

Astral Apostle

Chapter 181: Don't Move, You've Been Surrounded By Me (1)

"He actually dares to show himself?"

Dorton narrowed his eyes. He had thought that Zhou Jing was the murderer who had killed his accomplice, one of the only remaining resistance forces in the city.

He gave his companions a look, and seven or eight people immediately leaped up and jumped onto the burning houses on both sides of the street. They avoided the flames and checked their surroundings to confirm that there was no ambush.

Seeing his accomplice's affirmative gesture, Dorton could not help but look puzzled.

There's only one person blocking the way. Does this person have a hundred million points added to his arrogance attribute?

Does he think that breathing was too tiring and wanted to retire from life altogether?

Dorton sized up Zhou Jing with renewed interest and said, "You're not a hunter from Deep Rock City, right? I've never seen you before."

"What a coincidence. I've never seen you before either."

Zhou Jing casually waved his saber but did not rush forward immediately.

The characteristics of the person who spoke matched the information given by the captive. He was probably the leader who had undergone three enhancements, Dorton, and could exchange blows with him. Moreover, the other party had the advantage in numbers. More than 20 people were well-trained Mutant Blood Warriors, so they were not easy to deal with.

He had been scouting the surroundings previously and was already a distance away from the stronghold. When he heard the sound of messy footsteps, he realized that there was a large group of bandits. Seeing that this group of people was rushing back to the stronghold, he appeared to intercept them. He planned to buy some time for his teammates to transfer the hostages, so he did not mind chatting with them to delay them further.

Although it was a little rash to intercept them alone, Zhou Jing had considered everything before he appeared. With his speed, he could come and go as he pleased. At the very least, he could make the enemy eat his fart. If he could lure this group of people to chase after him, that would be even better.

... Of course, if this group of people could not take a beating, he could only reluctantly kill them all.

.....

Dorton shook his head and didn't mind Zhou Jing's background. He leaned on his own scimitar and tilted his head curiously. "So what are you doing? Do you want to fight so many of us alone?"

"Yes, stand there obediently. You've already been surrounded by me." Zhou Jing raised an eyebrow in a defiant manner.

Dorton couldn't help but laugh. He felt that this person in front of him was really humorous.

He did not take it to heart. Instead, he felt that Zhou Jing was courageous. He smiled and said, "I'll give you a chance. Join us."

Zhou Jing's eyes widened as he stared at Dorton as if he wanted to see through his skull to see if this man had suffered from some sort of brain damage.

We haven't even made a move yet, and you want me to surrender? Isn't this too childish? Aren't you afraid that I'll pretend to surrender and betray you?

Is he so down bad that he would jump and settle for anyone and everyone?

Seeing Zhou Jing's puzzled expression, Dorton stabbed the scimitar into the ground. Then, he opened his arms and said loudly,

"We trained hard and risked our lives to take the blood potion. In the end, we finally obtained power with difficulty. However, this power was used to serve those who were far weaker than us... You've also thought about it, right? We hunted mutant beasts time and time again, and every time, it might be the end of our lives, but our goal was only to protect those civilians that we do not know nor care about. Why should we risk our lives for some strangers?"

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows in response, "So?"

Dorton grinned, revealing his white teeth. His tone rose and fell.

“We clearly have power beyond that of mortals, but this world is still controlled by weak people. Those in power don’t dare to take the risk to obtain power themselves, so they let others take the risk and set rules for us. They can safely use these supernatural powers by controlling us.

We have the ability to subvert the world and enslave mortals, but in the end, we are bound by so-called order and morality and have our claws and teeth ground flat... The honor of mutant beast hunters is just a group of domesticated experts who have been instilled with propaganda. Join us, and you will understand how comfortable it is to break free from all shackles.”

“Heh, you think too highly of yourself.” Zhou Jing sneered.

Although he was indifferent to the speech made by Dorton...

The other villains became extremely excited as if they had been encouraged. They cheered at the side.

The more Dorton spoke, the more excited he became.

“You know what happened in White Plains Town more than half a year ago, right? That hunter called Jason was the role model for implementing this principle. He was the first person to dare to assassinate the lord, and it was precisely because he broke the invisible shackles that power brought him. Although he failed in the end, he proved to the world that the rules and morals set by the weak were just bubbles that could be broken with a poke! We don’t have to abide by them at all!”

Zhou Jing did not expect to suddenly hear his “name.” His expression turned strange.

This thug was actually his “fan”?

“What nonsense is this? It’s none of my business.”

The corners of Zhou Jing’s mouth twitched, but his mentality did not waver. Even if he used his previous deeds as an example, he would not feel the slightest bit of guilt.

Burning, killing, and plundering were all caused by desire. That was a personal problem, and he would not take the blame.

At this moment, Dorton stretched out his hand to Zhou Jing and smiled.

“Come, become our brother, and feel the aura of freedom together.”

Zhou Jing looked at Dorton’s hand and felt helpless.

Why is this person so dramatic?

Does he think that after giving a speech on philosophy and then shaking his body, others would bow down to him?

“Speaking of freedom, I think I’d feel more free if I cut you down.”

Zhou Jing was not even interested in arguing with this twisted logic. He strode forward in large steps.

“What a pity. Since we can’t become brothers, I can only send you to die.”

Dorton shook his head, drew his scimitar, and casually waved it. The twenty or so Mutant Blood Warriors beside him immediately raised their weapons to face Zhou Jing.

Both sides gradually accelerated, getting closer and closer to the burning street.

Pang!!

Zhou Jing’s feet landed lightly on the ground. Suddenly, the muscles in his legs exerted strength, and the ground cracked with a bang.

Chapter 182: Don’t Move, You’ve Been Surrounded By Me (2)

His speed suddenly increased as if he had suddenly disappeared from sight. In an instant, he arrived in front of the foremost bandit.

The instantaneous movement shocked everyone, and their reaction was half a beat slow.

The bandit at the front hurriedly blocked, but the cold blade was like a stream of light that instantly occupied his vision.

Splat!

The blade penetrated the skull from the lower jaw.

Zhou Jing exerted strength in his right arm and threw the corpse out, hitting two people on the side.

Immediately after, Zhou Jing took a step forward and spun around to dodge two incoming weapons. The other saber drew an arc of light.

The speed of the saber was so fast that it was difficult to react. It instantly swept past the necks of the two bandits.

There was no obstruction, and it was extremely smooth.

Swish! Swish!

Two heads shot into the sky!

In the blink of an eye, he had killed three people.

What a fast blade!

Everyone was shocked and felt a sense of danger. They finally roused their spirits.

Dorton had originally been relaxed as he watched the group fight, but when he saw this scene, his expression changed, and he could no longer sit still.

“Get out of the way, I’ll do it!”

Dorton shouted and charged forward. His scimitar brought with it a whistling wind pressure as he slashed diagonally.

Clang!

Zhou Jing blocked the incoming scimitar.

A surging power rushed at him. His arm sank slightly, but he could not help but grin.

“Your strength is not bad.”

Dorton’s face was ashen. Without another word, he brandished his scimitar and attacked fiercely.

He did not expect this fellow who was blocking the way alone to be so fierce, cutting down the Mutant Blood Warriors like cutting vegetables. If he did not do it himself, he didn’t know how many of his companions would die.

The scimitar slashed down again and again. Zhou Jing was not to be outdone. He clashed with the scimitar, and sparks flew everywhere.

Right now, it was effortless for him to fight an Enhancer once. There was a high chance that he could kill them instantly. He might take more than ten moves to deal with a Second Enhancement, but his physical strength was completely overwhelming. He could use force to break through techniques.

While Third Enhancements were of the same level as him, his innate strength exceeded that of ordinary people. Furthermore, he possessed many breathing techniques and

high-quality potion enhancements. His own physical attributes had already reached the level of the Fourth Enhancement, which was a level higher than Dorton's.

His speed was as fast as lightning, and his every strike was heavy. It made Dorton's expression change continuously, draining his strength and exhausting him greatly.

They crossed paths again and again, their feet moving back and forth, creating shallow pits on the ground.

From time to time, they would crash into the houses by the street. The powerful blade lights could cause the houses to collapse in seconds as if they were being demolished by wrecking balls.

