

Astral Apostle

Chapter 81: Stormy Waves and Plans (1)

Zhou Jing was bewildered.

He would not be surprised to see this in the main world, but he was on another plane. He couldn't understand why something from his main was here.

The first thing he could confirm was that he did not bring this item in. This pattern was Hein's national emblem.

Hein was one of the "Seven Pinnacle States" of the Interstellar Joint Government. As for Zhou Jing, his nationality was in the Scarlet Nation, unrelated to Hein.

The emblem of Hein had appeared in the Mutant World, so someone from the main world must have been here before.

The question was, in what way had it been there? Had someone crossed over in history? Or was it something else?

He didn't know if the main world knew about this or which people were aware of this secret.

In any case, Zhou Jing was certain that he had never seen anything related, even after surfing the Internet for so many years.

What's going on?

Zhou Jing could not calm down.

What kind of mechanism is the Astral Travel Interface to locate this world??

Did I get here randomly... or is the mutant beast world entangled with the main world?

What was the connection between my world and this plane?

A flood of questions flooded his mind.

Zhou Jing had thought that he was the only outsider in this dimension, but now, he suddenly realized that the Astral Realm seemed to travel deeper than he had imagined.

Originally, he was still wondering if he should move the knowledge of his main world and make some technological reforms, but now it seemed that this idea had to be put aside.

Before he figured out his situation, he could not mess around.

Thinking of this, Zhou Jing suddenly felt that he had lucked out.

It had not been long since he obtained the Astral Travel Interface, but fortunately, he was used to keeping a low profile and silently developing towards his goal.

He controlled his own desires and did not act arrogantly in an unfamiliar world because of this opportunity.

If he was fearless, something unpredictable might have happened, seeing that there were others in the same world...

At this moment, Griff noticed that Zhou Jing had been staring at the badge. He asked curiously, "Jason, do you recognize this badge?"

Zhou Jing immediately reacted. His mind raced as he looked away and shook his head.

"I can't identify it either."

He did not know what the situation was, but he did not intend to expose the information he knew about the main world.

Although he was not using his main body now but the body of an and was covered in an invisible cloak, he still planned to be careful.

"Since no one knows about it, I'll leave it alone for now."

Griff shrugged and threw the emblem back into the spoils.

Zhou Jing turned to look at the pile of spoils, his eyes flickering.

Putting aside how it came to the Mutant World... how did this get in a Subterranean nest?

Did this group of Subterraneans kill some guests from the main world? Or did someone in a caravan collect this badge? Or did the Subterraneans just pick it up?

Zhou Jing's thoughts raced. Then, he looked at the burning nest and felt a little helpless.

All the Subterraneans were thrown in for cremation, and none of them could be questioned.

Tsk, everyone was too fast...

All that was left in the field were the corpses of two Violent Tooth Dragons. These were mutated beasts, after all. If they were sent to the hunting workshop in White Plains Town, they could still be sold for a sum of money.

As for the Violent Tooth Dragon that Barong and Weiss had dealt with, it had not been killed. It had lost its treasure and its fighting spirit. It was lying on the ground the whole time after the battle, whimpering.

A living Violent Tooth Dragon could be sold for more money. Seeing that it had lost its masculinity, Weiss did not kill it and planned to ride it back to White Plains Town to sell it.

Moreover, a neutered mutant beast was easier to tame... Weiss's combat style was not only a personal hobby but also economical. It was the result of his careful consideration.

Anyway, Weiss felt that his playing style was quite the smart trick.

When the nest was almost burned down, everyone had already sorted out their spoils of war and collected the corpse unlucky soldier who had his head blown off. They then pulled the corpses of the two Violent Tooth Dragons and set off on their way back.

Zhou Jing followed everyone back.

He was silent on the way and looked like he had something on his mind. Everyone thought that he was still immersed in the emotions of revenge for his brother, so they did not disturb him.

...

Two days later, everyone walked out of the Black-Clothed Forest. By the river, Frostwood Village came into view.

Seeing the familiar scene, everyone subconsciously relaxed.

"We're finally out."

Barong was in high spirits.

Not only did he take care of the Subterraneans to avenge his companions, but he also found the battle-ax that he had used for many years. At this moment, he was feeling extremely pleased.

At this moment, Weiss leaned in front of him and rubbed his fingers together. The meaning was obvious.

“Are you in such a hurry?” Barong laughed. He took out his money bag and threw it to Weiss.

Weiss didn't need to open the bag to know that it had two hundred Terra silver coins. He beamed as he received it.

“Hey, the thing I like about you the most is that you give money readily... even though it's my money to begin with.”

“In any case, thank you for help this time.” Barong nodded in thanks.

Although it was still considered a sort of mercenary job, Weiss had agreed to it more or less out of consideration for his feelings. After all, hunters weren't lacking in money. Barong wouldn't think it was right for others to help him just for money, either. The simple concepts of this world were not so prioritized by money.

“It's a small matter. Actually, whatever you gave Jason is enough. He's already so strong. I'm just here to help out.”

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Weiss waved his hand nonchalantly before turning around and riding on the female Violent Tooth Dragon... To be precise, it was the Violent Tooth Dragon whose sex had been forcibly changed to become female.

“Since I'm done, I'll leave directly.”

“Aren't you going back to the village to rest?” Griff spoke out.

“I'm not going. The corpses of these two dragons aren't fresh, so I have to bring them back to White Plains Town quickly. Otherwise, the price will drop again...” As Weiss spoke, he smacked his lips. “Besides, there's nothing to play with in your village. I miss the soft chests of the hotel maids.”

“Alright, alright. Then get lost,” Barong scolded jokingly.

“Hmph, I can't be bothered with you. When the time comes, remember to come to the tavern to split the money with me... Yo, Guards, bring those two Violent Tooth Dragons back to the city with me. When we get back, I'll treat you to a round of drinks at the tavern.”

Weiss curled his lips and left on his “lady-fied” Violent Tooth Dragon. The nine White Plains soldiers hurriedly pulled the corpses of the two Violent Tooth Dragons and left together.

Only Zhou Jing, Barong, Griff, and the other hunters from Frostwood Village were left.

The few of them crossed the small bridge and returned to Frostwood Village. The news of the destruction of the Subterraneans' lair quickly spread throughout the village.

The villagers were very excited. They put down the farm work at hand and rushed over. They surrounded the hunter team and curiously asked for details. When they heard that the Subterraneans were no longer a threat, they were overjoyed.

This Subterraneans' lair had always been a hidden danger to Frostwood Village, but it was a difficult threat to resolve. They had petitioned the lord many times but to no avail. Originally, the villagers of Frostwood Village felt that they had to live with the Subterraneans' lair for a long time, but now that this danger had been resolved once and for all, the villagers were extremely happy and kept praising the hunters.

"Aiya, thanks to Captain Barong, this problem is resolved."

"Fortunately, our village is being guarded by you!"

Many villagers wagged their tongues excitedly.

At this moment, Barong raised his hand to signal for everyone to be quiet. Then, he put his arm around Zhou Jing's shoulder and loudly spoke out.

"Everyone, if it weren't for Jason, we wouldn't have dealt with the Subterraneans so quickly. His contribution was just as great."

Barong didn't want to take credit, and this truly came from his heart.

Although he had guided Zhou Jing, the reason behind his quick improvement was because of Zhou Jing's own ability. In just half a year, he had surpassed Barong in combat power. That was why he could take revenge on the Subterraneans in such a short period of time.

Otherwise, this problem would trouble them for a long time.

When the villagers heard this, they nodded and looked at Zhou Jing, praising him enthusiastically.

Jason-Wood had been in Frostwood Village for half a year now, and the villagers were familiar with him. The people here were simple and honest, and they had long treated him as one of their own.

"There's no need for that. I was just taking revenge for my brother." Zhou Jing used this excuse again.

At this moment, Reiner squeezed out of the crowd and looked around. "Where's Uncle Weiss?"

"He went back to the city," a hunter said.

"Ah... he didn't even say goodbye to me." Reiner was disappointed.

"Brat, are you so focused on your Uncle Weiss that you don't even care about your father?" Barong snapped.

"I can already see that Father is fine." Reiner scratched his head.

"He's still a kid, don't mind him." Griff didn't mind and picked up Reiner with a smile.

Reiner turned to look at Zhou Jing and suddenly asked curiously, "Uncle Jason, why haven't I seen Uncle Ross recently? Did he get lost?"

Zhou Jing: "..."

Damn, I've been too engrossed thinking about the national emblem for the past two days. I knew I had forgotten something!

I forgot to call Ross back on the way!

The corner of Zhou Jing's eyes twitched slightly. He quickly checked his location and realized that Ross had not stayed in the Black-Clothed Forest but had returned to the vicinity of Frostwood Village.

... Fortunately, this follower didn't seem to be that stupid. He didn't wait for anyone and still knew how to return.

"He might be playing around. I'll go find him."

Zhou Jing mumbled and took the opportunity to escape from the crowd.

No one stopped him.

Griff watched Zhou Jing leave in a hurry and shook his head with a smile. Suddenly, he thought of something and took out the Hein emblem from his pocket and handed it to Reiner.

"By the way, I brought you a gift."

"Wow, it's beautiful."

Reiner's gaze was immediately attracted by the beauty of the emblem.

...

On the other side.

Zhou Jing followed his internal GPS for a while and found Ross by a small river some distance away from Frostwood Village. This was the place where he had first summoned Ross.

He saw Ross squatting by the riverbank. He did not know how long he had been in this position. A layer of dust had accumulated on his head and shoulders.

Realizing that someone was approaching, he silently turned his head and hugged his knees as he looked up at Zhou Jing.

Ross: (o _ O)

Zhou Jing did not know if it was an illusion, but he seemed to see a hint of grievance in their eyes.

Zhou Jing coughed to hide his embarrassment. He touched Ross's head and read the attendant's experience log.

Ross's encounters in the past two days were quickly seen through. At first, he followed Zhou Jing's instructions and waited at the initial location of the Subterraneans as a scout.

However, when the group finished off the Subterraneans and returned, Zhou Jing was so shocked to discover the Hein emblem that he forgot to call him along.

Ross obediently squatted there for another day and night.

It was not until Zhou Jing's location was far away that Ross took action and ran out of the Black-Clothed Forest.

Because the expedition team brought their spoils of war and prey, he was much faster, and he actually returned to the vicinity of Frostwood Village earlier.

Therefore, Ross silently returned to his "birthplace" and waited patiently for Zhou Jing to remember him.

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"Uh, sorry... I almost forgot about you."

Zhou Jing actually felt a little apologetic.

Ross stood up expressionlessly and followed behind Zhou Jing as usual.

You're making me feel even more ashamed now...

Zhou Jing scratched his head and brought Ross back to the village.

By the time he returned to the house, it was already evening.

Zhou Jing casually instructed Ross to cook. He sat at the table and pondered over the past few days he had gone through.

After two days, Zhou Jing was no longer as shocked as when he first saw the Hein emblem.

He felt that this doubt could not be answered, for the time being, so he suppressed it in his heart and decided to investigate this matter secretly as a target.

But for now, the most important thing was to manage the s and arrange his own rules of action under such circumstances. He already had some ideas.

I have to pay attention to my usual behavior...

Zhou Jing pondered to himself.

He felt that before figuring out the connection between the main world and this plane, he had to hide. Not only did he have to rely on the appearance of the to disguise himself, but he also had to pay attention to his actions.

