"We'll discuss it after we return and confirm the effects and price." Gitis's male body fell silent for a moment.

'He' wasn't an Awakened yet, so his desire for other items wasn't that strong.

At this moment, Genava and the others finished burying Professor Qin and Qiao Chu's corpses and cleaned up the scene.

"Should we carry out a search? It's impossible for Professor Qin and Qiao Chu to come on foot. Their vehicles are definitely within a kilometer or two of us." Bai Chen asked for her team leader's opinion.

“There’s also our exoskeleton!” Shang Jianyao agreed.

Jiang Baimian thought for a moment before saying, “Don’t stay any longer to prevent any accidents from happening. The most important thing now is to return and analyze our gains, lock onto the target, and report to the higher-ups.”

Apart from Shang Jianyao, nobody objected.

The Old Task Force members disarmed themselves one after another, got into the jeep, and returned to Gesterbourg. The dark-red SUV driven by Gitis’s male body followed closely behind.

On the way, Shang Jianyao asked in confusion, “What about the bloody disaster?”

Chapter 869: Oriole

“That’s right. What about the bloody disaster?” Long Yuehong was rather sensitive about this matter.

The Old Task Force members didn’t even suffer any injuries during this operation. The most serious blow they suffered was slamming into a rock when falling asleep on the ground.

Bai Chen—who was driving—turned her head to look at Long Yuehong beside her. Her gaze lingered on his chest for two seconds. “Is this considered a bloody disaster?”

As he had shot Qiao Chu at close range, Long Yuehong’s clothes were splattered with blood as if he were injured.

Recalling the redness after Qiao Chu fell to the ground, Long Yuehong hesitantly replied, “I guess so...”

Could it be that we aren’t the ones suffering the bloody disaster but Qiao Chu and Professor Qin? The blood Shang Jianyao saw actually came from them?

Jiang Baimian deliberated for a moment and said, “I can only say that it barely counts. Therefore, we can’t let down our guard until tomorrow, lest the prophecy comes true in an unexpected way.”

“Baimian has always been careful.” Shang Jianyao applauded and praised her.

Jiang Baimian glared at him before saying, “Are we going to discuss the allocation of the spoils with Gitis’s avatar later, or are we going to find her directly after we are done with other matters?”

“You should ask Gitis,” Shang Jianyao pointed out.

The next second, they heard the voice of Gitis’s male body. “Meet me tonight at the safe house I prepared.”

She had a day off work today and didn’t need to go to the Fire & Iron Hotel.

“Alright.” Jiang Baimian smiled and nodded.

She felt that with Gitis’s style, it was impossible for her not to monitor their internal communications at this moment to prevent them from burning the bridge after crossing it.

The Old Task Force returned to the Fire & Iron Hotel and entered the suite with their spoils of war.

They were in no rush to verify the two items’ functions. Instead, Shang Jianyao recounted the information he had obtained from Professor Qin’s Sea of Origins in detail.

After repeated confirmation, Geneva took out the Old World’s map and tapped somewhere in Icefield. “The Eighth Research Institute should be here.”

He then unfolded the crude map he had made and compared it.

“Yes, I roughly know the exact location.” Jiang Baimian nodded. She then pondered for a moment before saying, “Our mission regarding the Eighth Research Institute ends here. The next step is to report the location to the company and let the board of directors decide how to deal with it.”

“I hope they can join forces with other large factions and destroy the Eighth Research Institute directly!” Shang Jianyao had a look that said: “I want to participate too.”

“That’s right, that’s right.” Long Yuehong had a very bad impression of the Eighth Research Institute.

Furthermore, the Old Task Force had been attacked by the Eighth Research Institute several times.

Long Yuehong couldn’t be completely at ease unless this organization was destroyed—unless he returned to the underground building and never stepped out again.

Jiang Baimian immediately got the team’s radio transceiver out and sent back the Eighth Research Institute’s exact location. She also requested the Security Department to confirm it with a password in the shortest time possible to prevent them from suffering interference and not knowing that they had failed to send the message.

After a few minutes, Pangu Biology replied and confirmed the Old Task Force’s contribution in code. The company then told them that the biological agents they had previously applied for were in stock in the White Knights’ sphere of influence. They could be sent to Gesterbourg in three days at most.

“The company actually has those two biological agents stored in the White Knights’ sphere of influence?” Long Yuehong was a little surprised.

Although this was one of the situations the Old Task Force had expected, he didn’t believe that it would really happen.

Jiang Baimian thought for a moment and said, “Maybe the diseases of Gitis’s parents are relatively common in the White Knights. The company’s intelligence personnel specially prepared some and uses them to bribe people at critical moments.”

