

Am I A God 381

Chapter 381: The Encounter

Ares' and Dust Ball's eyes sparkled at the sudden appearance of Onitsuka and felt that they were able to leave early.

However, Ishida's attack spoiled their plans.

Accompanied by a soft thud, the streaks of shadows channeled out. As the distance between them was closer this time, they shot out from Ares' and Dust Ball's shadows and surrounded them like spikes of a hedgehog.

Even though it was nearer and faster this time, Ares had already experienced the same manoeuvre multiple times. He then calmly shifted his repulsive field which blocked and smashed the shadows.

The strength of the shadows were similar to that of iron and hence Ares' repulsive field was able to easily settle them.

After settling the shadows, Ares shifted his attention to the two Japanese, "So lucky to meet you guys again today."

He thought that they would be shocked and helpless but it wasn't the case. Hidekazu and Onitsuka remained calm and expressionless while staring at him.

While Ares was feeling suspicious, a faint voice with thick Japanese accent came out of nowhere.

"He he, quite impressive abilities."

Ares' expression changed immediately as he saw two black streaks emerged from the shadow below his stomach. With a twist, they shot towards his legs.

The repulsive field which covered him exploded in an instant with a loud sound and the two black streaks got shattered.

However, more black streaks emerged from his body which led him to be in a crisis.

Ares panicked and thought, “His ability wasn’t so advanced back then, what’s happening?”

He thought that he didn’t witness the complete ability the previous time. Onitsuka’s shadow weapons or Hidekazu’s shadow jumps were merely components of the ability.

Now the ability that Ishida held was the complete set of Shadow ability and he was able to disguise himself in the shadow.

Onitsuka’s shadow weapon and Hidekazu’s shadow jump required them to physically approach the shadows to utilise their abilities which limited their effectiveness. Shadow Jump was also dependent on the surface area of Hidekazu’s shadow.

But Ishida was able to integrate himself into a shadow. After he becomes a shadow, he can utilise the shadow jump and shadow weapon at will which allowed him to be untraceable and attack from any corner. The victims could not retaliate too since they could not locate the shadow he was hiding in.

Especially in a dark night like this, there were shadows everywhere. Ares had shadows all around him too and Ishida could jump into any shadow. He instantly jumped in the shadow below Ares and began his attack.

Bam bam bam!

Black streaks continuously emerged from his body but were immediately repelled by his repulsive field.

“What’s this?”

Ares originally utilised the repulsive field to cover himself as a defensive mechanism. However, no matter how tightly he was enclosed in the repulsive field, he still wasn’t able to separate his body from his shadows.

As he looked at Ares gradually being covered by layers of shadow streaks, Ishida said with ease, “How long are you going to persist? The reason you are not dead yet is because I don’t feel like killing you.”

“Dust Ball!”

Ares looked at Dust Ball’s initial position but it was already vacated. “Damn! You escaped?”

Boom boom boom!

The repulsive field continuously exploded. Ares was still continuously attacked by Ishida’s shadow streaks. He kept attempting to escape but even the poles on the roadsides and trees were victims of the onslaught.

“There’s no point, my shadow attack doesn’t have any limitation.” Ishida slowly increased the intensity of his onslaught while he casually said, “If you surrender early, you will suffer less pain.”

“Meow!” Ares wouldn’t give up. With a howl, he dashed in the direction of Onitsuka and Hidekazu.

When they saw Ares coming at them, they immediately retreated. Ares was still attacked by the streaks of shadow and was unable to escape.

At this moment, Ares suddenly vanished.

A sea of black appeared in front of Ishida and it seemed like he was transported to a strange place which was the extradimensional belly.

In fact, Dust Ball didn’t escape but went to open a transparent door and called for Ares to escape to.

Ishida was brought into the extradimensional belly and was stunned.

“What’s this place?”

Shing shing shing shing! Streaks of black emerged from the shadows and Ishida threatened, “Bring me back or I will immediately kill you.”

Ares just laughed him off and did not speak. Initially he wasn’t able to escape from Ishida’s ability but it wasn’t easy to just kill him. Even more so when they were in his territory now, how would Ares feel threatened.

Fujin, Lion Head, Catherine... slowly emerged and over ten of the supercats curiously looked over from a distance.

Ishida was taken aback, “So many? Are all of them supercats?”

Among the supercats, the Sphinx Cat was walking at the front and he looked at Ares worriedly and asked, “Ares, what happened? What’s that on your body?”

Before Ares could reply, Dust Ball shouted out, “I don’t know if it’s a supercat or apostle, but he was able to become a shadow and attacked us! This fellow almost killed Ares, it scared me!”

Thump thump!

Accompanied by Dust Ball’s meows, all the supercats seemed to have heard loud thumps emanating from the Sphinx cat.

Sphinx cat walked quickly towards Ares and asked with concern, “Ares, are you okay?”

Ares immediately replied, “Don’t come over first.” At the same instant, the black streaks on his body moved and Ishida called out, “Don’t come over!”

At the next moment, the claws of the Sphinx cat shifted with a blink of an eye. The supercats only felt that his claws seemed to have moved but didn’t know what happened.

With a rumble, the streaks of shadows on Ares’ body were shattered and vanished into thin air.

Chapter 382: Siege

The Sphinx cat said gently, “Ares, don’t move, I will help you get rid of that evil being.” After he finished speaking, he stared at the shadow ferociously.

Ares was shocked. Although Ishida couldn’t understand them, he could feel the intent of the opposition and raged, “You are looking for trouble.”

Whoosh!

Over ten black streaks emerged from the shadows which Ares’ body casted. With the overwhelming number and power, it was sufficient to turn a grown adult into minced meat.

But for Sphinx cat, the streaks only travelled for a minimal distance before the Sphinx cat whipped out his manoeuvre to surround Ares. His claws disappeared and only a faint illusion remained.

In the Sphinx cat’s vision, everything seemed to have remained static. He simply extended his claws and attacked the streaks.

At the next moment, thump thump thump! All the streaks had just emerged but had already been destroyed by the Sphinx cat.

Initially, the Sphinx cat already had an impressive constitution which was beyond imagination. His strength was measurable to the repulsive field after the blast.

However, this month, Zhao Yao raised him by 4 levels which resulted in him being level 5. This allowed him to enjoy legendary cat food as well train in the gravity chamber. His body improved by leaps and bounds thereafter.

With a casual showcase of his ability, the speed of his execution had already far outperformed the physical capabilities of living organisms on Earth.

Ishida could not believe his eyes and he was extremely stunned, “What’s this monster?!”

It was the first time he saw an opponent broke down his attack in this fashion. He couldn’t even imagine this happening.

“So what! I am integrated with the shadows, you can’t attack me.” He executed a shadow jump and landed in the shadow beneath Sphynx cat’s belly and kept rotating between the shadows on his belly, ears, calves and buttocks.

“He he, what are you going to do now?” Ishida smiled coldly, “Can you block off such an attack?”

Streaks of shadows emerged from the shadows casted by Sphynx cat’s body and shot towards his body.

Previously when Sphynx cat attacked the surface of Ares’ body, he was able to distinguish and feel the position and angle of manoeuvre.

However, this time it was his own body and there were many weak spots.