Although he was used to keeping a low profile, before this, he was still a little casual when interacting with the people of the Mutant World. Now, he had to pay attention to this area and try not to show the habits of the main world in his actions.

As for the solution, there was actually a ready-made one. That was to play the "characteristics" of an in depth. This was not just to increase the synchronization rate.

The more he got into character, the fewer the chances for him to show his original habits.

The Mutant Beast World was already quite dangerous, and at this moment, Zhou Jing felt that it was shrouded in yet another mysterious fog.

"The clues in the main world can only be chanced upon by luck. Even if I deliberately investigate, I might not be able to gain anything. I just have to pay more attention

usually... The most important thing now is to clear the life objective trials. This is a more substantial benefit.”

Zhou Jing calmed himself down and sorted out the dilemma in his heart.

...

The night passed uneventfully.

The next morning, before Zhou Jing woke up, someone knocked on his door.

Thud thud thud...

“Who’s looking for me so early in the morning?”

Zhou Jing stood up to open the door. Seeing that it was Barong, he invited him into the house.

Barong walked in, his tone concerned.

“Jason, I saw you looking troubled the other day. How are you feeling now?”

“I’m fine... I just miss Will.”

Zhou Jing shook his head and took out his “brother” as an excuse again.

Barong nodded. He wanted to say something but hesitated.

Zhou Jing noticed Barong’s expression and felt strange.

“What are you trying to say? It’s not like you to be so hesitant.”

“Okay... I wanted to ask. We’ve avenged Will. What are you going to do next?”

Barong’s tone was tentative.

Hearing this, Zhou Jing immediately understood what Barong meant.

The main reason he stayed in Frostwood Village was to take revenge for his “brother.”

Now that his revenge had succeeded, there seemed to be no reason for him to stay. That was why Barong came to ask him about his next step.

Perhaps Barong had long wanted to ask about it in the forest two days ago. However, he misunderstood that he was missing his younger brother and had something on his mind, so he did not probe further...

Zhou Jing's mind raced as he thought.

Barong had nurtured him not only because of the tradition of Mutant Beast Hunters but also because he wanted to find a successor. It seemed that he wanted him to take over and guard Frostwood Village, so he was now asking about his plans.

“What you want to ask is if I’m staying in Frostwood Village?”

Zhou Jing did not bother to change the topic and directly exposed him.

Barong was silent for a moment. Without answering directly, he slowly replied.

“When I first taught you, I did have some thoughts of strengthening the hunters in White Plains Town. I also hoped that you would stay in Frostwood Village and become the second hunter stationed there...”

At this moment, Barong suddenly changed the topic.

“But now it seems that perhaps this is not the best choice.”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows. “What do you mean?”

Barong shook his head before continuing in a sincere tone.

“In the past six months, I’ve seen your talent. Perhaps your future shouldn’t be in such a remote place... Travel elsewhere. You can become stronger, protect more people, and kill more mutant beasts.”

“Are you chasing me away?” Zhou Jing was surprised. He did not expect Barong to have such an attitude.

“Not really. I’m just making a suggestion.” Barong shook his head and then laughed heartily. “Of course, I’ll be very happy if you stay.”

Hearing this, Zhou Jing pondered for a while and didn’t hide anything. He said, “I’ll still stay here for a while, but in the future, I will go somewhere else and see this world as a hunter. I don’t want to hide this from you.”

According to his plan, he would naturally stay near White Plains Town before the second enhancement, but he would not stay here forever.

This was only a corner of the Mutant World. There were still too many unknown areas to explore. He still wanted to understand this world better.

Hearing this, Barong laughed. Without any pretense, his tone was earnest.

“Don’t mind me. Your idea is very normal... Before I stationed myself in Frostwood Village, I had also traveled around and seen all kinds of people and things. In the end, I chose to settle down in this remote corner of the world. Every mutant beast hunter should have such an experience. I support you in this.

“A person can only find a home that they are truly willing to stay behind after experiencing a journey.”

“... I’ll remember it.”

Zhou Jing nodded slightly. He was touched, and his heart rippled slightly.

At this moment, there was a commotion from the village entrance. From time to time, villagers would run past the window.

The two of them were slightly stunned. They opened the door and stopped a villager.

“What happened?”

When the villager saw that they were calling him, he immediately stopped and replied.

“Captain Barong, Jason, it’s the grain collection team from White Plains Town.”

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“So it’s the grain collection team. It’s already the season?”

Barong understood.

All the villages under the rule of White Plains Town had to pay farm taxes. The grain collection team would visit each village every year and take away a portion of the food as taxes. The village would receive the protection of the town, and the lord would have the responsibility to deal with any mutant beasts that might attack the village.

Zhou Jing turned to look at Barong.

“Do we need to go and help?”

“There’s no need. The village chief will gather the villagers to transport the food. There’s no need for us.” Barong shook his head.

“Alright.”

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and replied, but he still wanted to take a look and see the situation.

Barong did not take the grain collection team to heart. He paused for a while before going back to the topic.

“By the way, go to the town in two days. Weiss wants to share the money from selling his prey with us. You can go get it.”

“You’re not going?”

“I can’t be bothered to move. Anyway, you already know the way.” Barong waved his hand.

He only entered the town when he needed to do something. The rest of the time, he would rather stay in the village.

Some mutant beast hunters wandered on the line of life and death all year round and needed to vent. Many hunters liked to find hotel maids. Barong did not know if Zhou Jing had such a hobby. In any case, he was not interested and only liked to play with iron.

Therefore, Barong did not intend to follow him this time, in case “Jason” was too embarrassed to have fun.

“Alright, I’ll wait until tomorrow. By then, Weiss should have received the money.”

Zhou Jing nodded in agreement.

In the past three months, he had made several trips to White Plains Town. He was already familiar with the place and could go alone.

Barong’s visit this time was mainly to express his support for Zhou Jing’s decision to go out and explore the world. After he finished speaking, he bade farewell and left.

After watching Barong leave, Zhou Jing thought for a moment and walked to the village entrance.

At this moment, the entrance of the village was very lively. Beasts were pulling carts and stopping at the entrance of the village. More than ten White Plains soldiers guarded the side, and the tax collector of the grain collection team was negotiating with the villagers of Frostwood Village with his subordinates.

The atmosphere was rather peaceful, and the villagers did not seem to have much resistance.

The two sides quickly finished their discussion. The village chief organized the villagers to bring out bags of food from the mill to the village entrance, while the people brought by the tax collector were in charge of counting and loading the carts.

Zhou Jing looked around for a while and realized that there was no riot or dissatisfaction among the villagers.

When he checked the information of the various countries in the main world during the Middle Ages, he saw many records of grain collectors being stabbed to death by pitchforks. However, the villagers of the Mutant World were quite cooperative when it came to paying taxes.

“It seems that it’s also because of the threat of the mutant beasts. The village can’t do without the protection of the town, so they’re willing to pay taxes.”

Zhou Jing nodded. After confirming that there was no problem, he did not plan to stay here any longer.

Just as he was about to leave, his gaze swept across one of the members of the grain collection team and suddenly stopped.

In the crowd, a man with a goatee was calculating food on a list. Zhou Jing found him familiar as if he had seen him somewhere before.

“This person...”

Zhou Jing thought for a while and thought of where he last saw this person.

The first time he went to White Plains City, he had almost bumped into someone in the pharmacy. It was this goateed man.

If he remembered correctly, this person seemed to be a staff member of the pharmacy, but he was no longer wearing the rough uniform of the pharmacy.

However, although he looked familiar, he had only met him once. There was no need to go forward and talk to him.

Zhou Jing took a few more glances before walking away. He went to the training ground to start his day’s training.

...

It was soon afternoon.

Although the grain collection team had finished counting the food, they did not want to travel at night. They planned to stay in the village for the night and set off early tomorrow morning.

Although Frostwood Village was small, it also boasted a simple inn. At the last minute, he found a few villagers to help out in the kitchen and barely managed to receive the members of the grain collection team. There were more than ten tables in the open air to provide food for the grain collection team.

The people from the grain collection team chatted as they ate and drank, entertaining the villagers of Frostwood Village.

Reiner and a group of children from the village gathered around them and listened to the story outside, intoxicated.

When Zhou Jing returned with sweat all over his body, he saw a lively scene.

Looking at the dozens of grain collectors who were eating and drinking, Zhou Jing ignored them. The only thought in his mind was to fill his stomach, so he went straight to the back kitchen of the tavern to get two sets of freshly cooked dishes. They were something that looked like potatoes, and they were steaming hot.

When the chef saw that it was Zhou Jing, he did not stop him. The Mutant Beast Hunters had this privilege.

Zhou Jing returned to the house with the food and casually settled Ross' portion. Then, he stayed in the house and guided Ross in learning the breathing technique.

This was something he had to do every night when he personally descended. It was simply as troublesome as tutoring a child.

The red glow faded, and the moonlight fell.

The grain collectors who came to visit were full and rested.

The night gradually deepened. Outside the house, it was no longer noisy and became as quiet as usual.

After a tiring night of tutoring, Zhou Jing angrily asked Ross to make the bed. He walked to the window and prepared to close the curtains and turn off the lights to sleep.

However, just as he was about to lower the curtains, Zhou Jing suddenly noticed a few suspicious figures through the window. They were moving in the village and had just turned a corner not far away, disappearing from his sight.

With a quick glance, he recognized one of them. It was the goateed man he had discovered that morning.

“Huh? Why aren't they sleeping at night? What are they wandering around the village for?”

Zhou Jing's heart skipped a beat.

He thought for a moment and called for Ross to follow him. The two of them climbed out of the window and quietly followed these people.

Zhou Jing's agility was astonishing, and it was difficult for ordinary people to discover him. As for Ross, he had [Night Camouflage], [Light Steps], and other stealth characteristics. He was even better at tracking and hiding. Zhou Jing sometimes could not even sense his existence, let alone have problems.

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They followed behind Goatee and the others. Soon, they realized that these people were walking out of the village.

The direction they were heading in was the pharmacist's hut where the witch doctor lived.

“Oh, there's a quest!”

Zhou Jing's eyes lit up, and he immediately perked up.

After staying in Frostwood Village for half a year, the witch doctor, Gamma, had always kept a low profile. There was nothing going on, and he could not find trouble with him. He did not expect to get a clue today.

After leaving the village, they arrived and saw a continuous wilderness. It was not easy to hide. Zhou Jing and Ross walked and stopped. After the group walked into the sparse forest surrounding the pharmacist's hut, they followed behind.

Zhou Jing hid behind a tree and saw the scene in the pharmacist's hut.

The goateed man knocked lightly on the door, only to have Gamma quickly open it and welcome them in.

The door closed again.

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and hid under the window, hiding in a blind spot. He pricked up his ears and listened carefully to the sounds coming from the house.

The Mutant Blood Potion had slightly enhanced his perception, and he could hear the conversation in the house.

“Gamma, where’re the goods this time?” This seemed to be the voice of the goateed man.

“In here.”

Gamma spoke out, and his voice was no longer as old as usual. Instead, it was full of energy.

From inside the house came the sound of rummaging, followed by the sliding of some kind of mechanism, then the thump of a few boxes being placed on the floor, mixed with the crisp clink of bottles.

After a while, the goateed man said unhappily, “There’s not alot? It’s far from enough.”