In a short while, Dorton's disadvantage was obvious. He was almost stabbed a few times, and his heart grew unsettled.

"Where did this person come from? He probably has a physique that has been enhanced four times. I've clearly checked the hunter list of Deep Rock City, and the highest I've seen is only a triple enhancement!"

Dorton's heart was filled with waves of shock as he received a few more slashes from the saber. His arm felt sore and numb at this point.

Although Zhou Jing's static strength was strong, it was not exaggerated among those of the same level. What was terrifying was the strength brought about by his speed. Every strike was extremely heavy, completely incompatible with the slender and light double blades he wielded. Every time Dorton blocked a slash, it felt like a mountain was descending on him!

Dorton's hands were bleeding from the shock, and the hilt of his scimitar was slippery with blood.

"I'm no match for him!"

He subconsciously thought of this.

However, Dorton still had many companions by his side. Although he was not Zhou Jing's match in a one-on-one battle, it was still extremely useful to have his people on the side.

The other Mutant Blood Bandits were fighting at the side, constantly harassing Zhou Jing, forcing him to divert his energy to deal with the attacks and interrupt the battle.

Once Zhou Jing wanted to attack others, he would increase his strength and force Zhou Jing to continue fighting with him... but he would not succeed every time.

Zhou Jing's speed far exceeded the level of third enhancements. As long as he activated the [Internal Electric Discharge] state and activated his [Hunter's Breathing-Speed], he would be able to move through the crowd like a bolt of lightning. He was extremely slippery, making it impossible for the enemy to surround him. Be it in attack or escape, he had the initiative.

As long as there was a second's gap, Zhou Jing would be able to seize the opportunity to attack a bandit. If the other party could not react in time, he would have a chance to kill him in an instant.

Amidst the chaotic battle, another three bandits at the first enhancement died under Zhou Jing's blade.

Zhou Jing's powerful lethality made the remaining dozen or so bandits nervous. They could only support each other as much as possible, afraid that someone else would be killed.

Rumble—

Both sides kept moving in the intense battle. The damage caused by more than 20 Mutant Blood Warriors was astonishing. Wherever they passed, houses collapsed, streets shattered, and the wind produced by their weapons could almost snuff out the flames.

The battlefield quickly passed through four to five streets, dragging out a path of ruins in the town.

The commotion here also attracted the attention of the lone bandits scattered around the town. One after another, the bandits rushed over and hurriedly joined the battle.

"I've just killed six, seven of the stronghold guards are dead, and there's still a corpse in the lord's castle... There are nearly 40 bandits, and nearly half of them are dead or injured. Most of the rest have gathered here..."

Zhou Jing observed the situation as he fought.

Suddenly, a few bandits nearby raised their hands and threw out a few packets of purple powder.

Swoosh!

Zhou Jing's body moved faster than he could think. He quickly dodged to the side. Only some of his clothes were stained, but they emitted a corrosive white smoke.

Swish!

With a flash of the blade, the clothes that were stained with the powder were all cut off. When they landed on the ground, they were quickly corroded.

“Is it corrosive poison powder? If I touch it, I don’t know if my elemental resistance can withstand it... It doesn’t feel like it’s the correct trait to go against that.”

Zhou Jing narrowed his eyes. Suddenly, his two blades flew out, forcing the bandits away and allowing him to break out of the encirclement at high speed.

Chapter 183: Don’t Move, You’ve Been Surrounded By Me (3)

Then, he jumped onto the roof and used his saber to scoop up the burning grass before throwing it at the bandits below.

Tch tch tch —

The sound of weapons cutting through grass rang out, and the broken, burning straw fell to the ground like balls of fire.

By the time Dorton and the others looked at the roof again, they realized belatedly that Zhou Jing had already disappeared.

“This guy ran away!”

Everyone looked as though they wanted to chase after him.

“Don’t chase! This person is too fast. If you chase after him, you will only be exhausted to death by him.” Dorton hurriedly stopped his companions.

As soon as he finished speaking, the bandits stopped in their tracks and looked around warily, afraid that Zhou Jing would suddenly turn around.

After a while, the surroundings were silent. The villains carefully checked their surroundings before confirming that Zhou Jing was temporarily far away. They all heaved a sigh of relief, but their hearts felt very heavy upon recalling the person’s ferocity.

“Who is this person? He’s too powerful.”

“It feels like he’s a hunter with four enhancements. It’s impossible for him to not be famous!”

“Since when did Deep Rock City have such a person? He’s most likely an outsider. He might have just arrived.”

Everyone was nervous.

They only decided to take action after figuring out the strength of Deep Rock City but did not account for such a fierce man to suddenly appear.

The excitement of breaking through Deep Rock City disappeared, and everyone’s hearts sank.

“Let’s ignore him for now and return to the stronghold to take a look.” Dorton had a bad feeling. He couldn’t care less about the soreness in his arms and quickly led everyone on their way.

Not long after, the group of bandits returned to the stronghold and realized that the place was empty. The accomplices who had stayed behind had all turned into corpses.

The captured craftsmen and hunters had all disappeared, and even the supplies they had plundered and hoarded had decreased greatly.

“He had companions!”

When everyone saw this scene, they immediately realized why Zhou Jing was blocking the way alone. They were shocked and furious.

Dorton’s face was ashen.

He roughly understood that this group of people was definitely not hiding in the city in advance. Perhaps it was an outside party who had just arrived in Deep Rock City not long ago at the wrong moment and ruined their plan!

“*Too bloody unlucky!*”?Dorton fumed.

After spending so much effort to attack a fortress city, of course, it was not just for the sake of supplies but also to capture a large number of workshop craftsmen... Dorton was someone with great ambition. He was no longer satisfied with small fights but wanted to build a base and do something big.

Therefore, they had to bring back blacksmiths, pharmacists, and other technical workers to force them to work... Other than within the towns, there were no workshops elsewhere, so they could only attack the towns and cities.

If the captives were freed, their efforts to break into Deep Rock City would be in vain.

“What do we do now?”

Many of his companions turned to look at Dorton with hesitant expressions.

They were both afraid of Zhou Jing's existence yet unwilling to return empty-handed.

Dorton's expression steeled as he gritted his teeth. "It's only been a while, so the paralyzing potion is still in effect. The city hunters have yet to recover their combat strength, so we don't have to worry about them joining the battle... Those captives must have been hidden. We won't plunder the other supplies. As long as we find these guys, we'll leave immediately!"

"What about that guy just now?"

Hearing this, Dorton thought of Zhou Jing's combat strength just now and couldn't help but feel afraid as well.

However, the many companions around him gave him confidence. After calculating for a while, he was still unwilling to be scared off by a single person and return empty-handed. His gaze turned fierce.

"We shouldn't be alone anymore. If he dares to come, we'll fight again. Although he's powerful, it's not like we have no chance of winning!"

...

"This group should be frightened by me. I wonder if they will evacuate."

Zhou Jing ran through the burning streets, his mind racing.

There were too many enemies, and they even possessed some strange props, so it was quite stressful to fight them. He temporarily retreated because he did not want to fight to the death. After all, he had the advantage of speed, so it was better to utilize kiting tactics and guerilla warfare.

It would be best if he could appear from time to time and launch sneak attacks. Each time, he could kill a few people and then immediately escape. He could slowly whittle down this group of people and even bring mental pressure on the enemy. This would give him more initiative than fighting head-on.

"I've blocked the enemy's main force for so long, so I should have bought enough time for the team. Let's meet up with them first, the more helpers we have, the better."

Zhou Jing stopped in his tracks and jumped onto the top of the alley wall, looking around.

First of all, he had to think of a way to find his teammates. He did not know where they were hiding at this moment...

It was a pity that he did not bring Ross along on this trip and left the Dumb-dumb in the capital to train hard. Otherwise, having him follow the team at this moment would be equivalent to having a GPS.

However, on second thought, Zhou Jing felt that it might be a blessing. This time, he actually bumped into an acquaintance from White Plains Town. Fortunately, he did not bring Ross along. Otherwise, it would be difficult to explain...

He could still barely explain if his face simply looked alike. If Ross were to show his face again, it would be too recognizable.