Long Yuehong felt that his team leader’s reason was rather convincing when he thought of the terrible environment in the factory area, the air quality in Gesterbourg, and how the laborers worked long hours.

Jiang Baimian then replied to Pangu Biology’s telegram and reported her subsequent schedule and plans. The content was very simple—the Old Task Force would head to Ceningmis to search for the whereabouts of Shang Jianyao’s father’s team.

This was something they had informed the higher-ups of before setting off. Coupled with the fact that it involved Shang Jianyao's father, nobody could find fault with their decision.

...

Gitis's male body drove the dark-red SUV toward the block where he usually was active.

In a room there, Gitis had already waited for a while, prepared to retrieve the Subhuti figurine.

Before long, Gitis's male body found a place to park in a quiet alley.

Just as 'he' opened the car door and walked down with the Subhuti figurine, a figure suddenly appeared in the empty space beside him.

This figure was female. She had an oval face and willowy eyebrows. Her facial features were extremely symmetrical as if they had been specially polished by an artist.

She wore a white shirt, a blue denim coat, and a wide felt hat with a high brim. In her hands were two United 202s.

As she appeared, two black muzzles were aimed at Gitis's male body.

With two bangs, blood splattered as Gitis's male body was torn apart. Before 'he' could react, 'he' fell to the ground with heavy injuries and entered a dying state.

The assailant fired two more shots at his head, leaving blood everywhere. It was a tragic sight.

She then put away her pistols, bent down, quickly picked up the Subhuti figurine, and left the scene from the other end of the alley.

In a room 100 to 200 meters away, Gitis 'saw' the scene of her avatar being attacked.

All of this happened so suddenly that she couldn't react in time or use her abilities. She was then enveloped by the pain transmitted by her avatar's consciousness.

She let out an uncontrollable scream as her body convulsed before she collapsed and curled up.

After she returned to normal, she felt a splitting headache and felt listless as she worried about her other avatars.

The Subhuti figurine was already relatively far from her; she couldn't sense it anymore, much less control it. However, the effects of Divine Mirror Connection and Destiny Connection could still be maintained for a period of time, preventing her other avatars from dying on the spot.

Knowing that this couldn't last long, Gitis was angry and anxious. However, she still maintained her basic calmness and allowed the bodies to enter the process of 'death.' This allowed the people around the avatars to be prepared for what would happen next and not be too shocked.

This was a problem that Gitis had long considered.

...

At 8 p.m., Shang Jianyao and Jiang Baimian met Gitis in the safe house.

"What? The Subhuti figurine was snatched?" Shang Jianyao had a look of shock.

The honest him quickly added, "Don't tell me you think we did it?"

"If it were you, there would've been plenty of other opportunities. You could've killed me as well." Gitis's expression was gloomy and a little hesitant.

"Did you see the assailant?" Jiang Baimian asked.

Gitis recalled and said, "Yes."

She informed the Old Task Force of the attacker's appearance and general appearance.

“We’ve seen this person before!” Shang Jianyao replied enthusiastically. “She’s also from the Eighth Research Institute and is good at stealth and assassination.”

Jiang Baimian tersely acknowledged it. “Qiao Chu and Professor Qin’s collaborator? If she had taken action back then, the outcome might’ve been completely different.”

She wasn’t exaggerating. Although the Old Task Force was wary of this assassin, there were still too few ways they could deal with her.

“She came late, so she tailed Gitis’s avatar and stole the Subhuti figurine. She plans on using it to deal with us?” Shang Jianyao guessed boldly.

Gitis hesitated for a moment before saying, “I feel like she was waiting for my avatar from the beginning...”

“That’s a little strange,” Shang Jianyao said on Jiang Baimian’s behalf.

...

Gesterbourg, in the room above Gitis’s apartment.

Xu Lan—who had snatched away the Subhuti figurine—turned on the radio and tuned it to a certain frequency. After doing this, she closed her eyes and patiently waited.

Before long, Wu Meng’s voice sounded from the radio. “Did you succeed?”

“I obtained the figurine,” Xu Lan replied.

Wu Meng laughed. “Very good. You only need to send it to Ruin 13 and to me. Then, you can be free. At the same time, I’ll also bestow you with the Asymmetric Dao. As the saying goes, the way of the heavens is to win without competing. Asymmetry is also the greatest symmetry...”

Xu Lan nodded and said, “Alright.”

She then sighed. “Your judgment is really accurate. I followed that team and indeed encountered the figurine. If not for the fact that I had to wait until they finished off Professor Qin and find the research institute’s exact location, I would’ve long taken action. Don’t tell me he was influenced by you, considering how Professor Qin was in such a rush to carry out the ambush and claim credit?”

Wu Meng smiled leisurely. “The Dao can be told, but the Dao is not immutable...”