Gamma said helplessly, “The hunters in the village have dwindled. They’ve been busy training new people, so there’s fewer opportunities for me to bring herbs. There aren’t enough materials, so I can only do so much.”

The goateed man said, “Forget it. The price of each bottle will still remain the same.”

Ding, ding, ding...

There was a clatter of coins.

Gamma chuckled before he whispered, “No one noticed you when you came over, right?”

The goateed man did not mind. “Don’t worry, the entire village is asleep. No one saw.”

Gamma was not convinced by the response, “You should be more cautious. There are outsiders in the village. Half a year ago, the guy named Jason·Wood came to the village to stay and even became a Mutant Beast Hunter. He’s an unstable factor...”

The goateed man mocked, “Look at how timid you are. So what if he’s an outsider? Does that mean he’ll definitely notice you?”

“I...” Gamma was in a difficult position.

The goateed man shook his head. “If you’re so afraid, we can choose not to make any deals in the future. Anyway, I still have other pharmacists to provide for me.”

“Don’t!” Gamma hurriedly spoke out. “I can do it.”

Zhou Jing listened for a while. Although he did not see the scene, he more or less understood the situation.

If he was not mistaken, Gamma was selling potions to the goateed man. This transaction might have been going on for years.

“Frostwood Village supplies herbs for Gamma, and Gamma provides potion and medical services. The two sides work together, but he hid a portion of the medicine. He was lying when he said that there was a low success rate for making potions. He kept the extra potions in stock to earn extra money?”

Zhou Jing had roughly guessed the situation.

In the interstellar era, such things were common. It was even possible to turn a blind eye.

However, to the villagers of the Mutant World, it was inhumane to cut corners and fill their own pockets.

The villagers would definitely not be able to accept it. Even if Gamma was a rare pharmacist who was willing to stay in the village, he would most likely be chased away.

All kinds of thoughts flashed through his mind, but Zhou Jing did not jump out immediately.

He gestured to Ross, who was hiding not far away, to show himself and make some noise.

Ross got up silently and went to the door of the pharmacist’s cabin. He slammed his head against the wall.

Pang!!

In the silence of the night, the sound was deafening.

The sound in the house disappeared, and it was so quiet that one could hear a pin drop.

Pa!

The door suddenly opened. The goateed man did not see anyone at first glance. He looked down and saw Ross squatting at the door, covering his head.

“Catch him!”

The goateed man's tone was furious.

The three lackeys beside him immediately pounced forward and captured Ross.

Ross raised his eyes to look below the windowsill, but Zhou Jing, who was originally here, had already disappeared and was quietly hiding elsewhere.

Seeing this, Ross was silently pressed to the ground and did not resist.

Seeing that the uninvited guest had been restrained, the goateed man heaved a sigh of relief. He frowned and sized up Ross.

"Who is this person?"

At this moment, Gamma hurried out. When he saw Ross' face, he was stunned.

"This person is the follower of that Mutant Beast Hunter, Jason. He's a mute with a brain problem."

"Mute?" The goateed man's expression relaxed slightly before he shouted, "Then why is he here?"

"I-I don't know. This fool usually follows Jason, but occasionally he runs around... Maybe he just happened to run to us?"

Gamma looked at a loss as well.

Then he thought of something, and his expression changed. He muttered, "That Jason has been suspecting me. Maybe he sent this person to watch me... No, that doesn't make sense. He's a mute and a fool. Even if Jason suspects me, he can't have sent him."

"Suspect you?" The goateed man was confused. "What else haven't you told me? Why is that Jason watching you?"

"I... I just didn't cure his brother."

Gamma stammered.

"That simple? Impossible!" The goateed man looked doubtful. "You still want to hide it from me at this point?"

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Hearing this, Gamma helplessly spilled what had happened.

“Six months ago, the hunters picked up a person in trouble inside the forest. His name was Will, and he happened to be seriously injured. He was an outsider with an unknown origin, so I was worried that it would affect the deal, so I let him die... I didn't expect him to have a brother—Jason, who actually came looking for him.”

The goateed man's mouth twitched when he heard this.

“If you're so afraid of outsiders, why don't you poison that Jason too?”

“What nonsense are you talking about! I didn't expect it to turn out like this!” Gamma quickly shook his head.

At most, he would deliberately not treat the seriously injured. It was enough as long as he dragged it out until his condition worsened. He did not have to do anything, so he did not mind not saving him.

However, poisoning was another matter. He did not have the guts to kill someone.

The goateed man took a deep breath, not wanting to dwell on this problem. He pointed at Ross on the ground and asked in a deep voice.

“How bad is this fool's brain? Are you sure he won't reveal what happened here?”

“I-I don't know.” Gamma swallowed and said with some hope, “Maybe he didn't hear anything?”

The goateed man's expression changed. He hesitated for a few seconds before suddenly making up his mind.

“We can't risk letting him leave. Kill him!”

As soon as he finished speaking, a follower immediately drew his dagger.

“Don't kill him!” Gamma was shocked and quickly pulled on the goateed man's clothes.

I'm just reselling potions. It's not a big business. Is there a need to silence someone just for that?!

The goateed man turned around and said darkly, “As long as we kill him, find a place to bury him, and make it look like he's missing, nothing will happen.”

“But that Jason...” Gamma still looked hesitant.

“Anyway, he’s a fool. It’s normal to lose him, right? You have too much of a guilty conscience. You keep feeling that Jason will suspect you no matter what you do. But if his follower is lost, there’s no reason for him to suspect you, right?”

The goateed man did not stop talking and continued coldly.

“Also, think about it carefully. If this fool accidentally reveals what happened here, you will definitely be chased away by Frostwood Village. You won’t be able to earn this money. With your lousy pharmaceutical skills, can you find another village that is willing to provide for you? Can you still retire?”

Gamma’s mind was in chaos, his heart in turmoil, but he couldn’t help letting go of the goateed man’s sleeve.

The goateed man snorted and looked at his follower, making a throat-cutting gesture.

The lackey nodded, his face hardening as he swiped his dagger at Ross’ neck.

Pak!

At this moment, Ross exerted his strength to break free. The powerful force shook off the person who was restraining him.

He jumped up and grabbed the offending hand holding the dagger.

Under the other party’s shocked gaze, Ross twisted expressionlessly.

Crack!

“Ah!”

The lackey held his broken wrist and screamed.

However, before he could cry out a second time, Ross quickly pulled out the dagger hidden at his waist and stabbed it into the man’s abdomen. Without hesitation, he jerked it upwards.

Splatter... The lackey’s intestines fell to the ground.

The disemboweled corpse fell to the ground, still twitching. Its eyes were wide and frozen in fear.

The ruthlessness on the goateed man’s face instantly turned into fear. He was horrified and stumbled back, trying his best to distance himself from Ross, who was covered in blood, while still maintaining the same expressionless face.

Just as Ross was about to continue killing, Zhou Jing's voice suddenly came from the forest.

"That's enough."

Ross immediately stopped and stood still.

Everyone present looked at Ross in fear, but no one dared to move. They were all frightened by the Ross' ruthlessness.

At this moment, Zhou Jing walked out of the forest.

He did not appear at the beginning because his identity as a mutant beast hunter was too intimidating. He reckoned that the moment he came out, everyone would be afraid. Most likely, they would beg for mercy, defend themselves, and find excuses. He would not be able to hear the truth from them.

Therefore, he might as well hide and let Ross, who had already established the image of a fool, be the bait to lure this group of people and see if he could get himself a good catch.

On the other hand, he secretly observed the situation to see their actions and attitudes. At the same time, it was so that he could be careful.

He did not expect to really gain something. As a buyer, this goateed man was actually more easily agitated than Gamma. His killing intent was so decisive... It was probably not that simple.

"Looks like we have a lot to talk about."

Zhou Jing narrowed his eyes at the goateed man and Gamma, whose expressions had changed drastically.

Chapter 87: Corruption (1)

In the house, a few wooden boxes were placed on the ground. There were bottles of colorful medicine inside. There were no labels on the bottles, and the medicine was turbid. It looked like the quality was very poor.

The goateed man, his two surviving followers, and the witch doctor, Gamma, squatted in the corner with their hands on their heads. They watched in fear as Zhou Jing checked the potions one by one.

Because Zhou Jing was present, they did not dare to resist or escape due to the fear of the combat strength of a Mutant Beast Hunter.

Zhou Jing looked at the potions, then turned around and looked at Gamma.

“So you stowed away quite a lot of potions. Half a year ago, you lied that you didn’t have any potions and deliberately left my brother todie.”

“No!” Gamma quickly explained, “This is a new potion I made recently. I really used up all the potion at that time. I..”

Facing Zhou Jing’s gaze that seemed to say, “Keep making things up,” his voice became softer and softer.

Zhou Jing snorted. “Just because he was an outsider, you didn’t treat him... I don’t know why you feel that my brother is a threat to your business.

“But if I hadn’t come, you would have gotten your way. It’s too simple to felch things while doing your duty, right? Not many people will even notice.”

Gamma lowered his head, not daring to answer.

Zhou Jing fiddled with the potions and asked casually, “How’s the profit from reselling potions? What’s the price of these potions?”

“Usually four bottles for one silver coin...” Gamma replied shakily.

So cheap? It was much cheaper than the cost of purchasing normal potions from the pharmacy.

Zhou Jing calculated and was a little surprised, “Then your boxes of potions are only worth more than 30 silver coins? The income of pharmacists isn’t that low, right?”

Just because of this bit of money, he took this big of a risk?

Zhou Jing originally thought it was at least a few hundred silver coins.

It’s just that there weren’t many goods this time. In the past, each batch could be sold for 50 to 60 silver coins...?Although Gamma was thinking in this manner, he didn’t dare to say it out loud.

“How did you get in touch with this person?” Zhou Jing glanced at the two of them and took out his dagger to play with.

Gamma’s heart trembled. He turned to look at the goateed man and suddenly made up his mind to tell Zhou Jing everything about his cooperation with this man.

A high-level pharmacist was indeed profitable, but he had always been a lousy pharmacist.

A few years ago, Gamma came to White Plains Town as a wandering pharmacist to cooperate with the White Plains City Pharmacy. However, because he wasn't good enough, he was rejected to even sell potions. His potions could not be sold at all, and his money was almost spent. He could not even afford the raw materials for the potions.

At that time, it was this goateed man who had secretly stopped him and pointed out a path for him to go to the surrounding village to be a village doctor. That was why Gamma had come to Frostwood Village and stayed here.

After staying in Frostwood Village for several years, he had a hunter team here to help collect raw materials for him for free. Making potions had become a profitable business.

However, with his craftsmanship, the products he made were inferior goods. This goateed man would always come with the cover of the grain collection team and secretly purchase his defective potions in batches to bring back to White Plains City.

As for what he did with it, Gamma didn't know and didn't care.

Although the price was very low, it was already not bad for him. After all, it was very difficult to sell the medicine he made.

Therefore, over the years, he had used the excuse that the production of potions was prone to failure as an excuse to embezzle most of the materials brought by the Hunter Team. Only a small portion of the potions produced was enough to satisfy the needs of the village. The rest were his own private gains.

After hearing Gamma's explanation, Zhou Jing looked at the goateed man and raised his eyebrows. "You're from the pharmacy, right? We've met once, remember?"

The goateed man nodded subconsciously.

