

Black Iron 241

Chapter 241: Mist

For some reason, since he caught sight of that warehouse burned to ruins, Zhang Tie, sitting on the horse taxi, had a bad premonition. He couldn't figure out the reason but felt a burden of a heavy stone in his heart, making him a bit uncomfortable.

'Who burnt the warehouse to destroy the scene?'

'Were they accomplices of those spies of the Sun Dynasty?'

That was possible. The fifteen people that he had killed that night might not have been all of the spies. There might be others in this city who might know that this warehouse was one of their secret bases in Blapei.

However, why would they ruin this place? To destroy the evidence? That was possible. But wouldn't it be too attention-seeking to set a fire? If there were truly other spies alive, what would they do after finding that all of their partners had been killed?

'If it were me, in that case, I would definitely escape at once. I would never stay in Blapei any more, let alone set a fire.'

'I wonder whether those corpses were still in the fire. In that was the case, someone should have come here to investigate the fire accident. If more than ten corpses were suddenly found in a fire accident, it would never be ignored no matter where it was.'

'In the Norman Empire, according to the rules, any scene of fire would be surrounded with a yellow cordon once it was found. That cordon would remain for a very long time. However, just now, Zhang Tie had not seen any cordon around the scene of the fire accident. Did that mean that those corpses had been moved away by the time the investigators arrived...'

It was a good day, but the previous questions made Zhang Tie feel like he was surrounded by mist.

Because this event involved him and his top secret, Zhang Tie couldn't just ignore it. He had a weird and startling feeling about the place being burnt to ruins.

In the horse taxi, Zhang Tie arrived at the block where Mr. and Mrs. Green house was located. He then got off the vehicle and made a mark on a roadside lamp before returning to his residence.

As usual, in the early morning, Mr. and Mrs. Green were still looking after their vegetables in the garden before their building. Perhaps what Zhang Tie had done on that night one week before had greatly shocked them, for at the sight of Zhang Tie this time, although Mr. Green still took off his hat to greet him, Zhang Tie saw a wisp of fear and hesitation on the faces of this old couple.

For two seniors who had peacefully lived in Blapei for dozens of years, Zhang Tie's cold-blooded deed of ordering a soldier to chop off a person's head without any hesitation that night made them very frightened of this military officer of Norman Empire, even if Zhang Tie felt that he was 100% merciful at that time.

Zhang Tie went upstairs. At the entrance of the stairs of the first floor, he saw the woman of the young couple living on the second floor preparing to go off to buy vegetables with a basket. At the sight of him, her face immediately turned pale.

Previously, she was walking in the middle of the stairs, but when she caught sight of Zhang Tie, she immediately became still and leaned against the guardrail of the stairs, forcing a smile and waiting for him to go upstairs first.

Zhang Tie felt speechless, let out a sigh inside, and rapidly strode upstairs, arriving at his own residence on the fourth floor.

Several minutes later, after putting on his military uniform, Zhang Tie left the residence. On the roadside, he stopped a horse taxi before directly driving towards the base of the No. 9 Equipment Administration of the Comprehensive Logistics Relief Center.

Upon Zhang Tie's arrival, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping still expressed his passionate greetings like before; however, he obviously misunderstood the intention of Zhang Tie's arrival. Soon after Zhang Tie arrived in the office, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping gave him an account book and a purse. As the gray income of the 9th Equipment Center was once per two weeks, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping thought that Zhang Tie was here for the money.

The top and bottom of standard gold coins of the Norman Empire were respectively spinulose tree fern and two crossed spears of the Battle God. The first one was the national flower of the Norman Empire while the second was the symbol of the national church of the Norman Empire.

Rubbing that delicate gold coin in his hand, Zhang Tie sighed inside. This life was rightly what he had dreamed of before. He could have a lot of money without doing anything each day. Although not being fabulously rich, he was already well-off. With this amount of money, he could purchase real estate or have a great number of women. After that, he could just be accompanied by a lot of women and gold coins like a pig.

This kind of life seemed being so close to him. However, Zhang Tie knew that if he didn't try his best to run forward, he might not be able to live this way for too many days before everything that he owned might turn to nothing.

For instance, there seemed to be a thing that might bring him a great trouble at the present.