It was important to note the physical structure of cats did not allow them to be physically able to touch many spots on their own. Ishida taken this into account and began his onslaught on the Sphynx cat.

At the next instant, the streaks struck Sphynx cat’s body and without the protection of fur, they stuck onto his flesh.

However, something happened left Ishida shell shocked.

With a slight hum and movement of his body, the black streaks that stuck onto his body immediately shattered.

Even though the attack of the shadow weapons were unpredictable but their strength was merely that of steel and hence was unable to penetrate Sphynx cat’s body.

“Is this a joke? How could this be happening?” Ishida had been through numerous battles and this was the first time he felt fear. He continued shooting black streaks at Sphynx cat’s body but they just ended up being shattered.

Sphynx cat had no intention to guard himself and just stood there. His eyes shifted quickly to look at the streaks launching towards his body.

Whoosh! A streak targeted his eyes. The attack which seemed quick as lightning bolt to an ordinary person was as slow as a snail to him.

He even had sufficient time to wait for the streak to appear right before his eyes before shutting his eyelids to shatter it.

“Hng, I don’t believe all the cats here are as impressive as you.”

After accepting the fact that he was no match for his cat, he clenched his teeth and performed shadow jump and landed on Fujin.

But Sphynx cat still stuck closely and continued destroying the streaks of shadow that were emanated.

Ishida performed shadow jump again and landed on Rakshasa’s body but realised his body was already coated with a layer of metal. The onslaught only resulted in loud continuous explosions and Rakshasa remained unharmed. Sphynx cat did not even need to do anything.

He shadow jumped again and landed on Uncle Egg’s back. Ares swiftly appeared to counter his attack.

Ishida shadow jumped yet again and landed on Lucifer’s belly. The black streaks extended out and covered Lucifer. This time, Sphynx cat just stood at one side and did not act.

Ishida immediately shouted, “Don’t come over, or else...”

Poof!

Ishida was shocked as when Lucifer struck his head on the streaks till he was face full of blood, he merely stuck out his tongue and let out a small moan, “Meow.”

“That’s amazing!”

Poof poof poof!

Ishida was stunned as Lucifer struck his head, arms and belly on the streaks which resulted in him being covered in blood but he still let out comfortable grunts.

He owned a cat too and this type of sounds were only heard when they were put in a comfortable position. What's happening to this cat?

Don't even talk about meeting one, Ishida didn't even imagined there would be this type of cat.

Lucifer also displayed rapid regeneration as the black streaks vanished along with his wounds, recovering in an instant.

But he suffered much less pain and Lucifer couldn't help but jabbed himself repeatedly.

"This cat... is perverted."

Ishida was unwilling to stay and with a flicker, he transported to the body of Catherine.

"Don't move..."

But this time, Ishida was taken aback as his voice began diminishing. After which, with a loud thud, he emerged from the shadows and fell in human form and snored.

Catherine's ability was to make people that looked at her fall asleep. When Ishida was tricked to move onto her, he immediately fell asleep.

His consciousness diminished while he sleep and hence his ability was erased.

However, the sleep that was induced by Catherine was very mild. He was awake by the time he landed on the ground. Once he opened his eyes, Sphinx cat had already mysteriously appeared before him and his palms became nearer and nearer. At the next instant, he blacked out.

On the other side, Onitsuka and Hidekazu knelt on the ground and were depressed.

Hidekazu knocked on the shadow on the ground, "Lord Ishida, are you still there?"

Chapter 383: Management

Looking at Ishida who was beaten unconscious by him, Sphinx cat revealed a smile. However, he did not immediately kill him off but instead waved his claws and said, "Don't be near him. He is able to become a shadow and is probably momentarily shifting between shadows."

Sphinx cat had a lot of experience battling. Initially to gather his group, he captured supercats. The year after he was awoken, he experienced many battles and had interacted, investigated, battled and subdued many supercats. Therefore, he had a rich experience.

Additionally, he had an impressive vision and with that, it allowed him to view the entire process of Ishida's showcase of ability and identified the deceit.

Sphinx cat continued, "This fellow's ability has a limit on proximity. The jumps he made previously did not exceed 4.8 metres. We should space out."

While he spoke, he circled around Ishida and removed the items that were around him. This made Ishida the center of the extradimensional belly with an empty circle of 7 to 8 metres radius circling him.

"Let's temporarily do it like this." Sphinx cat looked at Dust Ball and said, "How should we proceed from here? Zhao Yao seemed to not like killing people."

With Sphinx cat's character, he would have destroyed Ishida in an instant. But on one hand, he was under Zhao Yao and Zhao Yao seemed like he wouldn't want to kill people. On another hand, he didn't want to appear too savage in front of Ares.

With a flicker, Dust Ball disappeared and his voice slowly trailed off, "Let me ask."

Ares was listening to the breakdown by Sphynx cat and understood, “That’s why he could teleport. Additionally, shadows do not take up space and hence he could evade my repulsive field to land between the repulsive field and my flesh...”

Ares was invincible with his ability of creating a repulsive field and could easily bulldoze through the battle.

However, the more abilities he witnessed, he then truly understood that that there wasn’t such a thing as an invincible ability.

His repulsive field was already impressive but if he had to battle with Sphynx cat now, he would be dead in a second. But if Sphynx cat was to face Elizabeth, he would lose with a look in the eyes. And if Elizabeth was to face the repulsive field, she would be defenseless too.

Ares let out a soft sigh, “There isn’t an invincible ability. In a solo battle, wisdom and lucky are probably more important. In a group battle, it then depends on who has more varied abilities to counter the abilities of the opponents. Chemistry of the group plays a big part too. Hence, the groups of supercats are all seeking to gather more supercats to garner more firepower.”

“Sigh, I still have much to learn about this.”

Sphynx cat came to Ares and encouraged him, “Ares, you have superb ability. With more battle experience, you will become even better.”

Ares nodded, “I am fortunate to have you brothers. With more brothers, we have more abilities...”

“Wa ha ha ha!” While everyone was gathered a distance from Ishida’s body, laughter reverberated from in front of the computer. Gaia danced with excitement in front of the screen and exclaimed, “This is too fun! I didn’t know that there is such a fun game in this world, I loved it after just playing for a bit!”

“Eh? Why did my voice change?”

Bang!

Ares sent a repulsive force to strike Gaia from the back to knock him onto the ground and said, "What an idiot."

On the other side, Dust Ball returned home. He moved into Zhao Yao's room and climbed onto his bed.

Ares and Dust Ball began their mission at a very late timing and Zhao Yao was already asleep.

Gentle snores could be heard. Dust Ball softly carefully patted Zhao Yao to wake him up and whispered, "Zhao Yao, wake up, we have caught the Japanese."

Zhao Yao shifted but did not wake up.

Dust Ball continued tapping his cheek and said, "Zhao Yao, quickly wake up, we have caught the Japanese!"

"Hm," Zhao Yao hummed and covered his face with the blanket.

"This lazy pig." Dust Ball clenched his teeth and shouted fiercely, "Zhao Yao! Don't act like you are sleeping, I know you are long awake. Quickly come to the extradimensional belly, we have caught the Japanese!"

Zhao Yao was long awake. With his current sensitivity, he knew when Dust Ball entered the room. But he still wanted to continue sleeping and not wake up.

Hence, even after listening to Dust Ball, he continued to sleep.