When he saw Zhou Jing, he thought that he looked familiar. He squatted at the side and thought for a while before he vaguely remembered the short meeting between the two of them three months ago.

Hearing this, Zhou Jing touched his chin.

Fortunately, he did not go forward to talk to this person as soon as he discovered him in the morning. Otherwise, he might have alerted him and caused him to be on guard. If the guy chose not to do anything tonight, he would not have encountered this matter.

It was a better decision not to rashly come into contact with him. After all, one did not have the golden exclamation mark on their head here. It was not something that could be triggered with just one interaction.

(TL Note: In RPGs, those NPC with quests always have that golden exclamation mark on their heads.)

“Then tell me, you can’t possibly kill my friend to silence him because of a business deal of 30 silver coins, right? How did you make money buying these defective potions? You must have earned more than this, right?”

Zhou Jing played with the dagger as he stared at the goateed man.

The cold light of the dagger flashed in his eyes. He swallowed hard before he carefully spoke.

“I’m a minor supervisor of White Plains Town’s potion shop. I purchased these potions to secretly swap the stock of the potion shop...”

After hearing these few words, Zhou Jing understood.

This goateed man bought the defective medicine produced by the village doctor at a low cost in the nearby village. Then, he used his position to replace the quality of the medicine in the storehouse with the defective medicine.

Just like that, he secretly changed the stock of the pharmacy.

The potions in the inventory would still match the account book, but he could also profit and resell the good potions in the inventory.

Using the government’s things to earn personal benefits, he would slowly hollow out the potion shop. This way, the goateed man would have already made a few thousand Terra silver coins just from this deal itself.

As for the defective potions, they were mixed in with the normal potions and were placed on the shelves. They were also sold at the price of normal potions. The income of the potion shop was still guaranteed, and the buyer would only suffer in the end... However, there was only one potion shop in the city, so no one else had a choice.

Chapter 88: Corruption (2)

While the effect of the defective medicine was very poor, it would not kill anyone.

Woah, swapping good products for bad ones. I didn't stuff like this to happen here.

Zhou Jing was delighted.

It seemed that no matter which world it was, those who could take advantage of loopholes were people who far surpassed their time.

In the eyes of some people in his main world, the goateed man might even be a “smart person” who knew how to earn money and had rich social experience.

“Then who are you selling the good potions to?”

“I privately peddle it to passing merchants or send it to other towns to sell...” The goateed man smiled awkwardly.

“You’re doing this so rampantly. Aren’t you afraid that the other supervisors in the pharmacy will find out? Aren’t you afraid that the pharmacists cooperating with you will check? Aren’t you afraid of the lord noticing?”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows as he lifted the goateed man’s chin with the back of the knife.

Feeling the coldness of his chin, the adam’s apple of c bobbed as he hurriedly replied, “Those pharmacists are the easiest to appease. They don’t have enough free time to buy back the potions that have already been sold to us? Even if they discover the faulty potion, we can just say that it’s probably an inferior potion that slipped through our checks. No one else in charge will check the quality of the potion. There are even people who do the same business as me.

“... As for the lord, as long as the potion shop provides taxes, Lord Lutt will not notice anything amiss. If the lord needs the potions, we will definitely give the best goods.”

Zhou Jing clicked his tongue.

This person’s life was too good.

He thought that it was just a simple reselling. He did not expect to accidentally expose the inside story of White Plains Town’s apothecary and implicate a gray chain of interests.

... It seemed that where there were people, there would be corruption. Even in this primitive world, this was still a problem.

He quietly opened the interface and spent 10 Astral Points to take a look at the attributes of the man. However, he was only at the level of an ordinary person. There was nothing unusual.

Zhou Jing smacked his lips and turned to look at the potion again. He said, "What kind of potions are in the defective products you bought?"

"Healing potions, various disease cures... There's nothing else," the goateed man whispered.

At this moment, Gamma added, "And some Hunter Potions."

The goateed man turned his head and glared at the latter.

Gamma didn't dare to look at him. He waved his hand at Zhou Jing and hurriedly said, "Jason, I didn't know about this at all. If I had known that they would do such a thing with my medicine, I wouldn't have dared to..."

"Shut up."

Gamma immediately covered his mouth, not daring to speak.

Zhou Jing couldn't be bothered by this person. He narrowed his eyes at the goateed man, "There are also defective products for the Hunter Potions? You guys really want to die."

The Mutant Beast Hunters were responsible for protecting White Plains Town from the threat of the Mutant Beasts. It was crazy to think that someone was providing defective goods to the Mutant Beast Hunters for their own personal gain... and at such a high price!

He was simply digging his own grave!

At this moment, the door of the pharmacist's hut was pushed open. Barong strode in, followed by Ross. After subduing these people, Zhou Jing asked Ross to quietly bring Barong over.

"What's going on?"

Barong looked at the situation, his mind totally at a loss.

He was sleeping in the middle of the night when he suddenly sensed something and woke up in shock. When he saw a silhouette standing at his bedside, he was so frightened that his soul almost left his body. He nearly lashed out with his ax that was leaning beside him.

In the end, Barong heaved a sigh of relief when he realized that Ross was standing by his bed. He wondered how Ross had managed to silently enter his house.

If it was an assassin instead of Ross, he would have been in trouble.

Ross couldn't speak, so there was no way to explain what had happened. He pulled Barong along, motioning him towards the pharmacist's cabin.

Although Barong was surprised, he quickly put on his equipment and jogged over. The moment he entered, he saw what was happening. Zhou Jing was sitting on the only chair in the room while the witch doctor, Gamma, and three unfamiliar men were squatting in the corner.

Zhou Jing kicked Gamma, indicating for him to explain.

Gamma did not dare to hide anything, so he could only explain the situation with trepidation.

Soon, Barong understood what had happened.

"What?! You didn't save Will on purpose?!"

Barong was furious. He grabbed Gamma by the neck and lifted him up.

"Cough, cough, cough..." Gamma repeatedly coughed, unable to catch his breath.

Seeing this, Barong let go and let him fall to the ground.

"You're really good. You've been lying to our village... And you, someone from the potion shop, actually dared to sell defective hunter potions..."

Barong's chest heaved violently. He was so angry that he wished he could use his hands to split open their small skulls.

The few of them shivered and curled up into a ball.

Only then did Zhou Jing say, "I called you over to discuss how to deal with this matter."

The main world had a whole set of laws regarding corruption, but he did not know what the process was like if he were to encounter such a problem here, so he called Barong to ask.

Barong calmed down.

He pondered for a while before whispering into Zhou Jing's ear,

"We have to report this kind of vile behavior to the lord. They are important witnesses. We have to hand them over to the lord so that the corruption at the potion shop can be investigated thoroughly. Only then will there be no more hunters who can buy defective potions... Lutt must hate it when someone lies to his superiors and harms his interests. He won't let these two guys off. He will probably hang them."

“That’s fine.”

Zhou Jing nodded but started thinking inwardly.

There was no profit in killing someone, but if he reported this corruption to the lord, the lord would more or less express his gratitude.

Although he did not care much about the money in the Mutant World, he might be able to obtain more Astral Points or Information State Particles when he settled his projection earnings.

There were also the profits that Gamma had made over the years...

Zhou Jing thought of this and investigated the house thoroughly. In the end, he found a few secret compartments and took out two bulging money bags.

After a quick count, there were about seven to eight hundred Terra silver coins within.

Gamma’s face was ashen. These were the savings he had accumulated through selling potions.

Even for high-income mutant beast hunters, it was a huge sum of money. They could only earn it after hunting quite a few times.

“What should we do with this money?” Zhou Jing asked.

“What do you have in mind?” Barong asked.

Zhou Jing thought for a moment and shrugged. “You and I will take some and give some to the hunters. The rest can be handed over to the village. Anyway, a portion of it includes the labor of the villagers.”

“I thought you’d choose to take it all,” Barong said, a little surprised.

“I’m not interested in money.”

Zhou Jing waved his hand in dismissal.

At least in the Mutant World, this was the truth.

At this moment, Gamma could not help but plead.

“I’ve treated the villagers for so many years, even if I don’t have any achievements, you should factor in the labor I’ve done, right? Besides, if I didn’t sell the medicine, I wouldn’t have this money... Can you leave some for me?”

Amazing, this guy can really talk.

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows and snapped his fingers.

Ross immediately approached Gamma as he slowly drew his dagger.

“No! I don’t want it anymore!” Gamma shouted in horror.

“Wouldn’t it have been better if you had done this earlier?”

Zhou Jing waved his hand and got Ross to take out a cloth to gag them.

Barong ignored Gamma, pacing around the house for a while before saying in a deep voice, “Jason, set off tonight. Take these two to White Plains Town. There are guards at the grain collection team. If you leave during the day, you’ll bump into them. It’ll be troublesome to explain, and it’ll easily make them misunderstand that you kidnapped the grain collection people.”

“Alright, I’ll leave later.” Zhou Jing nodded. “What about you?”

“I’ll deal with the grain collection team in the village. You don’t have to worry about anything here,” Barong replied.

Hearing this, Zhou Jing did not delay and quickly went home to pack his things.

Then, he borrowed a beast mule from one of the farmers and loaded the boxes of defective medicine. Under cover of the night, he and Ross brought the goateed man and Gamma for the journey.

Barong stood at the entrance of the village and watched as Zhou Jing and the others disappeared into the night.

Chapter 89: New Mutant Blood Potion; Accumulation Of Conflict (1)

They traveled through the night and day. Zhou Jing personally escorted the goateed man and Gamma to White Plains Town.

When he arrived at the Lord’s House, he asked the guards to inform him of his intentions. He was welcomed in after waiting for a while and met Lord Lutt in the guest room.

“Jason, the guards said that you have something to report? Is there a mutant beast threat in Frostwood Village?”

Lutt was dressed in luxurious clothes. He glanced at the goateed man and Gamma before turning to ask Zhou Jing.

“No, it’s about the apothecary...”

Zhou Jing pushed the goateed man and Gamma, who was tied up, to the front and asked Ross to show a few boxes of inferior potions as evidence to explain their deal.

They did not dare not cooperate and confessed to the crime.

Hearing this, Lutt looked shocked. He narrowed his eyes at the two of them and said angrily, “Someone did such a thing behind my back? He used his position to sell his inventory for money and betrayed my trust!”

They looked at their lord in fear and did not dare to answer.

Lutt squatted down and popped the cork off a potion. When he saw the defective Hunter Potion within, he was furious and slapped the goateed man in the face.

Pak!

The goateed man was knocked to the ground, but he only covered his face and did not dare to look up.

“You want to die! How dare you use a hunter’s item for profit?!”

Lutt spoke sharply.

Then, he turned to look at Zhou Jing and said in a deep voice, “The Mutant Beast Hunters protect the people, thus the quality of all the supplies must be guaranteed first. This matter is of utmost importance. Don’t worry, I won’t let them off! I will investigate the apothecaries thoroughly and find out all the supervisors involved, as well as the village doctors who supplied them!”

“That’s good.” Zhou Jing nodded.

Lutt paused, then instructed, “Don’t tell anyone about this for now, lest these vermin hear about it and destroy the clues, causing chaos.”

You’re worried about them burning down all the storage in order to hide their crimes... Zhou Jing nodded silently.

Lutt looked at the goateed man and Gamma before speaking in a decisive tone, “Leave these two and this batch of inferior potions to me. I still have to interrogate them.”