Seeing Zhang Tie holding a gold coin and sighing, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping, who had been watching his face, thought that Zhang Tie might not be satisfied with his share.

"Although this share is not too much, it's a tradition of No. 9 Equipment Administration that has been formed for many years. If you want to break this tradition, you might offend many people.

Previously there were some people in your position who wanted a bigger share, but in the end, none of them could stay long in this position!" Second Lieutenant Pi Ping carefully explained to Zhang Tie.

After all, people were usually moved by money. When one could receive a share of 10% of the profits, one would consider gaining a share of 20% percent. Second Lieutenant thought that new first lieutenant administrator might want to receive more than what he was receiving, that 20%.

After glancing at Second Lieutenant Pi Ping, who was sitting in front of him, Zhang Tie forced a smile as he put the purse inside his coat. He weighed it and felt that there were at least 22 gold coins inside, which was about the amount of his father's two-year salary. For commoners, this was not a small amount of money.

"Second lieutenant, I'm very satisfied with the current situation and don't have any intention to change anything, so you don't need to worry about that!"

Hearing Zhang Tie's words, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping let out a sigh inside.

After drinking a mouth of water, Zhang Tie casually asked, "I've been in the rural area to recuperate during the past week, so why do I feel that the atmosphere in Blapei has become even more intense than last week. Haven't those saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty been caught?"

"On Wednesday, two soldiers of the No. 21 Division got lost in Blapei. Because of this, the atmosphere in Blapei became intense again this couple of days!" Second Lieutenant Pi Ping lowered his voice. "Because the Iron-Blood Army didn't want to cause any more tenseness in Blapei, they didn't release this news to the public!"

Zhang Tie became dumbfounded. "Was that done by the spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty?"

"It's very possible. But I don't know the details either. It's those red gloves of the Norman Empire who are responsible for catching those people. Pitifully, they didn't make any achievements since they came here for two weeks ago. It seems that those guys only enjoy an undeserved fame..."

As he said this, a sarcastic smile appeared on Second Lieutenant Pi Ping's face.

"Red gloves?" Hearing the name for the first time, Zhang Tie became confused and he glanced at Second Lieutenant Pi Ping. "What are red gloves?"

Not until then did Second Lieutenant Pi Ping realize that this new officer from Blackhot City might not know who were those "red gloves", so he carefully explained it to Zhang Tie. Even if he was very talkative, speaking of those people, he still couldn't keep from showing a disgusted expression. Nobody across the Iron-Horn Army would like those guys in red gloves.

"You mean it's the secret police under the affiliation of the Order Review Committee of the Norman Empire who's responsible for catching those saboteurs and spies in Blapei?"

Learning of this news, Zhang Tie was shocked inside.

"Right, those guys might be involved with the conflicts between big figures above them. It's said that there were contradictions between marshal Lin Changjiang and some big figures of Order Review Committee of the Norman Empire..."

Second Lieutenant Pi Ping then explained Zhang Tie the inside story about those red gloves who came to Blapei to investigate the explosion case.

"Because two soldiers of the No. 21 Division disappeared, everybody doubted that it was done by those spies of the Sun Dynasty, but nobody knew what to do next. The higher officers were very irritated, so the atmosphere in Blapei became a bit tense these days. Additionally, many more red gloves were dispatched to Blapei this week..."

'Does that mean that there is another batch of spies in Blapei besides those who were killed by me?'

Thinking of this, Zhang Tie let out a small breath inside. Perhaps the warehouse was truly burnt by them. They really didn't fear death and didn't escape at once after the event was revealed. There might even be some unknown secret in that warehouse that they didn't want to expose to the public. After all, he was too hurried at that time and didn't make any careful check around the warehouse.

Zhang Tie then thought about several "proper reasons" inside for everything that had happened.

At this moment, Zhang Tie didn't feel that there was any connection between those "red gloves" mentioned by Second Lieutenant Pi Ping and him. "Red gloves" were just a fighting tool that was thrown into Blapei by a big figure, targeting those spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty. How could he be involved with those small figures?

Thinking this, although being still a bit confused, Zhang Tie just ignored it.

"Do you have an acquaintance in the Equipment Center of the Army?" Zhang Tie asked Pi Ping.