Dust Ball was angered, went onto his head and continued shouting, "Quickly wake up! We don't know how to handle the Japanese!!"

Zhao Yao was still groggy and replied impatiently, "I have withdrew your mission limitations, you all settle him yourselves."

Zhao Yao finished speaking, turned around and continued sleeping.

Dust Ball looked at him being encompassed by his blanket, he had no choice but to let out a sigh and went to find Elizabeth and the rest. Dust Ball had followed Zhao Yao for so long and faintly understood that Zhao Yao could help the cats promote and become stronger.

Besides her, the other cats that became stronger were Elizabeth, Matcha, Ares, Lucifer and Sphynx cat.

Elizabeth and Matcha had also realised they can look at their own level and experience points. Once they Dust Ball say that they could accomplish missions to gain experience, raise ranks and become stronger, they were interested. They left Rice Cake and Roly Poly who were playing their games behind. Dust Ball wanted to bring Elizabeth and Matcha into the extradimensional belly.

However, Roly Poly blocked their way and was angered, "I don't believe, on what basis can you all promote? Zhao Yao adores me, I should promote too."

Matcha glared at Roly Poly and thought to himself, "This fat cat has become more exaggerated. He even secretly created a clique, what a joke. I need to put him down bit by bit to let him know who's the sole dictator of this household."

He smiled coldly, "Can you see your own level and experience points?"

Roly Poly's expression turned stiff, "No."

Matcha replied, "Then you can't promote."

"How can that be possible, I'm worth so much to Zhao Yao, how can I not gain experience points. I've even felt my stealth ability getting stronger, my rank might have even rose already." Roly Poly felt indignant, "I must complete tasks and gain experience points. It's just that I haven't been inspired. I will go and gain experience points."

Matcha shook his claws and looked at Roly Poly with an unconcerned look, "You think Zhao Yao determines who can promote? The ability to promote represents the cat's aptitude and it can't be forced. You look at us cats that can promote, we are glistening and are generational cats with superb attributes."

As he spoke, he looked at Elizabeth and Dust Ball. They nodded in agreement.

Matcha smiled proudly and boasted, “You still don’t understand. Fat and dumb Roly Poly, don’t think that although we can still play games together. As a matter of fact, there is already a world of difference between us. We are two different worlds’ cats.”

“Damn it.” Roly Poly was furious. He was indignant and stared at Matcha, “I refuse, I want to accomplish missions too.”

“Fine,” Dust Ball was impatient, “Come along if you want to.”

Chapter 384: Taking Turns

Ishida felt comfortable and at ease and it seemed like he had entered a paradise with much warmth. He gradually opened his eyes but instantly realised his body was paralyzed. He felt that he couldn’t do anything and the feeling of comfort dissipated.

He opened his eyes and saw a ragdoll staring at him.

Elizabeth utilised phonetic therapy on him to allow him to regain consciousness and immediately took control of his body.

Ishida struggled for a moment and realised that he couldn’t move a single bit, as if his body wasn’t his anymore. At the same moment, he could see that there were other cats beside the ragdoll, staring at him with ill-intent and communicating amongst themselves.

“All of you can see your own levels and experience points right?” Matcha glanced at Roly Poly and continued, “Who goes first?”

“Let me.” Ares paced forward. Like a veteran, he said, “Accomplishing missions is actually easy, the key element is to find out what the other party wants and help him. Of course, sometimes the other party don’t need help. This requires us to create an environment for him to seek help.”

Ares then inducted the repulsive field and targeted a few blows at Ishida’s head. After getting struck, Ishida’s world began spinning and seemed to begin losing consciousness.

Ares used the phone to speak, “Hello, what help do you need?”

Ishida spoke dizzily, “Let me go!”

“Look at the golden exclamation mark on his head. It’s okay if you can’t see it, not everyone can receive the mission”

Ares smiled, “Yes, this mission will give 5 experience points and he needs my help to remove the control.” He turned to speak to Elizabeth, “You release your hold of him first. If he attempts to escape, control him again.”

Hence, Elizabeth temporarily withdrew her control. Once Ishida felt that he regained control of his body, he immediately utilised his ability.

He immediately sunk into the ground and in a blink of an eye integrated into a shadow.

But before he was able to completely integrate into a shadow, his body became stiff again and was held in control by Elizabeth. He gradually turned back into his human body.

“It’s done.” Ares asked, “Who wants to go next?”

Sphynx cat excitedly stepped forward and smiled, “I received it. It’s worth 5 experience points.”

Following which, the supercats began taking turns utilising Ishida to earn experience points.

“Experience points... 7 points!”

“Experience points... 3 points.”

“This is worth 10 experience points!”

When every supercat went up, they reported their experience points. Every time it hit a new high, they would all cheer.

“12 experience points!” Matcha cheerfully completed his task. He turned and looked at Roly Poly and said, “Roly Poly, didn’t you say that you can accomplish a task too? Come and try then.”

Matcha was laughing to himself inside, “This fellow can’t even see the experience points. I will completely wreck his dignity today and make him a worthless scum and get back everything of this household!”

Roly Poly began to panic after witnessing all the supercats completing their tasks as he didn’t see the golden exclamation mark before.

Now that Matcha asked, he was even more angry and anxious and could only snort, “I will try then.”

Roly Poly walked to Ishida and took a deep breath. He slapped Ishida a few times and all he got was a glare from him.

He swallowed his saliva and stepped on Ishida’s face a few times, “Give me a task, give me a task, quickly give me a task!”

After stepping for a minute, the golden exclamation mark did not appear nor was there any cue.

“How can this be possible? I really can’t promote? No aptitude? Then how can I inherit the property in the future and manage the kingdom? How can I fight with Matcha?”

Looking at the curious glances from the cats behind along with Matcha’s condescending expression, Roly Poly became even more panicky. He continued hitting and kicking Ishida while the phone kept repeating:

“What help do you need?”

“What help do you need?”

“What help do you need?”

Seeing that Roly Poly was tiredly sticking his tongue out, many scars were clawed on Ishida's face, there was still no task given. Matcha asked with disdain, "Can you do it? If you can't, just leave. There are still many cats waiting."

Roly Poly's fur stood with anger and his claws extended from his paws. At the same time, he was even more flustered, "I really can't do it? I will have to be below Matcha from now on?"

"Deng deng deng! Roly Poly, today you realise the vast difference between us. You are just a lowly cat your whole life!" Matcha thought to himself.

He then walked up and laughed with exaggeration, "Go away go away. If you can't receive the task, don't block my way."

"That's it! That's it!" Matcha screamed loudly inside, "Today I will completely destroy your fighting spirit. This will remind you for the rest of your life that you can only be under me!"

Suddenly, Roly Poly jerked his head up and shouted, "I received my task! Experience points... 5 points!"

Matcha was slightly taken aback and was startled, "What?" He looked at Ishida's head and there definitely was a golden exclamation mark.

Roly Poly looked at Elizabeth and shouted, "Let him go for a moment."

Elizabeth followed his instruction and the golden exclamation mark disappeared. Roly Poly smiled, "I've done it, I've done it. I've gained 5 experience points."

Matcha looked at him and snorted. He then proceed up to complete his task.

Roly Poly returned and the supercats congratulated, "Roly Poly, you can actually accomplish tasks too."