However, even so, there was still a risk of being exposed... It was just that Weber would most likely not think that "Jason" had been resurrected. This exceeded the common sense of the Mutant World.

"I still have to talk to Weber after this. When I was using Jason's identity, we were partners. Even if he recognizes my appearance, he shouldn't have any ill intentions." Zhou Jing thought.

Just as he was about to determine his direction and prepare to look for his teammates, he suddenly heard hurried footsteps not far away, accompanied by the strange sound of air being torn apart.

He looked in the direction of the voice. In the alley not far away, there seemed to be two figures chasing each other.

One of them was dressed as a bandit and was very fast. He was chasing behind and should be alone in the pursuit. He had not been attracted by the commotion of the battle just now.

The person who escaped was like an ordinary civilian, and his physical fitness was not much different from an ordinary person.

It didn't seem strange, but when Zhou Jing looked over, he was slightly stunned and discovered a strange phenomenon.

On the ground where the escapee rushed past, spikes kept rising up and shooting toward the bandit chasing after him.

However, the bandit seemed to be already prepared. He constantly waved his weapon to block the incoming spikes.

The fleeing man's face was covered in sweat. He suddenly turned around and grabbed at the air. An earthen wall rose from the ground, blocking the two of them.

Peng!

However, in the next moment, the mud wall was shattered by the pursuing bandit. His footsteps only paused for a moment.

Seeing this scene, Zhou Jing's eyes were filled with surprise.

"Oh, I seem to have discovered an interesting fellow..."

Chapter 184: Secret of Sorcery (1)

A few minutes ago.

Lynen hid in the alley's shadows, peeking out from time to time to see if any bandits were approaching.

His face was slightly pale, and his mental state was not good. His body was only slightly better than that of an ordinary person, and he was already exhausted after running for a long time. Even after resting for some time in this dark alley that was not easy to be discovered, he was still sweating non-stop. He was both tired and overwhelmed by heat waves.

"Fortunately, I know some Sorcery. Otherwise, I would have been killed by this group of thugs."

Lynen couldn't help but press his temples to ease the tingling in his brain. It was a side effect of using spells.

He had been living in seclusion in Deep Rock City for two years. He usually lived like an ordinary person, doing some simple handwork to earn money. He had never shown this supernatural side of himself. He lived in seclusion and was not even familiar with his neighbors.

He did not expect such chaos to erupt in the safe Deep Rock City. Yet, he had no choice but to use this power he had learned by coincidence to protect himself.

Ever since he had mastered it, he had never used it to fight with anyone. Fortunately, he had secretly simulated what he should do during the battle in the past, so when he encountered lone bandits, he used his magical ability to successfully launch a sneak attack.

Lynen's face was grim as his thoughts returned to the shocking events of a few hours ago.

At that time, evening had just passed, and night had just arrived. As usual, he went back and locked the door before taking out a tattered book he had read and studied

hundreds of times. It recorded a magical power that he had never heard of before. The book was called "Sorcery."

Ever since he accidentally obtained this book, Lynen had been reading it almost every day, trying to figure out the magical contents of the book. However, he had never let others know of the existence of this book, and for this reason, he had never exposed the power that he had obtained from the guidance of the book.

While he was reading, there was suddenly a commotion outside the house, as if a crowd was running away. He felt that something was wrong and walked out. He found that many civilians were looking in fear. Seven or eight people wore wicked expressions on their faces as they slaughtered the guards.

These bandits were clearly enhanced Mutant Blood Warriors. With a casual slash, they cut the guards into two, and with a single strike, they broke the bones and tendons of the guards. In a short while, they had slaughtered dozens of guards. However, they were not satisfied and laughed as they began to butcher the civilians.

A large number of civilians fled in panic, including Lynen. The group of bandits chased after them for a while before turning around to rob the houses. The motley group of civilians took the chance to quickly split up and run away.

Lynen did not know the exact situation. He only knew that the entire Deep Rock City had fallen into chaos as if someone was plundering the city. Screams and shouts could be heard from afar. He could only try to hide around and escape the place.

As he ran, he realized that the town was on fire. The fire was spreading rapidly. On the way, he would even encounter the corpses of the guards from time to time. It was as if all the troops in the city had died. The more he saw, the more shocked he became.

The strength of the Mutant Blood Warriors had long been ingrained in everyone's hearts. Even though he now possessed magical powers, his body was still similar to that of ordinary people. Even if he did not die, he would be severely injured by a strike from the Mutant Blood Warriors. Lynen had no intention of counterattacking at all. He did not feel that he was a match for this group of bandits at all.

He only wanted to find a place to hide and pray that these bandits would not discover him. He hoped they would leave after looting the place.

Unfortunately, the more he did not want something to happen, the easier it was for it to happen. During his escape, he was unlucky to encounter a lone bandit, and his heart almost stopped from fright.

As soon as the bandit discovered him, he strode closer, planning to kill him with his saber.

Lynen was so scared that he almost froze on the spot. In the end, his survival instincts took over, and he used the so-called spell with the intention of risking his life. Unexpectedly, the other party was caught off guard and was shot to death by the earth spikes. A powerful Mutant Blood Warrior died in front of him.

This was the first time he had used sorcery to kill a powerful enemy. Apart from being shocked, Lynen also got excited.

However, he was still clear-headed. He knew very well that the enemy had never seen such power before and had underestimated him. That was why he was caught off guard and was ambushed by him. Therefore, he did not become arrogant with his newfound power to try and stop all the bandits. Instead, he quickly changed directions and ran.

However, his luck was too bad. On the way, he encountered a second bandit who was alone. This time, Lynen had experience. He attacked first and used the other party's unknown advantage to instantly kill another Mutant Blood Bandit.

After that, he ran for a distance before finding his hiding place and resting until now.

"I don't know if my house is burning. Fortunately, I brought the book out. I hope I don't encounter any more enemies... I don't know when these thugs will be satisfied and leave. It's best if I can hide here and wait for them to leave."

Lynen's thoughts slowly retreated from his memories. He exhaled slowly, patting the book hidden on his chest with a worried expression.

At this moment, a flurry of footsteps sounded in the distance.

Lynen was instantly on guard. He quietly stuck his head out to take a look and realized that there were more than ten civilians fleeing in panic. Every one of them had several wounds from sharp weapons, and blood flowed from their wounds as they ran.

Behind this group of civilians, a bandit held a short knife in his hand and had a sickly but excited smile on his face. He followed the crowd at a moderate pace. As long as someone ran slower, he would directly slash the civilian to stimulate them to increase their speed.

He did not kill anyone. He just tortured them as he drove them away, as though he was playing for fun.

"Help! Help me!"

More than ten civilians were forced to run. They were tired and in pain, and their faces were filled with fear. They could only shout for help at the top of their lungs, but after shouting for an unknown period of time, their voices were already hoarse, and their voices could not travel far.

Lynen hurriedly pressed himself against the wall and tried his best to shrink into the shadows of the alley so as to reduce his presence.

Chapter 185: Secret of Sorcery (2)

Soon, the group of civilians ran through the fork. The bandit chasing after them did not notice Lynen in the alley and continued to push the crowd along.

The cries for help and screams gradually faded into the distance.

Relieved, Lynen got up and left quietly along the alley.

But he had only taken a few steps when he heard the cries for help that were getting further and further away. He subconsciously slowed down.

His expression changed as he struggled with his own morals.

“If I continue my sneak attack, I might be able to kill this villain. As long as I hide and use my sorcery, even if I fail, I shouldn’t be discovered...”

“No, it’s still dangerous! If the other party hasn’t discovered me, I shouldn’t go out and cause trouble. These people who are being chased live in the same city as me, but I don’t know any of them. Why should I take the risk for strangers...”

Lynen was hesitant and conflicted. Reason told him over and over again that he shouldn’t take the risk. Running away was the best solution.

However, for some reason, he could not take a step forward.

With such power... he could only watch.

This one second of agonizing seemed to be ten times longer than the previous one. Lynen didn’t know how long he hesitated, but his eyes gradually became determined.

“I successfully killed two bandits previously. I can definitely do it again this time!”

Lynen made up his mind to turn around and save the other citizens.

But when he came back to his senses, he realized that the cries for help had already disappeared.