“Alright.” Zhou Jing had no objections.

Barong only told him to report the situation and bring the two of them over. The lord would worry about the rest. After all, he was just an ordinary Mutant Beast Hunter, not a city law enforcer.

Only then did Lutt manage a smile. "Jason, your report was timely and protected my interests. Otherwise, I don't know how long I'll be deceived by them... Are you really not going to consider accepting my invitation and becoming my guard?"

"No need, I still prefer being a hunter."

"Fine." Lutt's face looked pitiful. Then he smiled. "You've done me a great service this time. I'm a generous man. I'm never stingy with my rewards."

As he spoke, he found the butler and whispered something to him. The butler hurriedly took his leave.

Not long after, the butler returned with a bulging money bag in his hand.

Lutt took the money bag and handed it to Zhou Jing. He said in a deep voice, "Here's a thousand Terra silver coins. This is my thanks to you."

"This much?" Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows.

"You deserve it." Lutt's tone was firm. "The losses you've prevented for me far exceeds this sum."

Well, if you were to raid this the goateed man's house, you would obtain far more than this...

Zhou Jing thought about it and was no longer surprised. He nodded and accepted it, throwing the money bag to Ross.

"I've already told you everything I know. I have nothing else to do here. I'll leave first."

Zhou Jing did not intend to stay here any longer. He bade farewell and left.

Lutt seemed to be busy interrogating the two of them. He did not try to persuade him to stay. He only reminded him once again not to let anything slip.

...

Zhou Jing brought Ross out of the lord's long house and greeted the guards beside him. Looking up, he realized that it was still early in the afternoon.

He suddenly received a huge sum of money, but he felt like he couldn't spend it... He definitely couldn't go to the apothecary, and there was no need to change his equipment for the time being. There didn't seem to be any place to spend it.

"It's still early. Let's go pay a visit to the workshop."

Every time he came to White Plains Town, the workshop was a must-see place to check if the products had been updated.

Zhou Jing came to the workshop with ease and got the list from the person in charge.

Compared to the last visit, the workshop had some new products... It seemed that the other hunters had been working hard recently.

"Steel-Feathered Eagle Beak Hammer, Violent Tooth Dragon Dagger..."

Zhou Jing glanced at the equipment. Most of them were useless to him.

He then looked at the list of Mutant Blood Potions. This was what he needed the most now.

His main goal now was to undergo a second enhancement. Thus he needed to make preparations early and see if there were any suitable potions to hold onto as backup.

Soon, Zhou Jing realized that his trip was not in vain.

Currently, there are three high-quality mutant blood potions in the workshop's inventory: The Snow-Winged Bat Potion, the Ground Rock Dragon Potion, and the Howling Wind Tiger Potion. The first two were medium-risk mutant beasts, while the last was a high-risk mutant beast.

"Howling Wind Tiger... This mutant beast is also famous for its agility, strength, and astonishing destructive power."

Zhou Jing was pleasantly surprised and immediately had the idea of using it.

Generally speaking, the subsequent enhancement of the mutant blood should try to resonate with the mutant blood potion that he had taken before. The success rate of the enhancement of the mutant blood potion would be higher, and the effect would be better.

Therefore, most mutant beast hunters would only consider the mutant blood potion of the same kind after the first enhancement. Barong was one of them.

As for his , he had used the Lightning Strike Leopard Potion for the first time. It was a leopard-type mutant beast, while the Howling Wind Tiger was a tiger-type mutant beast.

Although they were not of the same species, they were considered similar to felines, so it was a reasonable option.

Chapter 90: New Mutant Blood Potion; Accumulation Of Conflict (2)

Zhou Jing had a few hunting records in the White Plains Town Workshop and had a sufficient quota for exchange. So, without hesitation, he immediately asked the person in charge of the workshop for the Wind Howl Tiger Potion.

However, the person in charge of the workshop looked troubled.

“Jason, I’m sorry. This is a potion that someone else has reserved. He put down the order ahead of you.”

Zhou Jing was stunned.

It seemed like he was down on his luck this time.

Hunters could reserve a certain type of mutant blood potion in the workshop. Once the workshop had a potion that met their needs, they would prioritize supplying it to those who put down the reservations.

He had also made a reservation, but it had not been long since he joined after all. He wasn’t as prioritized compared to the older hunters.

“Who made the reservation?”

“It’s Captain Maggi.”

“...Say his name again?”

“Maggi.”

The person in charge of the workshop repeated it earnestly.

The corners of Zhou Jing’s mouth twitched as he suppressed his desire to laugh at this name.

After taking a deep breath, he quickly returned to the main topic and asked in curiosity.

“There doesn’t seem to be such a person in the hunter list of White Plains Town.”

“Maggi is not a Mutant Hunter. He is the captain of Lord Lutt’s personal guard. He is a First Enhancement Mutant Blood Warrior,” the workshop manager explained.

“So he’s part of the lord’s guards...”

Zhou Jing came to a realization and frowned.

“That’s not right. He’s not even a hunter. Why should he make a reservation at the workshop?”

The most important task of the workshop was to ensure that the hunters were supplied with various products.

According to the rules, only mutant beast hunters could make an appointment at the workshop. The others did not have the right to make an appointment. Even if they spent money to buy it, they could only buy it on the spot. Their priority in the queue was lower than hunters.

“Uh, he’s the Captain of the lord’s guards after all... The lord specially told me to allow this person to enjoy the treatment of a hunter.” The workshop manager’s tone was tactful.

“Well, I don’t care. Anyway, I want this potion.”

Zhou Jing decisively expressed his stance.

If the person who made the appointment was a working Mutant Beast Hunter, he would not mind discussing it with the other person. If the other party was unwilling, he would not force him even if he felt that it was a pity.

But this was for a personal guard who didn’t have to participate in hunting. They didn’t know each other, nor would they fight side by side. He wouldn’t do such a thankless task.

The main function of the Hunter Workshop was to serve the Mutant Beast Hunters. Mutant Blood Warriors who were not hunters should not have the privilege of being hunters.

“This is against the rules...” The workshop manager was conflicted.

Zhou Jing directly interrupted, “You let a non-hunter Mutant Blood Warrior make a reservation, and put him in front of the hunters. That’s is also against the rules.”

The manager rubbed his forehead helplessly, “If you take this potion away and Maggi asks, I’ll to explain to him.”

“Then why don’t you just not tell him about the potion?”

“The problem is that I already informed him yesterday to come and get it...” The workshop manager smiled bitterly.

“So you’re blaming me choosing such a perfect time?”

Zhou Jing raised his eyebrows.

At this moment, a burly man with a fierce face walked into the workshop. This person was wearing guard armor with a shield on his back and a long sword at his waist.

He looked around and quickly caught sight of the manager. He immediately walked over.

Seeing this, the manager had a subtle expression on his face. He looked at Zhou Jing and whispered.

“It seems like you really came at the perfect time. That guy is Maggi. He’s here to pick up the goods. You can talk to him yourself.”

At this moment, Maggi walked forward and looked at Zhou Jing strangely. However, he ignored him and greeted the workshop manager instead.

“Where’s the Wind Howl Tiger Potion I wanted? I’m here to collect it.”

“Ahem...” The workshop manager coughed and pointed at Zhou Jing. “Something happened. Jason has his eyes on the Wind Howl Tiger Potion. He wants it too.”

Maggi was stunned, then he said unhappily, “Didn’t you say I was the first in line for the reservation? What right do you have to let him cut the line?”

“I think you’re the one cutting the line,” Zhou Jing interrupted.

“Are you joking with me?” Maggi sneered. “Or has your brain been damaged by the mutant beasts? Can’t you tell who came first?”

Zhou Jing rolled his eyes and pointed at his feet. “Do you know where this is?”

“The Hunter’s Workshop. What nonsense are you talking about?” Maggi frowned.

“Then are you a hunter? Are you qualified to make a reservation at the workshop?”

“So what if I’m not? When the lord hired me, he allowed me to enjoy the treatment of the workshop like the hunters.” Maggi snorted. “These are the lord’s order. You can shut up and scam to the side. Anyway, this potion is mine.”

Zhou Jing was about to continue when a solemn and cold voice sounded from the side.

“A person who doesn’t have to risk his life to fight against Mutant Beast can actually obtain the same authority as a mutant beast hunter. Now, he’s even showing off in front of a hunter...”

Everyone turned to look.

Everyone watched as Weber walked in from the entrance, slowly sauntering up to Maggi. He stepped forward until his forehead was almost touching the other party’s before replying in an indifferent tone.

“You should get lost.”

Hearing this, Maggi instantly flared up.

He suddenly pushed Weber in the chest and shouted, “Stop putting on airs in front of me. I’m the Captain of the lord’s guards. Get away from me!”

As soon as he finished speaking...

Whoosh!

The sound of a blade being drawn suddenly rang out.

The blade that flowed with a cold light instantly pressed against Maggi’s neck.

The bone-chilling cold of the steel froze Maggi in place.

Maggi looked out of the corner of his eye, his gaze following the arm holding the knife. The endpoint was Zhou Jing’s face.

“I advise you not to lose your temper. It’s best if you leave now.” Zhou Jing shook his head.

Maggi was so angry that he laughed. “You tried to snatch what belongs to someone else, and you’re even threatening them with a blade now! Come and take a look. This is the behavior of a Mutant Beast Hunter!”

Chapter 91: New Mutant Blood Potion; Accumulation Of Conflict (3)

Meanwhile, Weber patted the dust off his chest as he solemnly added.

“We risked our lives for our rights. Instead of fighting the mutant beasts to protect the town, you sit here and show off your “privileges.” And you still think you have the moral high ground?”

“You keep bring up that ‘I’ve made a contribution, so I’m superior’ card again! Stealing is stealing. Don’t try to find an excuse for it!”

Maggi glared at the two of them and cursed loudly.

Then, he pointed at Zhou Jing’s nose and said angrily.

“Come, come, come. I’m part of the Lord’s guard. If you have the ability, cut me down. Let me see if your blade is that sharp!”

“Correction, that potion you reserved isn’t something you should be able to reserve. Strictly speaking, it’s not yours.”

As Zhou Jing spoke, he exerted a little force on his wrist, causing the blade to press against Maggi’s neck and draw a line of blood.

“And... aggravating someone who can threaten your life is not a wise choice.”

Maggi felt the sting on his neck, and his face twitched as if he wanted to be stubborn till the end.

But in the end, he judged the situation to not be in his favor. He raised his hands and stepped back.

Leaving the range of the blade, Maggi wiped his hand across his neck and felt the wet blood.

He suddenly looked up at Zhou Jing and said hoarsely, “Good, you’re really good!”

With that, he turned around and left.

Zhou Jing resisted the urge to go up and lop off his hand, instead sheathing his saber and only clicking his tongue. He looked at the person in charge. “You can give me the potion now.”

“Sigh, alright...”

The manager could only sigh and move to the warehouse to collect the potion.

Only then did Zhou Jing look at Weber and nod, “Thank you.”

Webber shook his head. “It was just a small matter. I came to look at the workshop’s equipment and happened to bump into you. Naturally, I’ll stand on your side... Besides, I hate that group of Lord’s guards.”

Zhou Jing nodded. This was not a surprise to him.

It was not the first time the Mutant Beast Hunters had looked down on the Lord’s guards. The conflict had been accumulating for a long time.

Facing ordinary people, the Mutant Beast Hunters treated them the same normally.