Chapter 870: Follow-up

In the safe house, Gitis looked at Jiang Baimian and Shang Jianyao and anxiously asked, “Can you help me get the Subhuti figurine back?”

She was a little desperate in this matter.

But after losing the various abilities brought about by the Subhuti figurine and having her avatars die one after another, she seemed to have returned to being the helpless girl from back then. She knew the Old Task Force, and they were the only people who could provide certain help and be trusted in this matter.

“No problem!” Shang Jianyao had a righteous expression. He had always been sincere to his friends.

Jiang Baimian tersely acknowledged it. “We will investigate the surroundings according to the location of the attack you provided and search for traces of the attacker. However, don’t have too much hope. Her ability is Invisibility, so there might not be any witnesses.”

In fact, she determined that the assassin only used two pistols every time she attacked. The other party couldn’t carry any heavy items while invisible. In that case, the assassin holding the Subhuti figurine might not be able to maintain her invisibility and would have to evacuate by normal means.

Jiang Baimian didn’t tell Gitis this guess because she was afraid that it would spark hope in her—the greater the hope, the greater the disappointment.

“I understand.” Gitis nodded slowly.

Although she had lost her abilities, she had experience and knowledge compared to three years ago. She hadn’t only become prone to being distracted and often having headaches.

Be it Aester, Eman, or Frances, they were all people in high positions. They had plenty of experience, and these memories provided sufficient catalysts for Gitis's growth.

As Jiang Baimian's thoughts raced, she suddenly smiled and asked, "Do you mind calling the police? Do you mind providing the Hunter's Guild with the Subhuti figurine's whereabouts?"

Gitis thought for a moment and asked with uncertainty, "You mean to use the Hunter's Guild and the officials to search for the attacker?"

"Yes." Jiang Baimian smiled and said, "As long as we provide clues that the victim obtained the Subhuti figurine at some point in time but was taken away by the assailant, a large number of public security officers and Ruin Hunters will help us complete the complicated investigation and comb through the corresponding clues. This can save us a lot of energy, so why not?"

"Of course, this also requires us to take a certain risk. When the assailant is found, we will be one step behind and be unable to retrieve the figurine. This results in it falling into the hands of the officials or mission issuer. We respect your opinion on the exact choice."

Upon seeing that Gitis didn't blame the Old Task Force and didn't believe that their request for cooperation had resulted in the Subhuti figurine being snatched, she felt that this lady was really a nice person. Therefore, she did her best.

"We can still earn a sum of money this way..." Gitis nodded thoughtfully.

Shang Jianyao and Jiang Baimian expressed their admiration.

After confirming the direction, Jiang Baimian exhaled and emphasized, "It's best if you don't have any hopes regarding this matter. If I were the assailant, I would definitely leave Gesterbourg as soon as possible before anyone can react. That way, it will be a fool's wish to find her in the vast wilderness and endless Icefield."

Gitis couldn't hide her disappointment, but she expressed her understanding. "I couldn't contact you immediately, nor did I dare."

Back then, she had too much to deal with. Furthermore, she didn't have Heavenly Eyes or Heavenly Ears.

From then on, she was prepared to lose the Subhuti figurine completely.

"It's fine, it's fine," Shang Jianyao consoled. "How long until you Awaken?"

Gitis deliberated over her words and said, "I have a feeling that it'll happen within a year. As for when, it depends on when I encounter the corresponding opportunities."

"Could it be the Subhuti domain?" Shang Jianyao asked.

"It's very likely." Gitis was still quite a distance away from Awakening, so she didn't dare to give an affirmative answer.

Jiang Baimian took off her backpack. "Pick an item. Although you can't use it now, that day will come."

"This pen can create the same hobby for 100 people within 300 meters. That hobby will be of a very high priority, surpassing most things. The price is anger, and it's very easy to lose your reason.

"This pair of glasses can create a maze illusion within 400 meters or distort a target's senses, completely trapping them in an illusion. The price is fear of water."

Gitis thought for a while before saying, "I want those glasses."

She felt that anger as a price was very troublesome. However, the fear of water could be avoided in advance.

"Alright." Shang Jianyao was in charge of picking up the Maze Glasses and putting them in Gitis's backpack.

The Pen of Hobbies belonged to the Old Task Force from then on. It was currently in Jiang Baimian's custody.

Jiang Baimian then pointed at the Gauss rifle and other items she had brought along. “The weapons and ammunition are yours, and the money is ours. How about that?”

To the Old Task Force, if they really took the weapons and ammunition, they had to exchange them for coins so that they could replenish their supplies in the future. Therefore, it was better to just take the money and throw these things to the local.

Gitis estimated the price and nodded slightly. “Alright.”