It was quiet outside the alley. Only the burning flames of the street illuminated the ground at the entrance of the alley, reflecting the light and shadows. There was nothing left.

"I hesitated for too long. They're already far away. Is it too late..."

Lynen stood rooted to the spot. The courage he had worked so hard to summon seemed to have suddenly slipped away at this moment.

Determined to ambush was one thing, but taking the initiative to chase after him was another... he didn't know if these were within his capabilities.

Lynen could not tell if he was disappointed or just lucky.

He slowly walked to the entrance of the alley, wanting to take one last look in the direction they had left.

But before he could stick his head out...

Without any mental preparation, a face suddenly popped up by the wall. It was still stained with fresh blood. Facing him, less than two palms away, it occupied Lynen's entire peripheral vision!

This face belonged to the bandit who had just walked past. He had a sickly smile on his face as he stared straight at him.

"There's another one hidden here~."

Lynen's heart almost stopped.

He retreated in a panic. Without a word, he cast an incantation to the ground in front of him and shot out more than ten Earth Spikes.

Prak prak prak!

The earth spikes missed the bandit and hit the house opposite like crossbow arrows, exploding the structure into pieces of bricks like legos being broken.

The bandit ducked his head and walked out, blocking the entrance of the alley. He looked at Lynen in surprise.

"What kind of ability is this?"

He did not expect such a strange attack. Fortunately, his reaction was fast enough to avoid it. The fear he felt earlier was still lingering within him.

The bandit had discovered Lynen early on, thinking he was a civilian hiding in the shadows and not daring to make a sound. He had pretended not to see him, planning to kill this person later on. Giving despair when others thought they had escaped was the most thrilling for the bandit.

Therefore, he stopped torturing the “playthings” from before and killed them all. Then, he quietly returned to this alley, preparing to give this “new plaything” who was hiding in fear a surprise.

Unexpectedly, this was not an ordinary person who could only beg for mercy. He actually had some kind of ability that he could not understand.

The bandit was stunned for a moment before he realized that Lynen had already turned around and ran some distance away. He immediately came back to his senses and followed him curiously.

Thud, thud, thud...

The two of them chased each other down the alley.

The difference in physical fitness was too great, and the distance between them was rapidly closing.

Lynen couldn't care less about the consumption of energy as he continuously used his Sorcery. The ground continuously turned into earth spikes, stone pillars, and earth walls, desperately trying to stop him.

However, without the surprise attack, the lethality was not strong. All these attacks were resolved by the vigilant bandit one by one.

Even if it could slow down the enemy, it could not make up for the difference in speed.

Once the Mutant Blood Warrior got close... Lynn felt that he should start thinking of a more dignified way to die in advance.

As he released the earth spikes and earth walls as if they were free, Lynn felt as if his brain was being pricked by hundreds of needles. It was extremely painful, and his vision began to turn blurry.

“Oh no, I can't hold on anymore!”

Lynen was burning with anxiety and panic. He could only watch with wide eyes as the bandit smashed through his last earth wall. His calloused hand grabbed his face, and he was unable to avoid it.

At this moment, time seemed to slow down. A series of thoughts flashed through Lynn's mind. There was regret and unwillingness. In the end, everything turned into fear, leaving his mind blank.

However, at this moment, the expression of the bandit who had already approached suddenly changed. He suddenly retracted the large hand that was grabbing at Lynen, instead slashing at the sky with his two blades.

“What the...”

Before Lynen could react, an unfamiliar burly figure suddenly smashed down from the sky, bringing with it a bolt of lightning.

Pssh!

The bandit who had chased him to the end of his rope a second ago was instantly cut into two.

It was as if a bag filled with blood had exploded. The scarlet color spread out in a fan shape, and the scene was extremely tragic!

Lynen stared blankly at Zhou Jing’s back as he descended from the sky. His heart was palpitating from the shock and the scene, and he was rendered momentarily speechless.

Zhou Jing casually shook off the blood on the knife and turned to look at Lynen. He raised his eyebrows, “Don’t be afraid. I’m a good person.”

As soon as he finished speaking, Lynen’s eyes rolled back, and his body went limp as he fainted on the ground.

“F*ck, aren’t you not giving me any face?”

Zhou Jing was shocked. He quickly went forward to support Lynen, slapping him a few times and even pinching him, but he realized that Lynen was deeply unconscious and could not be woken up.

Chapter 186: Secret of Sorcery (3)

“I don’t think he fainted from shock. He probably suffered from an energy overdraft.”

Zhou Jing’s face twitched as he spoke.

Initially, he had a lot of questions to ask this mysterious person who seemed to have a different power system. Seeing this, he could only swallow them down for the time being.

“Let’s take a look at this person’s attributes.”

Zhou Jing had no choice but to open the interface and activate his detection.

[Attributes: Physical Fitness 7, Resistance 9, Perception 10, Spirit 18, Energy 20]

“Dammit, his mental strength is several times higher than mine, to think he even fainted just like that. He’s probably just faking it.”

Zhou Jing cursed inwardly.

With such a distribution of attributes and the combat performance just now, this was clearly a power system different from that of the Mutant Blood Warriors. It was like a mage system.

“This might be a hidden superpower system. I didn’t expect it to really exist!”

Zhou Jing’s eyes lit up.

Coincidentally, he came to Deep Rock City and got involved in this storm, and actually discovered the new superpower system that he had been searching for... And then, he even encountered it. His luck was good!

Of course, he could not rule out the possibility that this person was a lifeform from an alternate dimension.

However, when he thought of the scene of this person being chased by a First Enhancement Mutant Blood Warrior and escaping in a sorry state, Zhou Jing found it difficult to think in that direction.

... Alien lifeforms wouldn’t be so lousy... right?

“I can only wait for him to wake up before interrogating him and getting him to reveal himself. I can’t just slash him now and see if I can trigger the hint of killing someone from an alternate dimension...”

Zhou Jing shook his head and started to touch this person very inappropriately.

Although he was not dead yet, it was a good opportunity to search his body. Searching people was a must-have skill when out in the field.

A few seconds later, he paused as he felt a thin foreign object on this person’s chest.

He reached into his pocket and took out the item. It was a book, however, it was severely damaged and half of it had been torn off.

Zhou Jing flipped it open and was shocked.

“Records of Sorcery?”

There was a power system for magic in this world, but the entire world had never known about it?

He roughly read through it and realized that the “sorcery” recorded in this book seemed to have many differences from the main world’s spell system in his impression.

This book did not record spells, but how to obtain the power of Sorcery and train in it. Strictly speaking, this seemed to be something like an introductory guidebook.

The way to obtain the power of Sorcery was not through cultivation or meditation, but by fusing with something called the “spirit of nature”. Only then could one give oneself the power of Sorcery and utilize their mental strength.

The nature spirit that each individual fused with would be different. It determined the elemental attributes of one’s own Sorcery power. There was no need for incantations or spell circuits. One only needed to use the mental strength they released to soak in the elemental energies, completing a series of changes to the target substance such as shaping, shaping energy, and so on to achieve the effect of similar spells. In books, this kind of behavior was called “consonance”. It was the most fundamental ability of a sorcerer.

“This kind of sorcery feels different from the various branches of magic in the main world. It’s more like a primitive version... Speaking of which, who discovered this system? This book doesn’t have the name of the author as well, I wonder if it was written by this fainted fellow. But it doesn’t feel like it... Furthermore, there’s still a small portion missing at the back. I wonder what it’s about.”

Zhou Jing frowned slightly as his thoughts raced.

“Speaking of which, did this system exist in the Mutant World itself, or was it brought in by the lifeforms from an alternate dimension? If it was the former, why was it that in the history of the Terra Empire, there were only supernatural existences of Mutant Blood Warriors, but there was no mention of sorcery at all?”

According to the common knowledge of the natives of the Mutant World, there was only one supernatural route, that was through the enhancement of Mutant blood.

“Could it be that these Sorcerers were all hidden in the world and had never revealed their existence? Or was there something else behind the scenes?”

Roman’s figure suddenly appeared in Zhou Jing’s mind.

“Could it be that my big bro... Pfft, Bill’s big brother, was actually a sorcerer?”

At this moment, he suddenly realized that a message was flashing on the interface.