"I know every military officer in the Logistics Department of the Iron-Horn Army!" Second Lieutenant Pi Ping proudly said.

People like Second Lieutenant Pi Ping were always well-informed. Additionally, he could help you get acquainted with a lot of friends. Although people like Leinhardt were very awe-inspiring on a battlefield, people like Second Lieutenant Pi Ping could also be very helpful in some aspects.

"Then go to drive a car, I will go to the Equipment Center of the Army."

"What are you going to... sir"

"I was told that the one who earns the Iron-Blood Medal can receive a special weapon in the Equipment Center of the Army."

Zhang Tie smiled. Since he was almost disabled several days ago, he didn't think about the reward at the time. After all, he would not be able to use it, however, he had completely recovered now, so of course he would go to get such a benefit. He didn't have a proper weapon either, so it sounded reasonable to select a weapon in the Equipment Center.

Since it was the Equipment Center of the entire army, it should have many items that were better than those in the arsenal in Blackhot City.

Chapter 242: In the Arsenal

In the Norman Empire, which is strictly hierarchical, of course weapons for soldiers were also divided into many classes and ranks. A proper weapon was almost equal to a second life for those who usually fought in battlefields. So the more remarkable contributions soldiers made to the army on the battlefields, the higher their ranks would be, and certainly, the more excellent their weapons would be. Both the craftsmanship and the materials used could never be matched by common, standard equipment.

The super heavy "Man's Certificate" that Zhang Tie had once used was made of LV 2 tungsten manganese alloy while the weapons used by common soldiers of the Norman Empire were usually made of some average LV 1 alloy. For field officers, their weapons and equipment would be made of LV 3 special alloy, the value of which was greater than that of the the same weight of gold.

As a reward, warriors who won the Iron-Blood Medal could select non-standard equipment which was made of at least LV 3 special alloy in the arsenal of the Iron-Horn Army.

Now that there was such a great benefit, Zhang Tie, who had completely recovered, of course would not miss that.

Second Lieutenant Pi Ping then drove Zhang Tie into the base of the Equipment Center of the Logistics Department of the Iron-Horn Army in less than half an hour.

Because they were all officers of the Logistics Department, they could easily talk with each other. Additionally, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping had someone familiar here, so after learning of their purpose, a first lieutenant of the Logistics Department verified Zhang Tie's status before directly taking the two of them to the arsenal.

Compared to the arsenal of No. 39 Division, the weapons and equipment here were over ten times more numerous. Entering the army's arsenal for the first time, Zhang Tie really broadened his vision. Weapons and equipment that were even more exaggerated than the "Man's Certificate" were put everywhere, and all of them were well maintained.

As all the standard equipment was put into cases, Zhang Tie could only see non-standard weapons and equipment which could only be used by officers above lieutenant. Among those weapons and equipment, there were a terrifying shield covered with dense barbed nails the size of a gate, a person-high wheel axe, a horrible battle hammer weighing more than 500 kgs, a super heavy, grim flail with nine thorny hammers, a double-bladed spear longer than 5 m, and a super heavy knapsack crossbow which when fully loaded would weigh 1.2 tons. Zhang Tie wondered what tough man could carry such a great weapon to a battlefield.

Besides those, there were many other weapons and equipment, some of which, Zhang Tie didn't even know.

If he was to put his "Man's Certificate" in here, it would look trivial.

Zhang Tie smelt the richest breath of war across Blapei in this arsenal.

When he caught sight of several terrifying battle bows hung on the hangers in a row, for some reason, Zhang Tie remembered something special. Although he had never touched a battle bow before, at the sight of these battle bows, he suddenly felt very interested.

"Is there any troop that's equipped with battle bows in the army?" Zhang Tie asked that first lieutenant in the Equipment Center.

"As it would cost too much to curtain a Bowman than a crossbowman, all the battle bows in the Norman Empire are non-standard. These battle bows were purchased from foreign countries for some powerhouses who are good at using bows!"

"Purchased from foreign countries?" Zhang Tie became curious and glanced at the first lieutenant. "Does it mean that the Norman Empire could not afford making battle bows?"

"There's a strict manufacturing process required for battle bows, as well as special materials. Of course the Norman Empire could also produce battle bows, but the most excellent ones in the Blackson Human Clan Corridor are produced by Jinyun country in the east of the corridor..."