However, the hunters were domineering towards the Lord’s guards.

To guards that didn’t dare to fight the mutant beasts, they still expected hunters—who risked their own lives—to give them preferential treatment.

The hunters could understand the guard’s choice, but they hoped that they would have some self-awareness. If they caught sight of the hunters themselves, they should get out of their sight lest they dirty the hunter’s eyes. Even better, not shamelessly taking their rights.

Zhou Jing did not have a good attitude towards the Lord’s guards. If the mutant blood potion he liked was reserved by a hunter, he would give him face and wait for other suitable mutant blood potions in the future.

However, since the other party was a lord’s guard, he could not be bothered to give in at all. He did not feel any psychological pressure at all... He just wanted it. There was no need to pretend.

Weber suddenly asked, “By the way, will you be free recently?”

“Why? Do you want to hunt together?”

“Yes, there’s a fatal-risk mutant beast lurking at the edge of White Plains Town. I plan to organize a hunting team to deal with it, lest it threatens the surroundings of White Plains Town. Do you want to come?”

“I’ll think about it. If I’m free, I’ll be there.”

Zhou Jing didn’t agree immediately. He wasn’t sure if he would be able to project himself down during that time.

They chatted for a while before the workshop manager finally returned and handed the Howling Wind Tiger potion to Zhou Jing.

Zhou Jing put away the potion, waved goodbye to Weber, and headed to the Hunter Tavern.

The workshop manager watched Zhou Jing leave before shaking his head and spoke hesitatingly.

“Maggi is the captain of the guards. Is it okay to offend him?”

“What could possibly go wrong?” Weber turned to look at him and said calmly, “Which is more important, a hunter who hunts mutant beasts for the masses or a bunch of useless guards?”

...

On the other side, in a dungeon under the leader’s house.

The torches crackled and burned, and the light was dim.

Lutt looked at the goateed man and Gamma kneeling in front of him, his face cold.

He rubbed the ring and said coldly, “I’ve said before that the Hunter Potions are our bottom line, but you don’t seem to take it seriously. You still dared to do this deal behind my back... Why? You can’t get enough?”

The goateed man hurriedly crouched on the ground, trembling.

Beside him, Gamma didn’t care. He knelt down and moved towards Lutt, begging in a trembling voice.

“My Lord, I don’t know anything about their business at all. I’m just reselling potions. I’ll sell them if they pay. I don’t know anything about what they’re doing in private. My crime isn’t that serious. Can you let...”

Swoosh!

A blade flashed.

Gamma’s face froze as she stared at the jeweled dagger in Lutt’s hand. It was now pressed against his neck, drawing blood.

“Don’t, don’t kill...”

“Shut up.”

Lutt kicked Gamma to the wall, then took out a handkerchief and slowly wiped the blood off his jeweled dagger. He looked at Goatee, who was lying on the ground, not daring to move.

“Now tell me the information you told that hunter again. With this pharmacist as a witness, tell me everything.”

The goateed man said in a trembling voice, “Cousin, no one knows about our relationship. I definitely didn’t betray you!”

Gamma was stunned by this sentence.

Lutt narrowed his eyes and sneered to himself when he heard his words.

Chapter 92: Plot (1)

Seeing that Lutt did not speak, the goateed man repeated the words he said to Zhou Jing before concluding in trepidation.

“...I didn’t tell the Mutant Beast Hunter the truth. I made him believe that this was just a matter of reselling the stock of potions, thinking that it was just a matter of money and that I was responsible for everything. I used this reason to bet that he would bring me to you to deal with. That’s why I can come back alive and report the situation to you.”

“You reacted quickly.”

Lutt did not agree or disagree with his action.

The goateed and hurriedly continued, “It’s all a forethought and a reason... I’ve already stabilized the problem of that hunter.”

Hearing this, Lutt snorted. “You want to take credit? You’ve already made a mistake when you were captured.”

“No, I don’t dare.” the goateed man hurriedly lowered his head.

Lutt said in a low voice, “Not only were you caught red-handed, but you also interfered in the Hunter Potions business without telling me... I told you not to touch the Hunter’s section. It seems that you’ve grown bold. You really want to make a profit behind my back. Are the other blood relatives of the tribe that you planted also doing the same thing now?”

“I-I don’t know.” The goateed man trembled.

Lutt slapped his face hard in response.

“Don’t forget why the tribe and I asked you to do such a thing. To think you’re actually scheming of making money through this. Are you not thinking clearly? Are you also embezzling the resources that are secretly transported back to the tribe every year?”

“No! I didn’t! I didn’t dare!” The goateed man defended himself in fear. “I didn’t lose any of the supplies that should have been handed over to the tribe. I only secretly replaced some of the Hunter Potions in the apothecary. I didn’t dare to touch anything else!”

“That better be the case.”

Lutt squinted at the goateed man as he snapped.

He then straightened up and paced around the dungeon.

“Speaking of which, I’ve checked the background of that hunter called Jason. He suddenly appeared around Frostwood Village half a year ago. There were no records of him before, and he was very mysterious and suspicious... However, he was the one who discovered your actions.”

“Your mean...?” the goateed man jerked up in shock.

Lutt frowned. “This man’s origins are unknown. He might be a secret envoy sent by the Empire. If the Empire senses something and sends someone to investigate, that won’t be good.”

The Empire had people in charge of checking the accounts in every town and city. Even if they could be bribed, whatever evidence they got hold of would be a card to use against them.

Even if the goateed man was found out, he could be disguised as an individual acting on his greed. It would have nothing to do with the lord and White Plains Town itself.

It was not so easy to trace it back to the Lord himself.

Lutt closed his eyes briefly as various thoughts raced through his mind.

Although the lord could monopolize many things and had a high degree of autonomy, the Terra Empire always wished to have the final say.

There was more than one town in the Empire. If they went too far on the surface, others would just move to another town. Therefore, many things could only be done in private.

For example, the collaborative pharmacists in the apothecary. As a feudal lord, he was only responsible for collecting taxes. The goods were not considered his just because

they had entered his inventory. He had to guarantee the profits of the pharmacists who were collaborating with him. Otherwise, no one would join him. Hence, he could only use the insider operation of replacing the inventory.

However, the Hunter Potions was considered as an option for replacement. The hunters were an important force in protecting the town. Thus Lutt did not want anything to happen to the Hunters. He was, in fact, counting on more hunters whose minds were filled with honor to be willing to sacrifice themselves.

However, the people below secretly extended their hands and pushed their luck to obtain more benefits. As someone detached from this, he could not immediately discover the embezzling.

The matter of the potion shop was only the tip of the iceberg. The blacksmith shop, armor workshop, grain shop, and other facilities all had different insider operations.

As a lord, he controlled the tax collection rights of the city. Of course, it was not for money. He was not short of money.

He was not only the Lord of White Plains Town but also the current leader of his tribe. His dual identity brought about benefits from both the light and dark factions.

Their goal was to transport all kinds of supplies to the tribe, stockpile them, and accumulate the strength of the tribe.

As for the price of the inferior goods, it would be borne by the town residents and the passing merchants. In any case, the quality was slightly poor, but no one would die.

White Plains Town used to be a tribal settlement. Later on, it was transformed into a city and accepted foreign residents. However, the tribe members quietly moved out and established a secret settlement in a new place.

To Lutt, the town residents were just productive forces that generated profits for him.

White Plains Town was just a business, while his tribe was his foundation.

Due to the history of White Plains Town, the Terra Empire allowed his tribe to continue leading the town and let the tribe leader become the lord, so the position of lord became him naturally.

However, his position still wasn't secure. The Empire could take his appointment, covet new cities, and appoint imperial officials to "parachute" down as lords. Should they then listen or not?

(TL Note: Parachute means for people who are given preferential treatment to enter a company or be promoted because they know someone high ranking that can take care of them.)

Using the town to feed the tribe was his plan.

The Terra Empire had been building new towns and moving its people over. Because there was no historical reason for the new cities, they could parachute lords without any obstruction. Therefore, batches of “new nobles” who had created new surnames were created to compete with their tribal blood relatives.

Therefore, Lutt could tell that the Terra Empire wanted to consolidate its royal power and slowly disintegrate the deep-rooted power of the tribe... In fact, this process had been pushed forward since the establishment of the Empire.

Based on the survival environments maintained by the tribe, groups of people could live together and constantly integrate, annex, and accept outsiders, making the world acknowledge themselves as members of the tribe. And with the survival environment maintained by the Empire, people acknowledged themselves as citizens of the Empire.

The change in the living environment and identity brought about a violent shake to the foundation of the tribe.

In the foreseeable future, as the trend developed, the situation would become increasingly disadvantageous to the tribe.

Chapter 93: Plot (2)

The times were changing. He couldn't do anything.

Someone had once said these words to him, given him an outlook of the situation, and invited him to participate in an extremely wide-ranging plan...

Lutt had agreed.

Everything he was doing now was largely based on this plan.

He would accumulate strength and wait for the day that person would raise his arm and summon them.

Various thoughts flashed through his mind, but Lutt's face did not show any of his thoughts. He only slowly spoke,

“Other than this hunter named Jason, only Barong knows about this plan?”

“Yes, I only told the two of them... but I’m not sure if they told anyone else.”

“Although your reason fooled them, they have already noticed the situation in the apothecary. In the future, we will also be restrained... especially Jason, who is suspected to be the Empire’s secret envoy.”

Lutt’s tone faltered before he continued gravely.

“Regarding your tampering of the Hunter Potions, I’ll deal with you after this. For now, let me think about how to deal with the current problem first.”

With that, he turned to look at Gamma.

Gamma leaned against the corner, trembling, his face filled with despair.

From the beginning, he had wanted to shout, “Stop talking, I don’t want to hear it!”

After knowing so much, would I still be allowed to live?

However, the two of them did not avoid talking in front of him at all. It was obvious that they were prepared to silence him.

“D-Don’t kill me. I didn’t hear anything. I...”

Before Gamma could finish, Lutt gestured behind him.

Swish!

A stone shot through the air, accurately piercing through Gamma’s forehead.

A bloody hole appeared. Gamma’s eyes widened as he fell to the ground, dead.

From the shadows of the dungeon, a man with a buzz cut slowly walked out. He rubbed his fingers together, wiping away the bits of lime that stained them.

Just now, he had flicked a stone and killed Gamma in one go.

Lutt looked at him and could not help himself. “How on earth did you do that with your hands? I had the other guards flick stones like you did and the stones shattered instead.”

“It’s a technique on exerting strength.” The buzz-cut man was expressionless, not wanting to say more.

Lutt shook his head and did not dwell on it. He quickly found the jailer, who had been asked to step aside for a moment to deal with the matter here. He then left the dungeon and returned to his residence.

As soon as he entered, a servant came to report.

“My lord, Captain Maggi is looking for you. He seems to have been injured.”

“Oh? I’ll go take a look.”

Lutt made his way to the Guest House. Maggi was already waiting there, his neck bandaged.

“What happened to you?” Lutt was surprised.

Maggi suddenly stood up and said indignantly, “My lord, you hired me previously and said that I had the right to use the Hunter’s Workshop, but a Mutant Beast Hunter just snatched my things and cut me...”

He rattled off an explanation before Lutt understood what was going on.

So this person had come to complain. He had actually gotten into a conflict with Jason over the Hunter’s Workshop resources.