[You have triggered the achievement [Secret of Sorcery]!]

[You have received 2,000 Astral Points, 1x Aptitude Enhancement – Magic (Small), 1x Aptitude Enhancement – Natural Affinity (Small)]

“Just by coming into contact with sorcery, I can trigger an achievement... In this world, the power of sorcery should be largely unknown to outsiders. The so-called sorcerers should be extremely rare.”

Zhou Jing pondered for a while before putting the tattered book away.

Finders keepers!

“Now is not the time to study it. I’ll think about it after dealing with the enemy. Anyway, this person will wake up sooner or later. At that time, I can ask for his personal experience.”

He definitely could not let go of this book. Perhaps he could let an obtain the second superpower route in this world.

And this insider could not be left here as well.

Zhou Jing picked up Lynen and decided to go back to find his teammates. He would temporarily settle this unconscious guy down, lest this person died and his clues were cut off.

Chapter 187: Killing and Interrogation (1)

Deep Rock City was not a normal city. It was carved out along a mountain. The terrain was uneven, and there were a few cracks separating the city area, connected by bridges.

Below the bridge was a long and narrow rift valley that was six to seven meters deep. The bottom of the rift had been carved out to form a sewage river. On the rock wall beside it, there were a few dark caves. From the bridge, one could only see the entrance of the caves at a slanted angle. They could not see the situation inside the cave at all.

At this moment, one of the caves was filled with people. The captured craftsmen and hunters had been transferred here by Cole and the others. They were packed like sardines in the not-so-wide cave but only dared to talk at a volume close to a breath.

“These caves are where dirty creatures gather. There’s a sewage river at the entrance, and the stench is unbearable. From time to time, sewage will seep in, and even the poorest of the poor are unwilling to live here. Without a special reason, outsiders won’t know about the situation of these caves. Moreover, we can’t be seen from the bridge at all. Unless those bandits jump off the bridge on purpose, it’s impossible for them to find us easily.”

Weber explained the benefits of the hiding place in a low voice. He sat on the ground that was extremely oily after being soaked in dirty water for a long time, completely not minding the stench in the cave.

“Fortunately, I have you locals to guide me.” Cole casually flicked away a small rat without changing his expression.

After experiencing too much hardship in the wild, the hunters had no problems completely ignoring the stench here.

The craftsmen did not have such tenacity. From time to time, some of them would retch from the stench, but they were afraid that the noise would be too loud, so they could only suppress it with all their might. Feeling the greasy soil under their buttocks, they felt that they were no longer “pure.”

“I wonder if Jace can find his way here. I left him a cryptic special code in the bunker. I hope he understands it.”

Cole whispered to his partner.

Weber’s curiosity was reignited. He interrupted in a low voice, “The hunter who went out to scout is called Jace? Does he have a surname?”

“He doesn’t have a surname. Why?” Cole turned around.

“Nothing... Will he be okay going out alone to scout? How many times has he been enhanced?”

“Don’t worry. He has been enhanced three times, and he’s an elite compared to others at this level. With his strength, those bandits won’t be able to catch him.” Cole smiled.

“... If I remember correctly, your Imperial Hunter’s regular hunting team usually doesn’t have two members who are enhanced thrice. All those with three enhancements and above are captains.” Weber was puzzled.

On the way, Cole and the others revealed their identities as hunters of the Empire to reassure everyone.

Weber was a freelance hunter. After so many years of living and mixing around, he had met his share of Imperial Hunters and also knew the composition of their teams. At this moment, he could not help but feel strange about the illogical structure of this team.

“Jace has just joined the Imperial Hunters not long ago. He’s still learning our hunting methods, so he doesn’t have to lead a team for the time being. However, he’s learning very quickly. This time, we went out to hunt a fatal-risk beast. After returning to the capital, Jace will probably start leading a team.” Cole explained in a low voice.

“Not long ago? He learned quickly?” Weber subconsciously grasped the two words he cared about and couldn’t help but ask, “Where is that Jace from?”

Cole said the name of a small village that Weber didn’t recognize before suddenly reacting and asking suspiciously, “Why are you asking so many questions?”

“I just find him a little familiar. Perhaps we’ve hunted together before.”

Weber tried to come up with an excuse, but the more he thought about it, the more confused he became. This man sounded more and more like Jason.

Is he Jason in disguise?? Weber couldn’t help but make such a bold guess, but in the next second, he denied it.

Jason was dead. His jaw was even gone at that point. It couldn’t be fake if he saw it with his own eyes.

The dead couldn’t be resurrected. This was common knowledge that even the uncultured Subterraneans knew. His imagination was going too wild.

“Stop chatting!” At this moment, the expression of the leader of the hunter team suddenly changed. He quickly shushed everyone to be quiet.

The dark cave suddenly became silent. Only the sound of breathing could be heard, as well as the sound of the sewage river flowing slowly outside the cave.

After a few seconds of tension, Zhou Jing suddenly flipped over the top of the cave and landed on the ground.

“It’s me!”

He carried Lynen before retracing his steps to look for his teammates, knowing that his companions would definitely leave some secret code. After searching the bunker, he found the message that Cole had carved in the team’s secret code, and then he came all the way here.

Cole and the others were relieved to hear a familiar voice.

“How’s the situation?” The team leader hurriedly asked.

“I fought with those bandits and killed six of them. Their strongest is only Dorton at three enhancements. However, there are still more than twenty bandits left. They’re basically in a group now. They should be searching for your locations.”

Zhou Jing explained briefly as he put down Lynen.

Only then did Cole notice the person he had brought with him. “Who is this person? Is he a bandit you caught?”

“No, this person is a civilian. He was chased by the bandits and fainted when I saved him. Let’s settle him here and protect him together.” Zhou Jing did not intend to reveal Lynen’s sorcerer abilities.

Cole and the others nodded and had no objections. There were already so many people anyway. It didn’t matter if there was one more added to their list.

“There are still more than twenty bandits. What do you plan to do? Do you want to get rid of them together?” The team leader asked Zhou Jing for his opinion.

“Don’t worry, they’re not that strong. I can kill them alone. They can’t surround me.” Zhou Jing pondered a while before he continued, “How about this? You guys continue to protect these people in case anything happens. Wait for me here. I’ll go and kill them all.”

Chapter 188: Killing and Interrogation (2)

Is that something to be done alone... The hunter captain was a little doubtful, but he still nodded.

“I’ll go with you. It’s fine as long as there’s a captain here. I can take care of your back,” Cole suggested.

“Then follow me.” Zhou Jing thought for a moment and did not refuse.

If someone was able to hold off Dorton, his efficiency in killing the enemy would soar, and he would be able to crush all of them in a few moves.

Although Cole was only at the second enhancement, as an elite, he could barely hold on for a while. After all, Dorton was only at the average level of someone who had undergone their third enhancement and was nowhere as strong as Zhou Jing.

The best candidate to go with him was actually the team leader, but it was also very important to stay here to prevent any accidents. He was afraid that he would miss Dorton and the others. If the enemy headed straight here, at least the team leader could deal with them for a while. On his side, he did not need too much help.

...

Under Dorton's lead, more than 20 bandits searched the next street. They did not even dare to make too much noise, afraid that they would be detected from afar and cause their captives to go into hiding.

However, after searching many streets in futility, they realized that those captives were not hiding nearby at all. They had no idea where the captives would have gone.

"If not for that person holding them back, how could these captives have run so far!"

Dorton's face darkened.

A fierce man suddenly appeared out of nowhere. Not only did he kill a few brothers, but he also caused his golden goose to fly away. Dorton's current mood was akin to being constipated.

"Boss, we can't find anyone. Why don't we snatch something and retreat!"

"That's right. That person was too powerful just now. If he attacks again, we'll die!"

"Let's stop here, Boss!"

Unlike Dorton, the other accomplices had already started to retreat. They didn't want to continue looking for people and wanted to escape with the things they had snatched.

This was especially true for the bandits who had only been enhanced once. They had just witnessed Zhou Jing's insane combat strength, and their hearts were filled with fear... Even Dorton could not stop this guy, so if they fought again... They would suffer heavy casualties.