"Roly Poly, what's your level now?"

"Roly Poly, how many experience points are you left to level up?"

He managed to deceive them with much difficulty. He heaved a sigh of relief and wiped the non-existent sweat on his head. “Damn it, luckily I thought of a way to act like I can do it. If not, I would have been completely embarrassed.”

In reality, Roly Poly did not receive any task. He just acted like he did and what he did definitely induced a request from Ishida. Hence, the supercats around could see the golden exclamation mark.

Hence, he could only act like he was receiving and completing assignments together with the rest of them who were able to. But only he himself knew that it was all an act.

Chapter 385: The Crowd

After a few hours, as the dawn was breaking, Onitsuka and Hidekazu were kneeling by the road with blank expressions.

“What should we do? Lord Ishida has gone missing.” Hidekazu said dejectedly.

In these few hours, they have searched the shadows in surrounding streets, forests and every corner. However they were still unable to find Ishida. Once they thought of the reaction from the party in Japan, they were both panic-stricken.

With the last glimmer of hope, they headed back to where they lost Ishida and of course, Ishida wasn't there.

Onitsuka suddenly clenched his teeth and said, “We might as well run away.”

Hidekazu was apprehensive, “Run away?”

Onitsuka nodded and replied, “Of course, how do you think those old guys in Japan will handle us when news of Ishida missing reaches them? How are we going to make up for our mistake?”

Onitsuka looked straight into Hidekazu's eyes and listed out the frightening possible consequences that they would have to suffer, “Dragged to dig the mines? Break a finger? Or to kill ourselves?”

Hidekazu shuddered and clutched his head, “Then where should we run to? We don’t know English. God, please return Lord Ishida to us.”

With a sudden thud, the two of them lifted their heads and realised at some moment, a heavily bruised and tattered clothed Ishida landed in front of them.

Hidekazu opened his mouth and with a glitter in his eyes, he continued, “God, please give me one hundred million yen!”

A laughter rang, Hidekazu and Onitsuka felt a force dragged them and were plunged forward.

Their visions turned pitch black and they had come to the extradimensional belly. They then saw Sphinx cat, Ares and a few supercats staring at them evilly while sneering.

After a few hours, the heavily bruised trio of Ishida, Hidekazu and Onitsuka were lying together in their hotel room.

Mad rage flashed in Ishida’s eyes, “Idiots, these Chinese cats, I won’t let them off.”

Hidekazu whispered, “Lord Ishida, I think we shouldn’t fight with these Chinese cats.”

“Yes, they are too brutal, they are all perverted murderers. They have extremely ill intentions for humans.” Onitsuka spoke and shuddered as he seemed to thought about the frightening encounter in that strange space.

“These cats must have been tortured by humans since they were young and hence have a deep scar etched in their hearts. Once they discovered their powers, they then vowed to revenge on humans and torture mankind.”

The more he thought, the more Onitsuka agreed with himself, “Lord Ishida, these cats are powerful and perverted. We should not capture them. Instead, by leaving them in China, they would be a massive headache to the Chinese government. With these supercats which have extremely enmity towards humans, let’s just leave it to the Chinese government to settle them.”

Ishida couldn't help but nod his head and accepted this reason.

In actual fact, their opponent had so many supercats with all kinds of extraordinary abilities. It was impossible for him to be victorious, so he merely talked about wanting to take revenge. Now a platform was set for him to step down without hurting his pride, he then withdrew from the topic.

“Hm, after all they are a group of cats. Their wisdom and foresight still can't match humans. They are crazily trying to accomplish missions, it will be a matter of time before the authorities know about it and settle them. I don't need to waste my time and effort to pit myself against them.”

...

On the other side, it was early in the morning and the office of the lending company was already filled with people.

With a newly released financial product that ensures 24% income returns, many males and females were here early in the morning to consult and purchase this product.

Black Panther was here with his brothers to borrow money.

He had heard his brother say, “Brother Black Panther, I have people that I know in this company, you can borrow money interest-free from them. There won't be any interest and then you can immediately use that money as deposit and being work immediately.”

“Really?” Black Panther replied joyfully, “You treat me well.”

“That's nothing much, we are brothers.” He continued, “After all this is a big company, I have discussed with their manager to not earn interest from you. However, when you sign the papers, it will still state that you are required to pay the interest. This is just to let their boss see, you can rest assured and sign.”

Xiao Ming who was dressed in a suit like a Real Estate Agent appeared in front of them. He wore an awkward smile and respectfully asked, “Nice to meet you, I am Xiao Ming from xxxx, I am the Sales Manager here. Are you here to borrow money?”

“Yes, yes, like what we said previously.” He ignored Xiao Ming’s look of astonishment and continued, “My brother wants to borrow \$20,000. We can begin.”

“Oh okay, how we do it is...”

“Hold on,” Black Panther looked at them doubtfully, “I have a personal habit. When I do things, borrow money, I do it with my brothers.” He looked at Xiao Ming and asked, “Are you willing to be my brother?”

Xiao Ming was taken aback, “I...”

While they were having the conversation, noises sounded from outside.

There were people who came to cause they claimed that they were illegal moneylenders. They were protesting against their acts of harassment via phone calls and chasing of debts.

Based on logic, even though these people hated the moneylenders to the core, they wouldn’t dare to come here and protest. Someone must have gathered them here.

Matsuo stood at the glass window of his office and raised his eyebrows at the sight of the protesters.

Since the incident when the group student apostles led by Meng Hao sent someone to attempt to takeover, the conflict between the two parties intensified.

Firstly Matsuo’s group injured one of them. The opposition came together and Matsuo’s subordinate tried to carry out a sneak attack. However, Meng Hao broke 4 of his rib bones and threw him out.

With the constant altercation, Meng Hao then decided to gather a large group of clients who owed large sums of money to clog up the entrance to the office and spark a conflict.

No matter the conclusions, this situation would have detrimental effects on their reputation.

For example, a lot of people that were here fled after witnessing the protests.

Matsuo clenched his teeth firmly at this scene and muttered, “Damn it.”

Xiao Ming also saw the frowning Black Panther and immediately cusped his hand and said, “Brother, this business... No, I will be your brother!”

Chapter 386: Roly Poly, what happened to you?

Xiao Ming brought Black Panther to undertake the administrative process. Matsuo gathered the apostles under him. He frowned and questioned, “What are you all doing? A few university students and you can’t handle them after such a long time?”

“Boss, the fellow named Meng Hao isn’t easy to settle.”

“Yes, although he is young, he already has a lot of manoeuvres. He has the connections and his ability cannot be underestimated. I heard that he had participated in the previous bout and the Headless Horseman retreated after battling him.”

“Headless Horseman?” Matsuo frowned.

“Boss, you aren’t an apostle, you probably don’t understand these matters. Headless Horseman is regarded as the strongest apostle in Jiangmen City...”

After the previous Cat King competition, together with the 4 Cat Kings’ influence as well as from the word of mouth of the participants, this legend travelled far and wide. The more they were circulated, the more incredible the tale.

Now the opposition was recognised as the fellow that could matched up to the Headless Horseman. Hence, when Matsuo’s apostles came up against him, they exercised much more caution.

Matsuo heard their explanations and understood the circumstance.