Saying this, the first lieutenant glanced at Zhang Tie.

"Jinyun country is a human country predominated by Chinese. Those who can use bows in battlefields are all powerhouses who are highly praised by high-ranked officers. However, they have very bigoted, high requirements on the manufacturing process and materials of battle bows. Therefore..."

After that, that first lieutenant didn't continue. However, Zhang Tie understood what he meant, namely, none of those who were talented and confident in using bows in battlefields would want to use second-class battle bows produced by the Norman Empire. Instead, they all liked the battle bows produced in Jinyun country.

So the Norman Empire didn't want to produce any which would lose them face. Additionally, they were just non-standard equipment. The Iron-Horn Army didn't prepare too many of them, just directly purchased some from foreign countries to meet the demands of those powerhouses.

At the sight of these battle bows, Zhang Tie recalled Blues. Based on Zhang Tie's understanding of him, if that guy could make a choice, he would definitely choose the best battle bow. It was estimated that bowmen all had weird temperaments.

Jinyun country. Zhang Tie remembered this country's name. As a Chinese, he was a bit proud, but as two officers of the Norman Empire were standing in front of him, he hid his sense of pride from his face; instead, he just took a battle bow and had a look at it.

It was very heavy, over 20 kg. The handle of the battle bow was made of a weird material, which was neither gold nor wood. Zhang Tie didn't know what it was. The entire battle bow was well made. Holding it, Zhang Tie felt a sense of sharpness and killing intent.

After putting it back, he noticed two seal Chinese characters "Huai Yuan" on the handle of the bow.

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Because weapons and equipment made of LV 3 special alloy were only available to field officers, the warehouse for these weapons was a bit smaller, only occupying less than 100 sq m. The weapons were put in a room deep inside the arsenal. They needed to pass another door before entering it.

Under the guidance of that first lieutenant, Zhang Tie and Second Lieutenant Pi Ping came to this room with more advanced weapons.

Compared to those weapons with terrifying looks and volumes outside, perhaps due to the precious materials, the weapons inside this room looked much more "normal". None of them weighed several kgs or even close to 1 ton like those before. Instead, the most numerous weapons in this room were sabers, spears, and swords as well as some weird items, less than 200 in total. Because they were all non-standard weapons, each weapon here looked unique.

Looking at these shiny, excellent weapons on the hangers, Zhang Tie's eyes were even brighter than ten thousand years' fluorite lamps.

Undoubtedly, these were the most valuable and excellent weapons that Zhang Tie had ever seen since he was born.

After taking Zhang Tie in, the officer casually pulled out a shiny long sword with fish scale-like grains and took an average finger-thick steel rod. Without using any strength, he put the steel rod horizontally in front of him while flicking the sword towards it.

With a sound of "clang", that steel rod was cut in two, part of it falling to the ground, rolling towards Zhang Tie's foot. Lowering his body, he picked it up and saw that the section was as smooth as a mirror.

Such a weapon really deserved the description—slashing iron as easily as slashing mud. Average weapons would be easily broken by it. The first lieutenant then brought the sword to Zhang Tie. Although it had cut the steel rod, Zhang Tie found that the blade did not even have a mark—it was as shiny as before.

Second Lieutenant Pi Ping also forcefully swallowed his saliva. These weapons meant a pile of gold coins in his eyes.

"Do all the weapons here reach this standard?" Zhang Tie asked.

"Almost like that. But they're different from each other. LV 3 special alloy have some weird attributes. Take this one for an example..." Taking a specially designed shield, the first lieutenant explained, "This shield is made of LV 3 memory alloy. No matter how you pound it, it would never lose its shape. As long as you heat it up above fire, it would soon recover its original look. "

After putting down that shield, that first lieutenant took up a heavy crossbow. Noticing him taking a heavy crossbow by one hand, both Zhang Tie and Second Lieutenant Pi Ping were startled.

The first lieutenant gave them a smile. "It looks to be very heavy, but actually, because it's made of special alloy, it's much lighter than a light cross bow; however, its power remains unchanged! Look at the weapons carefully, you can select one as you will..."