Dorton's expression was uncertain. He could not ignore the opinions of his companions as well. His anger slowly subsided, and his rationality slowly occupied the high ground again.

After thinking for more than ten seconds, Dorton gritted his teeth.

"When the news of Deep Rock City spreads, the other towns will definitely tighten their control over the hunters. It will be very difficult for us to break through a fortress city from the inside like we did today... But there's still a long way to go. There will always be a chance. At most, we'll change our method and attack a small town. Let's retreat."

Hearing this, many bandits were overjoyed. They were glad that their boss did not wish to fight to the death.

Dorton suppressed his frustration and could only bring the bandits back to their temporary bunker in a hurry. He planned to let everyone recover their remaining spoils of war and leave the town.

However, just as he arrived at the bunker with his men, he found Zhou Jing standing at the other end of the street, looking at him from afar.

“It’s this guy again!”

Dorton’s anger surged. He drew his scimitar and took the lead, not daring to let his subordinates go first. He wanted to hold Zhou Jing back and not give him a chance to deal with the others.

Zhou Jing was fearless. With two blades in hand, he faced the attack head-on.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

Their weapons clashed several times in the blink of an eye, and sparks flew.

Because Dorton had charged forward too fast, he was separated from his group of bandits.

Boom!!!

At this moment, the brick wall of a nearby house exploded outwards.

Cole, who was lying in ambush, charged out and slashed down.

Dorton was horrified. His instincts let him hurriedly roll to dodge, causing Cole’s saber to miss. The wind pressure from the slash brought about an arc of dust.

As soon as he stood up, he turned around, immediately prepared to block Zhou Jing’s pursuit. However, he realized that Zhou Jing had passed him. The latter pounced towards the bandits behind him like a tiger entering a herd of sheep, while Cole, who had charged out from the side, took over from Zhou Jing to fight.

“Oh no!” Dorton knew that something was amiss at this point. He wanted to quickly force Cole back, turn around, and stop Zhou Jing. He would switch opponents and let his companions deal with this sudden enemy.

As a result, he tried his best to press forward a few times. Although Cole had a hard time blocking him, he managed to slow the other party down like sticky candy, displaying his exquisite blade techniques and tenacity.

Taking advantage of the opportunity, Zhou Jing held his breath and released the bioelectricity stored in his body. At the same time, he entered the [Thunder Strike] and [Internal Electricity Discharge] states. He was as fast as lightning as he rushed into the crowd and started killing.

The two sabers left snow-white tracks as they phased through the crowd.

Wherever it passed, blood bloomed.

Plonk plonk!

The bandits who had only been enhanced once easily fell one after another. They did not even stand a chance against Zhou Jing's two sabers.

Without Dorton holding him back, Zhou Jing cut through the crowd like cutting through vegetables.

The high-speed blade promised extreme weight and violence. Even if someone blocked the blade, they would be sent flying by the heavy force and knock over their companions.

Even if the enemy panicked and wanted to attack to stop Zhou Jing from swinging his saber, the latter easily blocked the weapons from all directions. Just his powerful body alone could break the bones and tendons of the enemy who had only enhanced once. Those who were unlucky would be directly killed by him just by his body ramming into them.

In just a few rounds, seven to eight corpses lay on the ground. Many bandits were terrified by the massacre.

"Run!"

The remaining villains finally panicked. Without caring about anything else, they abandoned their companions and dispersed.

The second enhancement bandits still had the will to fight, but when they saw this scene, they knew that there was nothing they could do. Thus, they could only escape helplessly as well.

If this group of bandits gathered together, Zhou Jing would have to expend some effort. However, if the enemy scattered, they would have no strength to resist at all. He moved at high speed and directly chased after the escaping bandits.

The blade flashed, and another six or seven people fell in a pool of blood.

Chapter 189: Killing and Interrogation (3)

The remaining people took the opportunity to run far away. After all, they were Mutant Blood Warriors.

Although Zhou Jing was fast, he still had to chase after them one by one. Seeing that the distance between them was getting longer and longer, he simply ignored these small fish and turned around to kill Dorton.

Dorton's eyes almost popped out at this scene. He roared and charged at Cole with all his might, wanting to escape.

Seeing this, Cole risked being slashed a few times to stall Dorton for even a second longer.

The next instant, Zhou Jing charged into the two of them and smashed his two blades against the scimitar.

Clang!!

A buzzing tremor spread along the blade, and the webbing on Dorton's hand tore again, almost causing him to lose his grip on the weapon.

Zhou Jing attacked with all his might, each strike faster than the last, firmly suppressing Dorton.

Without the other bandits holding him back, Dorton didn't even have a chance to catch his breath, let alone run away. He only felt like he was enduring a violent storm of slashes and could only defend bitterly.

After blocking dozens of slashes, Dorton's hands were badly mangled. Finally, his stance was broken, and Zhou Jing sent the scimitar flying.

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Zhou Jing used the hilt of his saber to break the joints of his enemy.

With a plop, Dorton collapsed to the ground.

Zhou Jing swung his saber around, finally sheathing it.

Cole covered his wound as he spoke in surprise, "Why didn't you kill him?"

“This is the first time such a big thing has happened in the fortress city. He’s the leader of this group of bandits and an important criminal. Instead of killing him here, it’s better to bring him back to the capital city for a public trial.” Zhou Jing’s eyes flickered.

Although it seemed like it was a small matter that Deep Rock City had been easily taken down, in reality, this group of bandits who called themselves the Sons of Mutant Blood was the first group of bandits to raid the fortress city. The repercussions were very important and were far worse than Jason’s assassination of the lord.

It was lucky that his team happened to bump into them. If these bandits really succeeded, the entire Terra Empire would be in an uproar. The royal family would definitely be furious.

If he brought Dorton back for a public trial, as the person who had contributed the most to stopping such a vicious incident and personally captured the bandit leader, he would definitely enter the sights of the royal family and quickly establish a connection.

Currently, Jason’s life goal was to obtain the title of the Empire’s Chief Hunter. Strength was the main factor, but he also had to gain the reputation of the royal family and make some contributions. At the very least, he had to enter their sights first to be considered.

With this in mind, Zhou Jing did not kill him. He was prepared to maximize the benefits Dorton could bring to him.

“Just kill me...” Dorton collapsed to the ground, his voice hoarse.

“Alright, when it’s time for the public execution, I will apply to carry out the execution personally,” Zhou Jing agreed readily.

Dorton shut his mouth with an ashen expression.

At this moment, Cole squatted down and punched Dorton in the face. He was furious as he yelled, “How dare you pretend to be a hunter and attack Deep Rock City? The reputation of hunters has been ruined by you!”

Dorton closed his eyes, not bothering with him.

Cole refused to give up. He angrily continued, “I heard that you used to be a Mutant Beast Hunter. Why did you abandon the values of a hunter to do such a thing!”

Dorton knew that he had no way out, so hearing the outburst from Cole, he opened his eyes again and sneered.

“I’ve participated in dozens of hunts, big and small. Even if I’m lucky enough to survive once, there will be a next hunt. There will be no end to it until I die in a certain hunt. This is the so-called value of a hunter? You guys are so pathetic! People are inherently

greedy, and will demand us to fight until we die. It's as if we're born to sacrifice our lives to protect them. I've long hated such days! Even if I die in your hands, I don't regret everything I've done today!"

Crack!

Zhou Jing directly broke Dorton's chin and casually shook his hand.

"No matter what, an atrocity is still an atrocity. You just have to hand over your confession obediently during the trial. There's no need to say anything else. Behave yourself."

After Zhou Jing finished speaking, he turned around and saw Cole standing rooted to the ground. He couldn't help but raise his eyebrows.

"What kind of reaction is that? It can't be that you were convinced by such a clumsy reason to pursue the freedom to do evil, right? No way, no way?"

"How is that possible?" Cole denied it flatly, his expression helpless. "I just think that something he said might make sense. Although I volunteered to become a hunter and don't regret it, the world always hopes that hunters will fight to the death. This is also wrong..."

"Your thinking too hard." Zhou Jing shook his head. "Today, I'll tell you a truth that I've just comprehended not long ago."

"Uh, what truth?" Cole got distracted.

Zhou Jing's expression was serious. "Do what you love."