To put it simply, a kid called Meng Hao with a background, extraordinary fighting spirit and strong. He’s difficult to deal with.

“These Chinese...” Matsuo squinted as he understood how they were thinking. These apostles which he brought in were local and of course they weren’t willing to go against a powerful opponent for money. They would just fight for the sake of it.

After his apostles left, he shook his head and thought, “These Chinese are unreliable as expected. They kept boasting about their abilities when in actual fact, they are worth nothing. What a waste of my money.”

At this moment, there was a sudden knock on the door. Matsuo calmly replied, “Come in.”

A female accountant came in with a notebook and said, “Boss, I have collated last month’s accounts and there was something wrong. I suspect Old Su to have reported false accounts...”

Matsuo raised his eyebrow and replied, “Is that so? Let me see.”

The female accountant immediately sat in front of Matsuo and presented her accounts, “Boss, look here, here and here...”

Then, she continued with even more seriousness as she pointed to her screen, “Boss, over the past month, the company accounts was reduced by at least \$30,000 and I still haven’t completed my investigation...”

“Xiao Lin, I will take note of this. You’ve done well.” Matsuo interrupted her and said sternly, “I will ask someone to do a thorough check on this. You keep this a secret to prevent alarming them.”

After feeling that she had earned the trust and recognition by her boss, she nodded her head seriously and replied, “I know what to do.”

Seeing her serious expression, Matsuo gave her a chilling glance and suddenly asked, “Xiao Lin, I remember that last month, I lent you a sum of money?”

Xiao Lin immediately replied gratefully, “Yes boss, thanks to that sum of money, I was able to tide over the difficult period. If not for your help, I wouldn’t know what to do.”

Matsuo suddenly said, “You don’t need to return me this sum of money.”

At the next moment, Matsuo crossed his fingers at her. A blast of grey fog emerged from Xiao Lin's body and slowly floated over and Matsuo sucked it in.

Xiao Lin seemed to not notice the fog at all. She suddenly felt faint and clutched her head. She suddenly felt extremely tired.

“Boss... Boss...”

“Take the sum of money as a reward. You can rest for a week, I will investigate the matters of the company thoroughly.”

Xiao Lin felt her head getting heavier and really wanted to just lie down and take a nap. She couldn't speak further, nodded and slowly left.

Looking at her leaving, he spoke to himself, “Sorry, I wouldn't let off anyone who's going to prevent us from advancing.”

He sighed and looked out of the window at the group of people. He sighed and thought, “The issue regarding Meng Hao cannot be dragged on any further. Since the Chinese aren't reliable, I would have to find Japanese to do it.”

Speaking about Japanese, Matsuo immediately thought of someone he knew that was powerful and was in Jiangmen City too.

Hence, Matsuo took out his phone and dialled for Ishida.

While looking at the ruckus caused by the crowd, Matsuo spoke on the phone, “Hello, is this Ishida? I have some matters to trouble you with.”

...

In a restaurant on the opposite street, Meng Hao was sitting there with his guys. They were drinking their beverages while looking at the crowd gathering outside the company.

“Old Meng, you are capable. Now that we have people clogging up their entrance everyday, let’s see how they are going to operate.”

“We all have to depend on Old Meng. Old Meng, you were so cool the other time, you flattened them all by yourself.”

“Old Meng, there’s stories of you battling with Headless Horse. Are they real?”

With the crowd continuously complimenting Meng Hao, he became even prouder. Recently, with the team becoming more and more well-known, apostles from the university towns near theirs came on board the team too and viewed him as their leader.

...

At the Kirin Cat Cafe, it was another day of work. Zhao Yao sat in his chair and yawned. Roly Poly squeezed into his embrace while squiggling around to attract his attention.

Zhao Yao yawned and thought to himself, “These damn cats, still causing so much trouble in the middle of the night and disrupting my sleep.”

Even though he was angry when he was awoken, but he was happy again after looking at the panel.

After just one night, those supercats that signed contracts with him all gained a few hundred experience points. It was a pleasant surprise.”

“I didn’t think that they would be so hard working when trying to level up. If they will continue doing these, maybe I wouldn’t even need to operate the Kirin Cat Cafe. I just had to stay at home the whole day to count their experience points.”

As Zhao Yao was considering if he should let a few more cats out to gain experience points, his phone rang.

“Hm? An unknown number?” When he picked up the call, a rude tone sounded out.

“Is this Zhao Yao? You think I can’t find you because you have multiple lines? When are you returning the money...”

Zhao Yao ended the call immediately and thought, “Nowadays, scammers are so mindless, with such a bad attitude and tone, how are they able to deceive people?”

Zhao Yao looked at Roly Poly and the cat that was initially prancing around in his embrace became stiff. His head was tilted up and paws stiffened in mid-air. It seemed like it was paralyzed.

Zhao Yao asked curiously, “Roly Poly, why did your body become stiff?”

Chapter 387: Chasing of Debt

Zhao Yao stroked Roly Poly’s back and was stunned as he felt the fur that came off with each stroke. With a few more strokes, he realised that the fur which Roly Poly dropped were like snow.

“Roly Poly, what’s wrong? Why are you dropping fur?”

Roly Poly shivered as he replied, “It’s a little cold.”

“Cold? Why is it cold? We turned on the heating.” Zhao Yao was puzzled. He touched Roly Poly’s ear and continued, “Why is your heart beating so fast?”

Roly Poly covered his chest and replied, “I am really happy to be together with you.”

He then lifted Roly Poly’s ears and curiously asked, “Why are your ears drooping down?”

Roly Poly wheezed, “Perhaps the genes of Scottish Fold within me were awakened.”

Zhao Yao frowned and felt that there was something weird about Roly Poly today and thought, “Maybe he is sick.”

He placed Roly Poly back to his place, touched his head and said, “You rest well. If you feel any discomfort, inform me immediately.”

As he saw the leaving Zhao Yao, his nerves slowly faded but there was still a tinge of fear.

“Damn it, I clearly used my own telephone number to register for the loan. How did they find Zhao Yao’s number?” Roly Poly was anxious, “Even though I can continue borrowing and paying back, I can’t continue using Zhao Yao’s identity to borrow money. If Zhao Yao finds out...”

With the thought of that, Roly Poly was terrified and all his furs dropped.

“No, I need to earn back the money.” With that, he immediately ran to Elizabeth. At this moment, Elizabeth was in a girl’s embrace while she combed her fur.

Roly Poly shouted in the direction of Elizabeth, “Elizabeth! When are we going to broadcast to earn money?”

Elizabeth was in a state of comfort and softly replied, “I have already applied for the account. But I think we still need more practice before broadcasting.”

“There’s no need!” Roly Poly sounded out determinedly, “With me, I will ensure you that we will succeed, let’s quickly start the broadcast to earn money.”

Although she didn’t understand why Roly Poly was suddenly so enthusiastic, Elizabeth was persuaded by him. After all, Roly Poly had excellent performances recently, easily accumulating 29 kills, listening to noises to track enemies, killing an opponent from 800 metres out.

“Okay, then let’s start the broadcast of PUBG tonight! We must become the most popular streamer...” Roly Poly thought for a while and ran out of the back door. He pushed open the door and saw Baiquan sitting on the floor not far from the alley. He was holding up a phone and watching some video while murmuring.