Zhang Tie then started to wander through the excellent weapons. Because most of the field officers in the army would select a long saber or a long sword here while brigade officers preferred long spears, the place was filled with the three weapons. However, there were also many other items in this room. Zhang Tie even saw two advanced battle bows.

Second Lieutenant Pi Ping suggested Zhang Tie to select a long sword. However, Zhang Tie shook his head. Although long swords were nice, they were too eye-catching. So were those sabers and spears. Actually, Zhang Tie wanted to select an item that he could use to fight at any time, so it had to be not that attention grabbing. If he had had such a weapon, it would have undoubtedly been much easier for him to respond to that abduction.

Finally, what caught his attention was a weird item. Unlike other weapons that were hung on the hangers, this item was put in a dark red tray. It was rolled up there like a waist band. Among all the other shiny and eccentric weapons, it was as humble as an ugly duckling...

Chapter 243: Red-Snake Sword

Zhang Tie picked that rolled up item and took a careful look at it. F*ck, it was truly a leather waistband. Although it looked nice and was worth dozens of silver coins, it was still a bit weird to see it put together with the advanced weapons that were only available to field officers.

Hold on...

Zhang Tie found something eccentric as the buckle of the leather waistband was a bit special. It was much bigger than that of average waistbands; besides, it was two snakes that wrestled with each other. Although grungy, it was also gorgeous. The space formed by the two wrestling snakes seemed like it could be used hold the waistband.

Zhang Tie noticed a raised button under the waistband buckle. The moment he pressed it, the metal buckle jumped upward and was tightly held in his hand.

At the beginning, Zhang Tie thought that this leather waistband was a soft sword that could be fastened around his waist. Donder once sold similar items in his grocery store. However, when the handle-like snake-shaped metal item jumped out, Zhang Tie thought this was a hidden dagger. However, when he held it, he became dumbfounded as this was neither a soft sword nor a dagger but purely just a sword handle without a blade at all.

Zhang Tie took a careful look at it. It was truly a handle with a 2-cm wide gap in the hand-guard where the two snakes were opening their mouths. It was so small, just like the wound that Zhang Tie had cut on his own hand last night.

'What's this? A hidden weapon? Although it holds good, there's no hidden button or switch on the snake-shaped handle at all.'

"What's this?"

Before Zhang Tie opened his mouth, Second Lieutenant Pi Ping who was standing beside him, asked.

"It's a very special sword!" first lieutenant said and took the item from Zhang Tie's hand.

"Keep away from me, I will display to you how to use this sword!"

Zhang Tie and Pi Ping moved several steps back.

"You'd better keep two meters away. This sword is a bit special, I cannot well control it..."

Zhang Tie and Pi Ping then moved several more steps back until they were two meters away from the first lieutenant. At the same time, they were wondering what kind of sword it was.

"Keep your eyes on it!"

Soon after he finished talking, the officer took a deep breath and flicked that sword in his hand. With a light sound of "cha", a sharp and thin sword blade popped out of that snake-shaped handle. A sharp, chilly light flashed and a steel rod on a hanger one meter ahead of the first lieutenant was cut into two parts.

And the chilly light kept sweeping over and striking in another direction disorderly for several times like a disobedient spring. Two times it even struck towards Zhang Tie and Pi Ping, who were so scared that they moved two steps back at once. That first lieutenant then forcefully controlled that sword handle to calm the freely jumping blade.

"The blade of this sword is completely hidden in the handle. You need to use your hidden strength, invisible strength, or battle qi to force it out. Because the blade of this sword is soft, thin, and flexible, it's hard to control. If one makes a mistake, one might easily hurt himself. That's why it has been here for a very long time, no officers wanting to select it..."

After the officer said his piece, Zhang Tie walked towards that sword. He pinched the blade which was as thick as cicada's wings and a bit wider than two centimeters with his two fingers and took a careful look at it. At this moment, the blade was not longer than 1 m. However, he had felt before that the blade was over longer than that.

"Watch out, I'm using my hidden strength to push the blade. If I collect my hidden strength, the blade would draw back and wound your hand..."

"What's the full length of the blade?" Zhang Tie asked.

"About 3 m. You can pull the blade by hand. I will slowly push it out using my hidden strength to show you its full length!"

Thus, Zhang Tie pinched the tip of the blade with his two fingers and moved back. Being slowly pushed by the first lieutenant officer's hidden strength, the blade was slowly pulled out. It was truly about 3 m in full length.