Cole was stunned. What sort of truth is that?

"Uhh.... so?"

"So the moment you stop loving this line of work, you can just quit. The world depends and hope on hunters. That is true, and is part of the hunter's duty. You chose to be a hunter, so accept it. If you're unhappy, then don't be a hunter. It's not like you have no choice but to live this life. What's there to be conflicted about?"

Zhou Jing shrugged, picked up Dorton, and swaggered away.

Cole was stunned for a long time before he scratched his forehead and followed.

...

The sky was bright, and the morning light gradually expelled the night.

The bandits who had been killing people everywhere were gone, and the fire had been extinguished. After a night of chaos, the civilians who were hiding everywhere walked out onto the streets again and looked blankly at the unrecognizable town.

While they were feeling lost, they saw the Imperial Hunter team leading most of the hunters from Deep Rock City who had yet to recover from running around the streets, gathering the surviving civilians.

The civilians who had nowhere to go could only follow behind. The crowd grew larger and larger until they finally gathered in the square in front of the castle.

The hunter team then explained the situation. Only then did the civilians know what had happened. When they found out that the Imperial Hunters had stopped this atrocity midway, they felt that they had escaped death and were relieved.

The Lord of Deep Rock City was dead, and so were the people from the Imperial Inspectorate. Many town officials had also been killed by the Sons of Mutant Blood, so there was no one present to give orders. At this moment, the entire town was leaderless.

In the end, under the organization of the hunter team, they got the survivors of Deep Rock City to form a team to treat the injured, collect the corpses, and calculate the losses. In addition, they sent people to the surrounding cities to seek help from other lords.

Before the troops of the other lords took over Deep Rock City, Zhou Jing's hunter team decided to temporarily camp in Deep Rock City to prevent the town from falling into chaos again after they left.

Zhou Jing did not participate in the team's maintenance of order. At this moment, he was in a temporary tent, staring at Weber.

Weber looked at Zhou Jing's familiar face and secretly convinced himself once again that there were no ghosts in the world.

"Do you know a Jason·Wood?"

Chapter 190: Recruitment (1)

Zhou Jing did not answer immediately. Instead, he asked, "Are you a wandering hunter from White Plains Town?"

"You know me?" Weber was puzzled.

Zhou Jing smiled, "I've never seen you before, but when we first met, I noticed that you were staring at my face in surprise, as if you had seen someone who looked like me. Now that you've called Jason's name, it's not difficult to tell that you were once a hunter from White Plains Town. If I'm not wrong, you and Jason were once partners in hunting together."

Weber was certain of his guess, but he still asked, "And you are?"

Zhou Jing stopped smiling and deliberately lowered his voice, pretending to be cautious.

"Jason is my biological brother, but I don't have a surname now. My name is only Jace."

They were indeed related by blood. Weber knew that he had guessed correctly!

Weber immediately believed him. He didn't know Jason that well, so he immediately accepted this excuse that suited his common sense.

After all, it was hard evidence that the two of them looked similar... The previous guess that Jason had come back from the dead was indeed too ridiculous.

—they definitely couldn't be the same person. Putting aside the fact that the dead couldn't be revived, just the difference in their conversation performance was huge. Jace smiled, unlike Jason, and his brain was much better than Jason's.

He was not surprised that Jace hid his surname. As the assassination of the lord had fermented to this day, too many people knew the name "Jason·Wood." This surname was eye-catching, and hiding his identity could avoid a lot of trouble.

At this moment, Weber suddenly fell silent. Although Jace was Jason's brother, he was still a stranger to him. Even after recognizing his identity, he didn't know what to say.

After a few seconds of hesitation, Weber thought of a question and asked in a doubtful tone.

"You're Jason's brother and a third enhancement hunter. Why didn't Jason follow you, and instead go to White Plains Town to be a hunter? If he was with you, maybe Jason wouldn't have to die..."

Zhou Jing waved his hand and said seriously, "I know what you're thinking, but my family has never relied on others. Even if we're biological brothers, we have to separate when we reach a certain age and live our own lives. This is Wood's family motto!"

Surprise appeared on Weber's muscular face.

Ever since the tribal era, the concept of survival as a group had been ingrained in the blood of the humans in this world. He found it difficult to understand this family tradition.

However, as an experienced hunter, Weber suddenly remembered that there were many mutated beasts in the natural world that had similar habits. They would let the members of their race hunt alone and train before returning to their racial tribe.

Often, members of the tribe would die during this process, but the mutated beasts that survived would be stronger. It was a cold and cruel habit of survival.

“The Wood Family... seems like a cruel tribe.” Weber thought.

He did not doubt the truth of Zhou Jing’s words, nor did he doubt the strong tenacity brought about by this family discipline. He just did not understand why they would uphold such a tradition.

“But it’s your brother who has died. Will you really just sit by... Oh!”

Weber subconsciously started, but he suddenly had a flash of inspiration, and his eyes widened in realization.

Yes, the Lord of White Plains Town, Lutt, had been kidnapped and killed. The murderer was suspected to be a Mutant Blood Warrior with three enhancements!

The strength matched, the motive matched... The case was solved!

The murderer must have been Jace—six months after Jason’s death, his brother had personally gone to White Plains Town and taken Lutt’s life for revenge!

Weber was suddenly enlightened. Everything felt in place.

A cruel family tribe; they were cruel to their own people, but they were merciless to their enemies! They usually did not rely on each other, but once a relative died, the Wood family would definitely take revenge!

Weber felt a chill.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows and said meaningfully, “There are some things that you shouldn’t say even if you’ve guessed it. I believe in your relationship with Jason.”

Weber snapped out of his reverie, his face serious, “I’ll keep your secret.”

He had no intention of exposing him in the first place. He only asked to clear his doubts. Now that he had obtained the answer, he was satisfied and did not have any other thoughts.

Although Weber did not approve of the crime of killing a lord, he was not pedantic. Since the dead would reveal no evidence and no one had discovered it, he would not betray Jason's family. After all, he had been Jason's comrade for a while.

Furthermore, Lutt was already regarded as an enemy by the hunters of White Plains Town. If not for his status as a lord, he would have long been killed. Jace had only done what they wanted to do but did not... When he heard about Lutt's death, he was so happy that he had three bowls of meat.

Zhou Jing nodded. He trusted in the integrity of hunters.

If he was ruthless, he might have thought of silencing him at this moment. However, Zhou Jing did not have such thoughts at all. After all, they were former comrades. Moreover, it was not a big deal for him to be recognized.

Do you know what an Eternal Apostle is? What's there to be afraid of!

After chatting for a while and telling Weber the "truth," Zhou Jing walked out of the tent and exhaled softly.

This acquaintance would not reveal anything, but the side effect was that Weber really thought that there was someone in the "Wood Family" in this world that had hidden their identity...

"Small problem, a small problem."

Zhou Jing muttered to himself before putting this matter down. He opened the interface and took a look.

At this moment, there were several notifications on the interface.

[Triggered achievement [First Kill – Mutant Blood Warrior (Second Enhancement)]]

[Obtained 1,000 Astral Points, 1x [Aptitude Enhancement – Physical Fitness (Small)], 1x [Aptitude Enhancement – Resistance (Small)] x1]

[Triggered Achievement: Mutant Blood Killer (Ten Killed)]

Chapter 191: Recruitment (2)

[Received 1,000 Astral Points!]

After defeating Dorton and his group of subordinates, he triggered two achievements and made a small wave of profit.

Because Zhou Jing had yet to execute Dorton and planned to bring him back to the capital to increase his reputation, the first kill of a third enhancement Mutant Blood Warrior had yet to be triggered. However, he was determined to obtain it. He was not joking when he said he would apply to execute him personally.

In addition to his achievements, he also triggered a special hint this time.

[You have received a Life Episode — Riot in Deep Rock City!]

[Rating: City Tier]

[+1 Current Legendary Point Count]

“What is this?” This was the first time Zhou Jing had triggered it. He took a look at the explanation.

[When involved in certain special events and making an impact, there is a chance to trigger a Life Episode, which will be related to one’s legends. The higher the spread of this event and its influence, the more Legendary Points will be awarded proportionally.]