However, Baiquan was well-conditioned now too and was not to be trifled with. When Roly Poly pushed open the door, Baiquan detected that and had already lifted his head to look at Roly Poly.

Initially, his body was tensed up but upon seeing Roly Poly, he relaxed. He still stopped his video and grinned, “It’s you, what’s up? Why did you run out?”

“Meow,” Roly Poly purred affectionately and intimately rubbed his body against Baiquan.

Baiquan rubbed his head and smiled, “Why are you so well-behaved today? You want food?”

Roly Poly immediately shook his head and rubbed his head against Baiquan’s chest. His paw tapped on the phone and began typing.

Baiquan looked at Roly Poly with surprise, “You want to stream? You hope that I can help you all to advertise?”

With the fast pace of development, it was faster than Roly Poly had expected.

In afternoon, Zhao Yao’s phone rang multiple times and everytime, it was someone asking for him to repay his debts.

“Zhao Yao! This is my last warning, if you continue resisting, we will send people to your door. You better think carefully...”

“Crazy,” Zhao Yao hung up. He still did not understand what was going on. After receiving a few calls, he understood bit and pieces of what was going on about the platform and matter. They were all asking him to repay his debt.

Zhao Yao still didn’t recall that he borrowed any sum of money.

“I got it wrong?” After so many calls, Zhao Yao decided to do a thorough check when he reached home after work to get to the bottom of this.

At this moment, the bell at the door rang as the door was swung open. Old Man Zhuang walked in and said, “Zhao Yao, we are back again. Are tonight’s dishes prepared?”

After settling Old Man Zhuang’s matters, he cleaned up the place and will send Xiao Shiyu back before sending the cats, Hanako and Baiquan back.

Even though he could utilise the dimension doorway and extradimensional belly to transport him back, he still had to bring Hanako and the rest along. This would expose that he had so many cats in the extradimensional belly and Zhao Yao wasn't willing to do that.

There was a slight jam on the road and it was already eight plus when he reached home.

However, when he exited the lift, his eyebrows raised as he smelled and heard something unpleasant.

When he reached the door, he discovered that the door was already opened for someone. Five burly men were sitting on the couch in the living room, eating while drinking beers.

The beers were bought home by Hanako and the dishes were leftovers from the yesterday.

One of them was carrying and playing with Lightning. He placed his palm on Tucson and was tugging on his skin.

Zhao Yao squinted as he stared them.

Hanako was enraged, "Who are you? Why are you trespassing?"

Baiquan stepped forward and glared at them sternly.

They were dressed in suits and ties except for a large guy. He was dressed as a normal officer worker.

After noticing that Zhao Yao had returned, their chatter and laughter while eating immediately halted. They stood up and said, "I suppose you are Zhao Yao."

"He he, don't pay back your debts?"

The leader of the group who was a middle aged man said, "Let me tell you, you have to pay back the money you owe today. It's a total of \$120,000. If you don't pay us back, we will shift away whatever's in your house."

“Owe money? Pay back?”

While Baiquan and Hanako were startled, a black silhouette ferociously came out from the back and with a swift movement, it landed on the chest of the burly man. It was Roly Poly and he then took a bite at his chest.

“This fellow really came over?” Roly Poly thought, “They definitely should not have the chance to clarify the matter. The one who acts first has the advantage...”

The burly man shoved Roly Poly aside, “Damn cat, you dare to bite me?”

At the next moment, he was about to land a kick on Roly Poly. But before his leg could contact Roly Poly’s belly, another leg tackled him.

Baiquan kicked away his leg and asked coldly, “Have you looked up the wrong person? There isn’t anyone here who borrowed money.”

Chapter 388: The Arrest

Although they were here to seek repayment of debt, these professional debt collectors wouldn’t actually be physical. They would just attempt to harass the other party to make it difficult for them.

Hence, he plopped onto the sofa and shouted, “Come, you want to kill me? You owe us money and still want to hit us? Carry on then! Let’s see if the police will care.”

The other burly men also lay down on the sofa rascally.

“Pay back!”

“Yes, if you don’t pay us back today, we won’t leave.”

“He he, you owe us so much money but still live well here.”

“You!” Baiquan was anxious and angry. If the other started a fight, he would probably have retaliated. However, with their current demeanour, he did not know what to do.

As they looked like they were about to start a conversation, Roly Poly was anxious. He immediately looked at Matcha and Elizabeth who was watching the drama unfold and shouted, “Go attack!”

However, Matcha, Elizabeth and Dust Ball were jolly as they continued sitting there and enjoying the drama unfold.

Matcha licked his paw and said, “What? They are dead for sure.”

Dust Ball snickered, “He he he, Zhao Yao’s angered already. They are dead for sure.”

At this moment, thuds were heard and the burly men were screaming in agony as they were sent flying out and slammed onto the ground.

Zhao Yao was already sitting in a massage chair a distance away as he cuddled Lightning. He stared coldly at the grunting burly men and said, “I don’t care if you have mistakenly came to my place. If you dare to trespass, drink my beer, eat my food and even play with my cats, you are looking for trouble.”

Hanako thought to himself, “Lightning is my cat...”

Lightning hugged Zhao Yao’s arm and whined, “Zhao Yao, they forced me to play, I didn’t want to. When I opened the door, they just bashed in and hugged me while lying on the sofa. I struggled and they flipped me over. Meow~ When they flipped me over, they began touching me all over.”

Zhao Yao lowered his head and said coldly to Lightning, “You open the door?”

“Yes...” Lightning was taken aback. He immediately stood up and jumped off Zhao Yao’s knee and said, “I suddenly have the urge to go to the toilet to pee.”

Bam!

Zhao Yao spreaded out his palm and Lightning was sent flying across the room by te repulsive force.

Lightning shrieked, “Zhao Yao Zhao Yao, I didn’t do it intentionally. I thought you all were back so I opened the door.”

Meow!

At the next moment, with a screech, Lightning flew in the direction of the kitchen.

Meow~

Cries could be heard continuously from the kitchen. Roly Poly was frightened to death.

Elizabeth couldn’t help but turned her head, “That’s too pitiful!”

Matcha shut his eyes and said, “I can’t look at this anymore. Zhao Yao has become more and more brutal.”

Dust Ball shuddered, “Zhao Yao please stop. Lightning can’t take it anymore.”

Even Rice Cake couldn’t take it anymore and turned around.

In the Kitchen, Lightning’s body was forced into the fountain and hot water continuously struck his head. His furs were drenched and stuck onto his head. His gaze was fearful and there was continuous mourns. This shattered the bystanders’ hearts.

Roly Poly shuddered uncontrollably. As he saw Lightning being punished, he imagined himself to be undergoing the same treatment.

The burley men stared at Zhao Yao with fear as they witnessed the scene of Lightning flying across the room.

Zhao Yao waved his hand and the repulsive field opened again. This lifted the men in the air and with a thud, the door was shut.

In front of a crowd, Zhao Yao would not reveal his abilities. But as his abilities became stronger by the day, it didn't matter to him that he used it in a private setting.

It was evident that the men were witnessing powers like this for the first time. They struggled continuously as they were lifted up and were extremely frightened.

Zhao Yao clenched his fist and the repulsive field tightened. This caused the men's bodies to come to a stand still. It was like webs covering them which didn't allow them to move a singlet bit.