Lutt’s eyes narrowed as he considered this before looking at the indignant Maggi.

“This matter is indeed a little overbearing. My promise to you is still valid... How about this? Take my other guards with you. After Jason leaves the city, find a deserted place to stop him and snatch back the potion you want.”

Maggi was startled, then his surprise turned to joy.

He was only here to complain and did not expect his lord to do anything to the group of domineering Mutant Beast Hunters. But he did not expect Lutt to show such unconditional support towards him!

He was lucky.?The lord’s brain is fried today, siding with me instead of the hunters! Or did the lord feel that his authority had been provoked?

Maggi got lost in a moment of his own fantasy.

At this moment, Lutt rubbed his chin and said, “Invite him back as well. I want to talk to him in person.”

“How am I supposed to invite him back?” asked Maggi.

“Think about it yourself. Don’t kill anyone. It’s enough if you teach him a lesson. By the way, remember to avoid the eyes and ears of the other hunters when bringing Jason to me.”

“Alright! Then I’ll go gather the people.”

Maggi left excitedly.

Seeing this, Lutt’s eyes flashed.

He was originally still thinking about how to deal with Zhou Jing, who knew the truth. Even if he wanted to let his guards take action, it would be difficult to find a reason. It would be difficult for the lord to explain his motive for attacking a Mutant Beast Hunter, and it would easily anger the other hunters.

Just as he was thinking about what reason to create, Maggi came knocking on his door... He immediately had a reason to seek revenge.

Lutt planned to capture Jason and interrogate him about his origins. He wanted to see if he was part of the Empire’s secret envoy before silencing him.

But they might hold back when they attack him. They might even end up killing Jason on the spot.

Whichever the case, his final statement would be that this was Maggi’s personal revenge. It was not his intention to fake an order to mobilize the guards. He would then execute this person to appease the hunters’ anger.

Although it was a pity to lose a Mutant Blood Warrior Guard, it was fine to kill a fellow who kept saying that he was a lord’s guard and going around causing trouble for himself.

In any case, as long as there was a Mutant Blood Potion, a new Mutant Blood Warrior could always be born.

As for the other insider, Barong, Lutt had no intention of letting him go.

Although Barong seemed to believe the fabricated story, he could still spread the news everywhere. The more attention they received, the greater the risk.

Frostwood Village would have to be discussed at length. As long as Barong did not leak it, there was no need to worry about it. Lutt was not very willing to damage any villages under his rule. This was all free labor... However, this Gamma was the village’s witch doctor. Now that he was gone, Barong should have to explain himself to the rest. It would be very troublesome.

If he wanted to attack, he couldn't just send troops. Soldiers could not be trusted. It was best to think of a way to get the mutated beasts to do it for him...

Lutt's mind spun with potential plans.

...

After Zhou Jing left the workshop, he went straight to the Hunter Tavern. As expected, he found Weiss here.

At this moment, there were many hunters in the tavern as well. When they saw Zhou Jing push open the door and enter, they raised their glasses in greeting.

"Yo, Jason's here."

"Let's go hunting together one day."

"Why don't I see Barong? Did you come out to have fun yourself?"

Zhou Jing smiled at everyone before sitting down opposite Weiss.

"Why did you come over so quickly?"

Weiss smiled and took a sip of wine, even as he took out a money bag and placed it on the table before pushing it towards Zhou Jing.

"This is the money from the last time the prey was sold. Your share and Barong's."

Zhou Jing opened the bag and counted only 150 silver coins inside.

"There's not much this time."

"It's only three low-risk beasts. How expensive can it be?" Weiss rolled his eyes.

Zhou Jing calculated that he now had a huge sum of around 1,400 silver coins.

The bulging money bag was currently being carried by Ross on his back, making him look like a thief who had successfully broken into a vault.

Weiss noticed it too and exclaimed, "D*mn, you're rich! Where did you get so much money?"

"It's just some easy gains I managed to stumble upon."

Zhou Jing shook his head in response.

Seeing this, Weiss didn't ask further.

After chatting with Weiss and the other hunters in the tavern for a while and looking at the recent report on the whereabouts of the mutant beasts, Zhou Jing left with Ross.

There was not much time left before his projection would end. He planned to quickly bring the money back to Frostwood Village and then use the Howling Wind Tiger Potion that he had just obtained to see if he could complete the second enhancement.

Although it had only been three months since the last enhancement, with the help of his accelerated cultivation speed, the results of his physical training were the same as that of ordinary people who had been doing so for several years.

After bidding farewell to Weiss and the other hunters, Zhou Jing did not delay. He immediately left the city and embarked on the journey back to Frostwood Village.

...

The paved road slowly narrowed and became a dirt road.

Just as he was passing through a forest on the road, Zhou Jing suddenly stopped in his tracks, sensing some hidden movements in the forest.

"Who?"

Zhou Jing scanned his surroundings.

As soon as he finished speaking, seven figures came out from behind the trees in all directions.

He recognized them immediately. Most of the seven were familiar, as they were Lutt's personal guards.

The person at the front was Maggi, his face full of ill intentions.

"Tsk."

Zhou Jing clicked his tongue and gently pressed his hands on the hilt of the saber.

Chapter 94: Slaughter (1)

Seven of the lord's guards walked out from the forest by the road and vaguely formed a circle around Zhou Jing.

Zhou Jing held the hilt of his saber as he looked around. Finally, his gaze landed on Maggi.

He had just had a conflict with this person, and now he dared to ambush him with so many guards.

When did the lord's guards become so arrogant that they dared to deal with the hunters like this? Even if he had a conflict with Maggi, how could the other lord's guards not care about the consequences?

There's something wrong. There must be something fishy behind this...

Zhou Jing narrowed his eyes.

"Is something wrong?"

Hearing this, Maggi said arrogantly, "The lord wants to see you. Put down your blade and come with us obediently."

"So did he ask you to barricade me halfway like this?"

Zhou Jing was unmoved.

Maggi made no attempt to hide his malice. "The lord has said that if you resist, we can teach you a lesson and bring you back, as long as we don't kill you."

"Taking me back in this way... What's the reason?"

"What do you think? You stole my things, and even the lord can't stand your domineering behavior. He specially allowed me to teach you a lesson and capture you!" Maggi touched the wound on his neck that was bandaged. The more he spoke, the angrier he became. "Do you think you can bully us just because you're a hunter? I'll teach you a lesson today!"

Hearing this, the other lord's guards rushed towards Zhou Jing from all directions, their faces filled with eagerness and joy.

It was not the first time the Mutant Beast Hunters had looked down on them. Every day, they would glare at them coldly as if they were disgusted at being in the same area as them.

Between people or between groups, there would be emotional likes and dislikes. It would not be easily eliminated just because others had done a good deed.

Emotions went both ways. Even if the hunters protected the town, it didn't matter to them. Their disdainful attitude had long dispelled whatever gratitude the guards had.

The many guards were not forcing the hunters to look up to them. They had only been dissatisfied with the hunters' attitude and only felt resentful.

The hunter is great, the hunter is noble... but what's wrong with us earning money by being hired? Why are you showing off your superiority every day?!

Who isn't a Mutant Blood Warrior here?

Every time they saw the hunter's disdainful looks, the guards wanted to beat them up.

However, the status of hunters was special. They usually could only swallow their anger. Now that they had a rare opportunity to teach the hunters a lesson, they could not wait to vent their pent-up anger.

This time, not only were they following orders, but they were also using this as an excuse to cause trouble. Their emotional motives were strong.

Although other than Maggi, the others did not have any grudges against Zhou Jing... But Zhou Jing was a Mutant Beast Hunter. Since he was a member of this group, he would pay the price for their actions. They did not care who it was, as long as it was a hunter.

"The lord sent you..."

Zhou Jing's mind raced.

The reason definitely had nothing to do with the reason Maggi had mentioned.

Not long ago, he had just handed over two fellows who had insider dealings to the lord, but the lord had actually turned hostile so quickly... If it was so sudden, it should be related to this matter.

Did a powerful insider hear the news and try to attack me? Or is this order really from the lord?

Either Lutt had other plans, someone had used the excuse of the lord's order to mobilize the guards or Maggi had become bold and was trying to cause trouble behind the lord's back...

All kinds of guesses flashed through Zhou Jing's mind.

At this moment, Maggi leaned forward, feeling that he had the upper hand, and sneered.

"There's no one supporting you now. Aren't you domineering? Try being domineering again!"

Whoosh!

Zhou Jing drew his saber and slashed out.

Maggi was shocked. He did not expect Zhou Jing to raise his weapon without a word and quickly raised his own shield.

Crack!

The blade cut into the edge of the shield, creating a nick.

Zhou Jing slammed on the shield, and a powerful force erupted, allowing him to strike hard using his shoulder.

Peng!

Wood chips flew everywhere as the shield exploded into bits!

Maggi stumbled back and was almost knocked over.

Before he could stabilize his body, a cold blade light suddenly approached.

Maggi hurriedly blocked with his sword.

Clang!

The blade pressed against the sword.

Zhou Jing held the saber in one hand and pressed the back of the saber with the other.

Maggi only felt a huge force coming at him, making it difficult for him to resist. His legs went limp, and he fell to his knees.

Veins popped out on his face. He held the sword tightly with both hands and fought against the long saber crossed against his sword.

However, his strength was inferior to his opponent. The blade slowly approached his head in an unstoppable manner.

Maggi looked at the approaching blade and the expressionless face of Zhou Jing behind him. His heart could not help but tremble.

This person really wanted to kill him!

How dare you do so when you're surrounded by so many people!

Maggi was furious.

He had expected that Zhou Jing would be afraid of the number of people and would most likely not dare to attack. He could humiliate him and take back the Mutant Blood Potion before bringing Zhou Jing back to the lord.

However, he did not expect Zhou Jing to be so unyielding and directly attack...

In that case, there was no way to end this simply.

Does he not care about the situation at all?

Aren't you afraid of angering us and getting killed on the spot?!

Zhou Jing's attack was sudden and fast. The other guards were shocked, and only then did they react. Without a word, they drew their weapons and surrounded him.

Everyone felt their anger boil.

A hunter still dared to behave atrociously when they were surrounded. They simply did not take them seriously. Does he really think we can't do anything to the hunters?!

"Tsk."

Zhou Jing sensed the danger approaching from behind and kicked Maggi away. He turned around to block the attacks of the few of them and started fighting against all of them.

Chapter 95: Slaughter (2)

No matter what the motives of this group of people were, he couldn't put down his blade to be captured. Since he could not resolve this peacefully, Zhou Jing did not hesitate to take action.

These lord's guards were all Mutant Blood Warriors who had undergone their First Enhancement like him. They had basic strengthened physical fitness and had practiced combat skills for many years. Therefore, they could not be killed instantly like ordinary people.

Maggi became the captain of the lord's guard, so he at least had some ability. Although he was in a sorry state when he faced the attack, he at least blocked the attack. Zhou Jing realized he could not kill the other party immediately, so he turned around to engage the other six people.

Although he could technically fight against all of them individually within a group fight, that was under the premise that the others could not severely injure him immediately.

He was facing a group of enemies with sharp weapons. If he was not careful, he would have more than ten bloody holes on his body in the blink of an eye.

The basic attributes of Jason Wood, an , were already higher than ordinary people. After the enhancement of the Mutant Blood, his strength was close to those who had undergone their Second Enhancement. If it was a one-on-one battle against a First Enhancement Mutant Blood Warrior, he would be able to slash him until he could not fight back.