This was equivalent to the “famous deeds” and “great achievements” an apostle could leave behind in the current world. It could bring about fame and prestige.

He could increase his Legendary Points if his Life Episodes were propagated. However, the upper limit depended on the nature of the matter — the publicity had to be practical, and there had to be a limit to bragging.

“That’s strange. My assassination of the lord was quite sensational. It gave me a lot of Legendary Points, but I didn’t trigger this thing. I wonder what sort of criteria they judge by.”

Zhou Jing touched his chin. He had no clue, so he did not dwell on it.

In any case, it was a good thing to be able to increase his Legendary Points. This thing could increase the benefits each time he did his point settlement.

Closing the interface, Zhou Jing touched the Sorcery book that he kept close to his body, his eyes flickering.

“It’s time to have a chat with that sorcerer.”

...

Lynen slowly opened his eyes and saw an unfamiliar roof. He was lying on a wooden bed at the moment.

Excessive use of Sorcery had given him a splitting headache as if someone was stirring his brain. He groaned and could not help but cover his forehead.

At this moment, a man's voice sounded from the side.

"You're awake?"

Lynen turned and saw a strong, burly man sitting by the bed. He looked vaguely familiar.

Pieces of memory surged up in his blurry head, piecing together the experience he had before he fainted.

Lynen suddenly remembered that before he fainted, he was being chased by a bandit. When he was at the end of the road, a fierce person suddenly descended from the sky and tore the bandit into two. It was this person in front of him!

"You saved me?"

"Yes, I'm Imperial Hunter Jace." Zhou Jing nodded.

"Er, thank you, Jace."

Lynen's tone was sincere, but his expression was unnatural, his eyes not looking at him.

He was glad that he had been saved. He was grateful, but he was also worried that others had seen him using sorcery to stop the bandits, exposing his uniqueness. He could not help but feel uneasy and prayed that no one had witnessed anything.

Unfortunately, things did not develop in the direction of his prayers. Zhou Jing sized him up with interest as he spoke,

"I saw that you can control the earth and rocks. This isn't an ability related to Mutant Blood Enhancement, right? Aren't you going to explain?"

In the end, he was still discovered... Lynn felt helpless and didn't know how to refute it. He just remained silent.

Seeing this, Zhou Jing took out the Sorcery book from his pocket, "I've read this book. The ability you used is called sorcery, right?"

Shocked, Lynen quickly patted his chest. Finding it empty, he anxiously reached out for the book.

"Give me back the book!"

Zhou Jing easily pushed his hand away as he shook his head, "Answer my question first. Where did you get this book?"

With Lynen's small arms and legs, he couldn't win against Zhou Jing at all. After several fruitless attempts, he could only give up and say helplessly, "I dug this out."

Zhou Jing waved the book, "Tell me in detail."

Lynen's lips quivered. After hesitating for a while, he finally understood the situation and compromised. He did not dare to act rashly in front of the Imperial Hunter and spilled his background.

A few years ago, he was still an accountant of a merchant caravan and followed them around. One day, he was attacked by a mutated beast in the wilderness, and the team fled in all directions. While escaping, he fell into a hole in the ground and was lucky to avoid the mutated beast.

When he fell into the hole, he was poked by something on his back. He found that half of a hard black object was buried in the ground, so he dug it out with his hands and pulled out an ancient box. Inside was a book, which was the remnant book that recorded the Sorcery knowledge.

After he was lucky enough to escape, Lynen began to study the contents of the book and realized that he seemed to be able to practice the knowledge of sorcery recorded in it. According to the contents of the book, he traveled around in search of a natural spirit that could enlighten him with the power of sorcery. After being chased by another mutant beast, he accidentally discovered a natural spirit and fused it into his body with difficulty. Only then did he obtain the power of sorcery for the earth element.

After that, he lived in seclusion in the nearby Deep Rock City. He did not dare to expose his abilities and focused on studying the contents of the book until today.

"...So you had the power of sorcery and did nothing but stay at home?"

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows.

"I don't dare use it. If someone finds out, someone will definitely snatch my book."

Lynen stammered. As he spoke, he couldn't help but glance at Zhou Jing. His expression seemed to be saying that he really had foresight.

Having possessed extraordinary power, he also wanted to show off and start a new life. However, his concerns prevented him from taking this step, so he locked himself in the house and tried his best to study the sorcery knowledge, suppressing the urge in his heart.

Although he was panicking now that he had been exposed, he felt inexplicably relaxed. It was as if his ability that he wanted others to know but had no choice but to hide was finally forced to be known by others, so he no longer had to hide.

Chapter 192: Recruitment (3)

Chapter 192 – Recruitment (3)

Lynen was willing to compromise and answer, more or less because he had been holding it in for too long... At the same time, it was on account that Zhou Jing was his savior and that he could not feel any hostility from the other party.

After hearing his explanation, Zhou Jing rubbed his temples.

He had thought that this was a sorcerer with a legacy, but he didn't expect him to be self-taught. It seemed like he wouldn't be able to learn about the other sorcerers in the world through Lynen.

"Now that I know your ability, what do you plan to do?" Zhou Jing crossed his arms and asked.

"I don't know." Lynen looked torn, "What do you want me to do?"

He could not silence Zhou Jing, nor could he defeat him. He did not even think in this direction.

He only prayed that Zhou Jing would not have any ill intentions. Even if he was in good condition, there was an 80% chance that he would not be able to defeat this person, let alone now that he was exhausted.

Zhou Jing sized him up carefully for a while before suddenly smiling and throwing the sorcery book back into the former's arms.

"There's no need to be nervous. I'm only asking you these things because I'm curious. I've never seen such power before and don't intend to do anything to you."

Lynen quickly grabbed the book and heaved a sigh of relief. He looked at Zhou Jing in surprise. "Aren't you going to take my book?"

"There's no need."

Zhou Jing shook his head. He had already read through it once and could read it from the experience log at any time.

He paused and looked at Lynen's surprised expression.

.....

"You have extraordinary talent. Do you want to accept my recruitment? I'll pay you for your labor, but on the condition that I also want to study the knowledge of this book."

"This..." Lynen was stunned and hesitated.

The corners of Zhou Jing's mouth curled up as he said, "The book says that the nature spirits will only appear in some deserted places. It's generally very dangerous. With my protection, you don't have to worry about the threat in the wilderness and can boldly search for the spirits. I already know your secret. If you try and find someone else to cooperate with, more people will know. I don't have any ill intentions towards you, but others might not. Working with me is the best and safest choice."

Hearing this, Lynen got tempted.

In the past two years of isolation, his sorcery had barely improved. He had only fused with one nature spirit so far because he did not dare to go deep into the wilderness to find a new nature spirit.

His tricks could not deal with the mutant beasts that were too strong. Luck might favor him once, but he would not always be so lucky.

Moreover, this powerful hunter was right. He was already considered an insider. The damage was done. Instead of continuing to hide it, it was good to cooperate.

"Can you let me think about it?" Lynen, however, could not make a decision on the spur of the moment.

"Of course, you can think about it slowly, before I leave Deep Rock City."

Zhou Jing was very easy to talk to.

Recruiting Lynen was the result of his consideration. Compared to just taking away a book, it was naturally more beneficial to bring along a person who had successfully cultivated sorcery. A living example was better than a dead book.

However, he did not force it. If Lynen was really unwilling, then the matter would end there. At most, he would study the so-called sorcery on his own. The book had already written the method of stepping past the threshold of sorcery very clearly.

Only by searching for the nature spirit could one activate the power of witchcraft. Such spirits were quite rare, and one had to use a special method recorded in books to discover them. Finding this thing required luck.

His s typically experienced a lot of costs doing trial and error. If Lynen could succeed in this superpower system, the apostles naturally had a higher chance.

However, Zhou Jing felt that there was a high chance that Lynen would agree. Not only was it because he was his benefactor, but also because this person's performance just now revealed a mentality between a supernatural and a commoner. He did not have a strong and stubborn personality.

As long as he could gain their trust, have no ill intentions, and bring the other party what they needed, the other party would not mind sharing and cooperating.

Zhou Jing stood up and left the house. As he walked out, he raised his hand to block the sun and smiled.

"The sorcery system... I wonder what it will be like when used."