Due to the existence of the Gauss rifle, the price of this batch of weapons and ammunition exceeded those gold and silver coins. Therefore, Gitis felt that there was no problem. Furthermore, although she had already lost her avatars, she still knew and had come into contact with the underground black market.

After all, she was previously a successful intelligence peddler.

Jiang Baimian slowly exhaled. “This cooperation is almost over. The biological agent I gave you will arrive in two days. We’ll give it to you at the hotel.”

This wasn’t something worth hiding—many people knew that Gitis often bought drugs and biological agents for her parents.

Gitis finally received good news, and her expression relaxed significantly.

Before bidding farewell, Shang Jianyao enthusiastically asked, “Do you have enough savings to buy the latest genetic enhancement drugs? If it’s not enough, we can lend you some.”

We can only squeeze out one Grand Knight gold coin at most. What’s the use??Jiang Baimian criticized inwardly and didn’t stop him.

At most, they could apply for some funding from the higher-ups!

We’ve already found the Eighth Research Institute’s exact location. If we ask for more funding, who can say no?

As for the biological agents from before, they were used to bribe key figures and were necessary expenses for the mission.

Gitis was stunned for a moment. She didn't expect these people to really plan on lending her money.

She sized up Jiang Baimian and Shang Jianyao and smiled. "You are also people with true chivalry."

I'm not; I'm not worthy. Only Hey is qualified...?Jiang Baimian knew herself well.

Gitis then restrained her smile. "There's no need. In the past three years, I've actually saved up enough money to buy the latest genetic enhancement drugs. However, a large portion of it was kept aside for my parents' illnesses. As long as the biological agent you provide is effective, I can bear the cost of the genetic enhancement myself."

"Excellent!" Shang Jianyao smiled sincerely.

After taking a few steps toward the door, he suddenly turned around and said to Gitis, "Does the death of your avatar count as a bloody disaster?"

"Definitely." Gitis didn't hesitate at all.

"So this is how the bloody disaster was achieved..." Shang Jianyao came to a realization.

Back then, he had prophesied about them. As a collaborator, Gitis was definitely one of them at that moment.

Jiang Baimian nodded and reminded Shang Jianyao, "But we can't let down our guard tonight until past midnight."

After leaving the safe house, the two of them visited the crime scene and searched for possible witnesses. However, it was too quiet there, and it was during working hours. Nobody noticed what had happened in the alley until the smell of blood spread.

For the time being, nobody said that they had seen the attacker's photo printed by Genova.

Jiang Baimian suspected that either the person had arranged a car outside the alley and had made an immediate getaway after obtaining the Subhuti figurine, or she had backup. After handing the Subhuti figurine to the other party, the person directly turned Invisible.

“We’ll start with her symmetry OCD tomorrow.” Jiang Baimian saw that it was dark and that they hadn’t slept for three days and two nights, so she could only stop the investigation.

The next morning—after having some beauty sleep—they went to the Hunter’s Guild first, planning to submit this ‘clue.’

“What? The mission has been canceled?” Shang Jianyao was shocked and disappointed.

The staff member simply replied, “The mission issuer has confirmed that his subordinate has obtained the Subhuti figurine.”

“And that’s it? Isn’t this tricking everyone into coming to Gesterbourg?” Shang Jianyao was indignant.

The staff member sighed and said, “The mission issuer has already paid nearly 30 Grand Knight gold coins for the clues gathered in the early stages.”

Many Ruin Hunters—who had gained something—were rather satisfied.

Jiang Baimian pondered for a moment and replied, “From the looks of it, the person who issued the mission is the assailant?”

Or rather, the assassin handed the Subhuti figurine to the mission issuer’s subordinate.

The person who issued the mission was clearly not the Eighth Research Institute. Otherwise, the assassin wouldn’t have turned a blind eye to Professor Qin and Qiao Chu.

Jiang Baimian suspected that the assassin might’ve betrayed the Eighth Research Institute after the last time and was currently working for the mission issuer.

“Yes!” Shang Jianyao turned to the door. “Let’s report it to the Public Security Department!”

They could also receive a reward for the clue. Every bit counted!

Jiang Baimian nodded and secretly felt sorry for Gitis for a few seconds.

The Subhuti figurine was unlikely to be recovered. It had already been moved out of Gesterbourg.

...

A few days later, the Old Task Force handed the biological agent they had received to Gitis and confirmed its effects.

After seeing Smith, they drove the jeep—which had been replenished with supplies—and left Gesterbourg for Icefield.

After the jeep left the fortifications, Shang Jianyao looked back and regretfully said, “I wanted to see if the White Knights’ latest genetic enhancement drug was useful to us...”

“We’re broke,” Jiang Baimian replied concisely.

Bai Chen drove forward without slowing down.

Destination—Ceningmis.