If it was one against two, the chances of winning were high.

One against three was difficult, but he could still try.

However, one against seven... This was beyond his limit. Although the effect of his First Enhancement was good, his physical fitness was not so overwhelming.

However, it was not easy to calculate scenarios for a battle. Real-time reactions and changes were more important. Even if one had a strong physique, one had to know how to unleash it to have considerable combat strength.

Clang! Clang! Clang!

A cold light flashed in the field as weapons collided frequently.

The seven lord's guards attacked together with their sabers, axes, and spears—constantly filling in the gaps between the others' attacks. At every moment, they attacked Zhou Jing from multiple directions.

Zhou Jing's dual sabers spun like the wind, and the saber light was like a shield, blocking the continuous attacks of the seven weapons.

He did not have any martial arts techniques but relied on his enhanced speed and reaction speed, as well as his accurate observation of the enemy's movements, to fight proficiently with his sabers.

Under the siege of the seven people, Zhou Jing was extremely valiant. He rolled around in the crowd, and his saber light flickered without any signs of letting up.

Maggi had just been attacked and was kicked in the chest. At this moment, blood was at the corner of his mouth as he rejoined the siege.

He slashed and stabbed fiercely, but he was constantly intercepted by Zhou Jing's quick saber midway. His weapons were easily blocked to the side and could not hit him. From

time to time, he was almost hit by Zhou Jing's counterattack, and a cold sweat broke out on his back.

His attacks never worked. Maggi was shocked and angry.

Seven against one should have been easy. They would still stand a chance even against a Second Enhancement Mutant Blood Warrior. However, Zhou Jing's combat strength did not make sense.

Everyone is at the First Enhancement, so why were you the only one who's so showy?!

After exchanging blows for a while, the seven lord's guards had already realized that Zhou Jing was not easy to deal with. Not only was his strength higher than theirs, but he was also extremely agile.

That was not all. The most important thing was that their combat strength was astonishing when they really fought. His two blades would always block the attacks from unexpected angles. Even when surrounded by seven people, he still had the time to counterattack.

He was a little too good at fighting!

"Surround him and trap him!"

Everyone immediately stopped fighting and surrounded Zhou Jing with their weapons. They wanted to use their bodies to trap Zhou Jing so he had no room to dodge or block.

The advantage now was that they had more people. As long as they worked together to suppress Zhou Jing and lock his hands and feet, Zhou Jing would lose his space and be unable to continue fighting.

Zhou Jing could tell what the seven of them were planning. He crossed his blades and slashed out a few times in different directions.

Every time, at least three people would work together to slash at him, causing sparks to fly.

As he was surrounded, there was less and less room for him to turn around. Wounds gradually appeared on his body, and his flesh was cut by the cold steel.

"Tsk."

Zhou Jing's eyes darted around as he observed.

Dealing with seven people at the same time consumed more energy and stamina. Although he could hold on for a while, he could not seize the opportunity to severely injure any enemy.

As long as there were any signs of pursuit, the other enemies would immediately join forces to restrain him and save their companions.

As the weapons came and went, danger flashed past his eyes many times, igniting his fighting spirit even more.

If I don't want to pay the price, I can't cause the other party to lose members...

Zhou Jing took a deep breath and suddenly held it.

An electric current flowed through his body in an instant, and he immediately entered the "Thunder Strike" state.

Zhou Jing stepped on the ground with both feet and suddenly sped up. He suddenly jumped towards Maggi like a bolt of lightning.

Whoosh!

Maggi's vision blurred, and he realized that Zhou Jing was in front of him.

He hurriedly raised his sword, and the two guards beside him also attacked Zhou Jing simultaneously.

Zhou Jing's gaze did not waver.

The long sword slashed down. On both sides were short spears and sabers, and there were still others chasing behind.

The explosive power of the Thunder Strike state caused his muscles to instantly pump out astonishing strength.

Zhou Jing turned his body slightly to avoid the attacks from both sides.

Then, he crossed his two blades and slashed out.

Clang!

The powerful explosive force of the two blades directly broke through Maggi's stance and knocked him away.

Maggi hurriedly leaned back and almost bent his back to prevent himself from being beheaded. However, the tip of the blade still slashed across his face, and blood instantly filled his vision.

“Ah!”

Maggi screamed and retreated as if he had touched fire.

A deep wound appeared on the corner of his mouth from his forehead to the other side. The bridge of his nose had been cut off, and blood was flowing out. If he had not retreated in time, his face would have been split open by Zhou Jing’s saber!

Chapter 96: Slaughter (3)

At the same time, the attacks from the two lord’s guards landed on Zhou Jing.

The short spear on the right grazed his waist, drawing a deep bloody mark. The saber on the left, originally aimed at his neck, ended up slashing at Zhou Jing’s left shoulder.

There was a splutter as blood sprayed.

Zhou Jing took advantage of the situation and lowered his shoulder to deflect the force. The right blade he had just slashed out turned around to cut off the enemy’s left arm.

The guard on the left quickly let go, not wanting his arm to be amputated.

At the same time, Zhou Jing’s feet did not stop. He raised his leg and stepped on the short spear on his right that was about to fly up. He relied on the momentum to flip himself up.

In the next second, he leaped into the air and quickly pounced at the enemy on his left, his speed half a beat faster than previously executed.

His left hand stabbed forward.

Psssh!

The saber pierced through the throat.

Zhou Jing did not halt his momentum. He held the saber and nailed the guard whose throat had been pierced by the blade to the ground.

The guard’s eyes widened as if he could not believe everything that had happened. He reached out randomly, wanting to grab his pierced throat.

However, Zhou Jing did not stop. He quickly ran forward to dodge the attacks coming from behind, pulling out his saber.

Pfft!

A geyser of blood spurted out from the guard's pierced throat.

Zhou Jing's back suffered a few attacks, but because he was charging forward, the slashes did not go deep.

After taking a few steps, he turned around and slashed out.

The sweeping blade forced back the rest of the people who were chasing after him. They dispersed and surrounded him, eyeing him warily.

Only then did Zhou Jing have the chance to observe his surroundings again.

He only saw that the wound on Maggi's face was bleeding profusely, giving him the look of a demon.

Meanwhile, the lord's guard whose throat had been pierced was convulsing on the ground, only left with a dying struggle.

The other five were shocked and furious as if they didn't expect Zhou Jing to be so fierce and suddenly kill one of them.

In the blink of an eye, one was dead, and one was injured.

Zhou Jing let out a breath that he had been holding in. His entire body was drenched in sweat, and the soreness from the Thunder Strike surged up.

He pulled out a saber that had been embedded in his shoulder. The wounds on his body were burning, but the pain was not as intense as he had imagined.

His endurance seemed to be suppressing the pain, and his injuries did not affect his movements much.

"Is it the [Tenacious] talent taking effect..."

Zhou Jing's heart trembled slightly at the realization.

The "Thunder Strike" state consumed a lot of stamina. Although the instantaneous explosion had reduced the enemy's numbers, the enemy's attack was not slow, and he was also injured as a result.

He could repeat this move at most two or three more times, but the enemy was also prepared and would not be so easy to kill.

Zhou Jing quickly estimated that with his current strength, he might be able to kill two or three more people if he continued to fight. However, his chances of winning were not high with the accumulation of injuries and fatigue.

After all, his strengthened physique did not form an absolute suppression. In a seven-on-one battle, the disadvantage was stacked against him.

As Zhou Jing was thinking, the enemy surrounded him again.

One of the lord's guards, however, did not step forward. Instead, he turned his head and walked towards Ross.

From the moment they started fighting, Ross had been holding his luggage and standing blankly at the side.

Many guards were on guard against him, preventing him from participating in the battle or escaping at any time.

However, Ross did not move at all. He stood there silently like a fool without any presence.

Previously, when they saw that he did not move, the guards were surprised and did not immediately send people to deal with him.

After all, most of the guards only wanted to teach him a lesson and did not have the intention to kill a Mutant Beast Hunter.

However, now that Zhou Jing had killed one person without holding back, many guards were shocked and furious. They no longer had any reservations and planned to capture this follower of Zhou Jing.

"Hold down his follower!"

The lord's guard approached Ross and was about to place the knife on Ross's neck.

However, just as he got within three steps of Ross...

Ross, who was originally standing upright in a daze, suddenly moved like a rabbit and threw himself forward!

The distance was short, and the speed was fast. The guard could not dodge in time. He was knocked back by Ross.

Bang! Pu!

The guard's entire body trembled. He looked down and saw that Ross had taken out a dagger and stabbed it deep into his abdomen.

Ross was expressionless as he twisted his wrist hard.

The guard winced and quickly grabbed Ross's hand to stop him from twisting.

"You want to die!"

He was filled with hatred and was about to stab Ross to death.

But in the next moment, Ross reached out and grabbed his arm, his strength actually forming a stalemate with him.

"This person is also a Mutant Blood Warrior?!"

The guard was shocked and shouted out, even as he hurriedly tried to retreat.

However, at this moment, Ross leaned back slightly before headbutting him directly.

He did not restrain his strength at all, as if the head was not his!

Duang!

Their foreheads collided, and the guard instantly felt a wave of dizziness.

Ross stumbled as well.

Before he hit his head, he did not consider if his head could take it.

The two of them fell to the ground, unable to get up.

If they were to fight head-on, with Ross's unfamiliar combat skills, it would be very difficult for him to defeat another Mutant Blood Warrior even with his enhanced physique.

However, he pretended to be weak and only succeeded in his sneak attack at this moment, severely injuring the enemy and himself!

Using a method where both sides suffered heavy losses, he temporarily resolved the combat power of an enemy.

There's another expert?!

The guards were shocked and distracted by the change in the situation.

At this moment, Zhou Jing activated the [Hunter's Breath: Swift]. He suddenly jumped out and slashed.

The attacked lord's guard hurriedly raised his sword to block.

Clang!

The supporting sword shattered.

The guard quickly rolled to the ground to avoid the incoming force.

Hearing this, the others hurriedly came back to their senses and were about to move forward to reinforce their fellow guard.

However, Zhou Jing did not chase after him. After kicking that lord's guard out of his position, he temporarily escaped the encirclement.

Taking advantage of the short gap before the enemies could surround him once again, he decisively put away a saber before taking out the Howling Wind Tiger Potion and drinking it in one gulp!

Seeing this, everyone was stunned.

What kind of suicidal operation is this?!

As the last of the potion flowed into his mouth...

Zhou Jing exerted force with his fingers.

Crack!

The potion bottle shattered into pieces.

He did not know if he would be spared today. Thus he might as well drink the blood potion first. Even if he died, he would not leave it for the enemy.

With the talent [Tenacious], the pain of the potion changing the body would not affect his combat strength.

Moreover, even if the final enhancement failed and he died, his strength would slowly increase during the effect of the blood potion... It should be enough to kill the enemies in front of him!

Zhou Jing was expressionless. He raised his two blades and got into a fighting stance.

Black blood vessels visible to the naked eye protruded from his neck to his face, gradually lending him a ferocious look.

“If I don’t get hacked to death today, you guys will. Come!”

Seeing this scene, everyone subconsciously swallowed a mouthful of saliva, their hearts wavering.

This hunter’s bravery was totally out of their expectations.

Only now did they understand.

This person was really not afraid of death!