Looking at the frightened men, Zhao Yao calmly said, "Tell me what's going on."

...

It was night time too at the lending company.

Matsuo stood in front of his window as he observed the scenery in Jiangmen City.

As a result of the incidents caused by Meng Hao and the university students, the company's profits dropped and also received letters from lawyers. Some government agencies also wanted to conduct investigations and the shareholders were unhappy.

His apostles couldn't handle Meng Hao as Meng Hao's power far overpowered a normal apostle's. This caused Matsuo to be tired.

"But all of these should end today," Matsuo checked the time and he seemed to be waiting for someone.

A short while later, his phone rang and after answering the call, he grinned.

At the foyer of the office, Meng Hao and a group of seven to eight university students stood together. Among them, two of them took part in the competition with Meng Hao and the same ability to morph into an orc.

There were two scars on his face and there were numerous wounds on the rest.

Onitsuka and Hidekazu were standing behind them. They were relaxed and jovial and did not seem to have any pressure.

Meng Hao was gloomy and wanted to turn into an orc to destroy the two Japanese behind him. However, he saw the shadow beneath him and knew he couldn't.

Defeat, a thorough and shameful defeat.

Initially, around ten of them were gathered them as they defeated the numerous onslaughts by the enemies. Meng Hao felt that victory was already in their hands. The action after which was to expand and recruit more apostles.

Even though they did not have the strongest of abilities, but they could become stronger with more abilities.

However, the battle today destroyed all which he had achieved thus far.

Facing the man who could integrate into a shadow, he could not put up any resistance.

"But the good thing is that Zhao Xue managed to escape."

"Move, move," Onitsuka shoved Meng Hao and said, "Go in. Talk to him and stop trying to spark a conflict."

Meng Hao clenched his teeth and could only lower his head.

The line of people walked in front of Onitsuka and Hidekazu and they looked like they were abducted.

But everyone knew that if Meng Hao and the rest did anything else, the man with the shadow ability would not let them off.

Chapter 389: Tailing

On the street opposite the lending company, Zhao Xue was hiding on the roof of a small building with stealth as she watched a line of people entering the office.

She was only able to escape Ishida's attack with the use of her stealth ability.

She did not continue with the battle as after she engaged her opponent for a short while, she understood that it was unlikely for her to emerge victorious.

It wasn't because of a gap between their skill levels. After all, among all the apostles, there wasn't actually a difference skill levels as everyone had different abilities which were all unique.

She wasn't able to emerge victorious as her attacks were ineffective against her opponent.

After Ishida integrated into a shadow, all forms of physical attacks wouldn't work against him. Although Zhao Xue had superb physical abilities, they were essentially useless against the opponent.

As she remembered the wisdom King George imparted to her which was that when she faced an opponent who was ineffective to her ability, escape.

However, she did not actually escape. Instead, she used her stealth and physical attributes to tail the opponent and tracked where they were going.

Although she couldn't directly confront him, but once he returned to his physical form, Zhao Xue could use her abilities to sneakily attack him.

As she constantly reminded herself of King George's teachings, she softly landed on the ground level like a cat after she left the roof. With a few quick manoeuvres, she dashed towards the lending company whilst being invisible.

At the door to the office, Black Panther brought along seven to eight rustic looking guys as they walked with jitterily towards the office.

There were young and old around him. The young people looked like they were still students while the aged already had greying temples and wrinkled skin.

They all arrived from Zha Pian Province a few days ago and were from the same village as Black Panther. They were here to find employment too.

A youth asked, “Brother Black Panther, is there really no interest when you borrow money here?”

“Of course,” Black Panther shouted, “Let me tell you, I know the manager here. They don’t lend us with interests. When we get the money, we try our best to survive and we will all try our best at our jobs and do well here. Next year will be a good year.”

As they heard ‘jobs’ and ‘do well’, glimmers of hopes flashed across the people’s eyes. They were extremely poor and were afraid of poverty. With Black Panther’s encouragement, they plucked up their courage to leave their hometown in hopes of changing their conditions back home.

However, the travel fees and expenses on food these past few days had already used up most of their money. Hence, they listened to Black Panther and came here to borrow money before working to pay off their debts.

When the group found Xiao Ming, they explained their scenario to him.

Black Panther smiled and said, “Brother, this is fate. I’ve already found your familiar the previous time. I went back and finally remembered.” He patted Xiao Ming on the shoulders and said intimately, “You forgotten? Chuan Xiao District, Black Panther!”

Xiao Ming was taken aback for a moment and thought for a moment. He really didn’t recognise him previously. After all, when he was in Chuan Xiao District, most of the time was spent in Hope Elementary School and did not see much of Black Panther and the apostles.

Black Panther said with a tinge of embarrassment, “Brother, you look at these people. They are all here to borrow a little bit of money as their living expenses. They are all honest and hardworking people. Once they have earned from their jobs, they will pay the debts.”

Xiao Ming raised his eyebrow. The memory of Chuan Xiao District was etched deep in his mind. He then nodded his head, "Okay. you all fill up your particulars first then."

In the office, only they were settling the administrative details as it was already after office hours.

While they were completing the proceedings, a girl suddenly appeared. She looked at Black Panther and said, "Don't borrow money from here. They are loan sharks. There were already incidents of people committing suicide from not being able to repay loans."

Xiao Ming was enraged, "Miss, we are doing legitimate business here and we don't use violence to ask our clients to repay loans."

Zhao Xue took a glance at him and didn't have anything to say. He looked at Black Panther and said, "Anyway I have told you that they are loan sharks. If you still intend to borrow from them, it's your business." She turned and left. Black Panther wanted to chase her to ask her more questions. But when he turned, she had already disappeared.

She saw the pitiful state of the poor and honest people and that's why she came forward to notify them. After she had done that, she became invisible again and went back to tailing Meng Hao and the rest.

She followed them into the office and there was already a middle-aged man waiting for them.

Meng Hao and the rest walked into the meeting room under the watchful eyes of Onitsuka and Hidekazu and sat in the chairs.

Matsuo looked at the people and smiled slightly, "Mr. Meng Hao, we finally meet."

Meng Hao gloomily stared at Matsuo and coldly spoke, "What do you want?"

Matsuo replied, "He he, nothing much. I just think that there's a misunderstanding and I want to chat about it."

“Hm, misunderstanding?” Meng Hao continued coldly, “There’s no misunderstanding. I admit defeat today. Just do what you want to do. But if you think that just because you’ve won today, you can suppress me forever and accept your conditions , that’s impossible.”

“He he, you don’t need to be so nervous.” Matsuo casually walked over. But in an instant, he became violent and pressed onto Meng Hao’s head and slammed it on the table. He whispered into Meng Hao’s ear with hostility and rage.

“Who do you think you are speaking to?” Matsuo looked at him ferociously. “You gather your apostles, you have some money at home and you want to be a hero. I won’t care about you. But now you are blocking my path, if you don’t scam, I will kill your entire family.”

Meng Hao swallowed his saliva. He didn’t know why even though the person of him was an ordinary guy. His aura suppressed him which lead him to feeling uncomfortable and angry. However, he didn’t dare to do anything.

Matsuo released his head and adjusted his suit. He then changed his tone and said, “Okay, let’s speak about what to do next.”

At this moment, with a few thuds, two black streaks appeared from the shadow at the door. They latched onto the doors and shut them.

Matsuo frowned, “What happened?”

A Japanese voice sounded out from the shadows beneath their feet.

“Chasing away pests.” Once Ishida completed his sentence, a chair was shot in the air, lifted by the the sharp streak. It blocked out the light hanging on the ceiling.

At that moment, shadows covered more than half the office.

Chapter 390: Flee

Darkness loomed over the office.

Countless shadow spikes emerged from its depths, all pointing towards the same target.

Zhao Xue.

She knew she had to flee quickly. She darted forward and easily broke through the locked door with her shoulder.

Ishida narrowed his eyes. "Looks like I was right."

He had witnessed the girl's little disappearing act. His first thought was that she turned invisible so that she would worm her way out undetected. However, there was a little voice in his head that whispered that she was up to something else.

The unsightly hole in the door proved that she had indeed been following them.

"How...gallant," he mocked, "But let's see how far your courage can get you."

The shadows on the floor snaked forward, heading in Zhao Xue's direction.

She could sense them before she saw them.

When she turned her head, she was met with the sight of shadow spears slicing through the air, hoping to hit and locate her.

Ishida leaped from shadow to shadow, closing the distance between himself and his target. He might not be able to see her, but his spears would be able to pierce her. They combed the long corridor, weaving through the air gracefully.

From a distance, it would look like the entire building was being swallowed by darkness.

Zhao Xue willed her legs to carry her forward faster.

She knew that her opponent was at an advantage here. Shadows were created when an object blocks light. In here, there was an endless number of surfaces, corners, and things that could generate shadow after shadow.

“I have to take the fight outside,” she thought, brows stitched together in determination.

Just as she was about to formulate a plan, a gentle swoosh sounded above her.

The fire sprinklers had been activated.

Zhao Xue paled as jets of water rained on her.

She brought a foot down on the floor with alarming strength, propelling her body dozens of meters forward with a loud boom.

She had been moving noiselessly because she hoped to remain undetected.

Unfortunately, she knew she was very much visible. The water showers had outlined her figure for the world to see.

Her invisibility had been rendered useless.

“Gotcha!” Ishida chuckled darkly.

There was a flower pot by Zhao Xue. It cast a small shadow that was right next to her. He jumped right in, launching a handful of spikes towards her shoulder.

*

Matsuo lifted his hand from the mouse.

He glanced at the computer screen and said, “I’ve activated the entire sprinkler system. Is that all you need?”

Onitsuka and Sato nodded gleefully from next to him.

“You can control the entire building’s sprinklers from here? How convenient. And yes, this is enough. The only reason Lord Ishida could not catch that girl was because she was invisible. Now, he would have no problem finishing her.”

With their eyes on the screen, no one noticed the venomous look that flashed past Meng Hao’s eyes.

He knew that this was his chance.

The muscles on the back of his hands began bulging and heaving, as if something was trying to nudge its way out. Coarse, dark hair started to rise from the surface of his skin.

The shadow man could take him down, but he was no longer here now.

*

There was another boom.

This time, Zhao Xue had knocked down an office compartment. She fell into the room and swiftly rolled under a large table.

She raised her head to see Black Panther gaping dumbly at her.

“You!” he exclaimed, “Aren’t you the...”

He could see her because she was no longer invisible. Being invisible took energy. Now that the sprinklers could give her location away, continuing to conceal herself would just be a waste of that energy. The effort would be better spent on getting away.

Zhao Xue had no intention of fighting back either. There was no way she could attack some shadow monster that she could not even touch.

Before Black Panther could complete this sentence, the dark shadows had materialized in a corner of the room.

“I told you... You can’t get away.”

There was a heavy swoop as dozens of shadow spikes rained on Zhao Xue, Black Panther, and the other people in the room.

“Move!” Zhao Xue shouted, grabbing Black Panther by the collar as she jumped out of the way.

The spikes impaled the table they had hidden under, hacking it into pieces.

They had narrowly missed their target, but they wasted no time in seeking them out again.

“S**t!” Black Panther cried in alarm.

Zhao Xue was about to launch into another jump when the scene before her changed.

All of a sudden, she was in another room. Her finger was still hooked tightly around Black Panther’s collar.

A man was standing before them. His back was against them, but she could see that he was dressed in a fine suit.

“What happened?” Zhao Xue asked, taking in the new surroundings with wide eyes.

She watched in horror as Black Panther struck the man with a karate chop.

The man hissed and fell forward from the impact. He twisted his head around to look at Black Panther.

“What is wrong with you?” he asked, his face contorted in pain.

Black Panther immediately helped Xiao Ming up, rubbing his lower back apologetically.

“I’m sorry, brother. Someone’s after us. We’ve got no choice.”

As if on cue, a barrage of shadow spikes burst through the walls. It seemed that the duo did not manage to get too far from their previous location.

Black Panther gulped.

“We’ve got to go!” he exclaimed.

He grabbed Zhao Xue’s shoulder and they vanished.

Xiao Ming’s mouth fell open. He watched in stunned silence as the lethal shadows disappeared as well.

“What the heck?” he muttered.

He could recognize that what he saw was a battle between apostles. He had no intention to stay and get caught up with the rest of it. He knew very well how dangerous that could get.

He rubbed his back as he made his way out of the room.

“Boy, was he strong. I feel like my kidneys might be hurt.”

That thought had barely crossed Xiao Ming’s mind when he heard a gentle thump. He could feel that someone had appeared behind him.

He was proven right when an overwhelming force assaulted his lower back once more.

His mouth fell open in a silent cry. He snapped around to point an accusatory finger at his attackers, who turned out to be Black Panther and Zhao Xue. Again.

They both looked sincerely sorry.

“Have I offended you somehow?” Xiao Ming asked in despair.

Black Panther rubbed the top of his head. “I’m sorry, bro. It’s a bad habit. I suggest you put on a jacket. I’ll try not to strike you in the lower back next time.”

“What...”

Xiao Ming’s words were cut off by a familiar boom. The shadows were back again. This time, they had blown up a hole in the ceiling.

When he turned back to Black Panther and Zhao Xue, they were gone.

Black Panther kept a firm grip on Zhao Xue’s shoulder. This allowed him to teleport both himself and her to his nearest bro. If there was no bro to be found in the immediate area, they would have to run until they found one. Then, he could teleport to the next.

Thankfully, there was no shortage of them tonight. He had led many of his sworn brothers here to make loans.

With the fire sprinklers turned on, they had dispersed around the building, hoping to find a good spot to avoid the waterworks.

Black Panther turned to Zhao Xue. “Lady, thank you for warning us about this place. A while after you left, some guys came in, shouting about how the high-interest rates destroyed lives. If it weren’t for you, I could’ve ruined my brothers’ lives too.”

Zhao Xue was only half-listening to this. She was still trying to make sense of the man’s interesting power.

“Are you an apostle too?” she asked.

“Yeah,” he responded casually.

He spotted the shadow spikes creeping into the far end of the room. A heavy expression settled on his face.

“Don’t worry, lady. I, Black Panther, have made it this far because I’m a loyal bro. You’ve helped us today. In return, I’ll make sure you’ll leave this place unharmed.”