F*ck! Gazing at such an exaggeratedly thin and narrow blade, Zhang Tie immediately understood the source of the creator's inspiration.

Metallic tape!

The source of the inspiration for inventing this sword was such a common item in people's daily life. Zhang Tie could still remember that when he was very young, he took out his dad's metallic tape to play. In the end, because the tape drew back too fast, it wounded his face and hand at the same time. For this, he was even beaten by his mom, which really left a deep impression in his mind.

The blade of this sword was like the metallic tape which was rolled and hidden in the sword handle. One had to use special strength to push it out. Once that strength disappeared, it would draw back itself. With the exception of the materials, the craftsmanship, and that gorgeous handle, was there any difference between this special long sword and a metallic tape that cost only dozens of copper coins on principle and originality?

Was it because the inventor of this sword was once wounded by a metallic tape when he was young at home that he had such an idea when he grew up—it was definitely like that.

For powerhouses, plain clothes could be taken as rags, let alone such a delicate and sharp weapon. Besides hard control, the reason that the weapon had not been selected by others was mainly that it was designed a bit womanly in both style and usage, which was a bit inconsistent with the masculine, gorgeous, and magnificent weapons that were pursued by the soldiers who followed the Battle God.

Although others didn't like this weapon, for Zhang Tie, it was very proper.

That waistband was basically a portable hanger for that weapon. This portable and unattractive item was not suitable to Zhang Tie's current situation.

As for its usage in actual combat, the Trouble-Reappearance Fruits could solve this problem very soon.

This special sword had a very proper name—Red-Snake Sword!

Red snakes were poisonous. According to the first lieutenant, there were some special red decorative patterns on the blade that had undergone special treatment. When one used his hidden strength to push it out, one would see a shiny, swimming red snake. Additionally, based on one's strength to push it out, the colors and the quantity of red snakes displayed would also be different.

Undoubtedly, although a bit weird, this red snake sword was definitely qualified to be put in here.

Without any hesitation, Zhang Tie chose it straight away.

Because he could not easily try it here, nor did he want to reveal the truth that he had completely recovered, he chose this sword without even trying it once. Instead, he signed a document of taking it away before leaving with Pi Ping. By the time they arrived at the gate of the Equipment Center, Zhang Tie had undone his own average waistband and thrown it into a dustbin. Soon after that, he fastened the red-snake sword around his waist.

He was in a very good mood.

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In the evening, Zhang Tie ate supper in the same hotel where he ate with Bilis last time. This time, he felt that his appetite had increased by almost 20%. It seemed like an effect brought by his preliminary recovery body. After eating the same amount of food as usual, Zhang Tie ordered one more steak, after eating which, he felt almost full.

After this meal, Zhang Tie felt that after digesting the food, the nutrients and energy in the food were making him more energetic, both spiritually and physically at a faster speed. There seemed to be one more warm qi inside him when he ate the food, which made him very comfortable.

Zhang Tie was certain since when Bilis was standing in front of him respectfully. After eating supper, Zhang Tie glanced at Bilis. After one week, the man had changed his clothes. He was wearing a casquette and looked good, at least much more decent than the last time.

"Take a seat..."

After being allowed to sit, Bilis carefully sat opposite of Zhang Tie and reported about what had happened this week.

As was expected, after the allocation of the twenty gold coins that Zhang Tie had blackmailed from Mr. Beise to those ruffians whose legs were broken by him, none of them hesitated. They all received the treatment fee and started to work for Bilis. For those ruffians, it was one hundred times more honorable to rely on Zhang Tie than that guy who had a ring on his nose.

Zhang Tie felt a bit pleasant inside as he experienced the effect of compliments and warnings for the first time. It also brought him a sense of achievement to have tamed some ruffians into his lackeys.

"I told you to collect information about those spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty. How about that?"

Hearing Zhang Tie's question, Bilis became a bit nervous. "It's said that those people who were responsible for capturing those people were the secret police of the Norman Empire. As they work very secretly, I could not get any relevant news!"

This answer was also within Zhang Tie's expectations. As Bilis could tell him who were responsible for catching those spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty, it seemed that he had done a lot. However, people like him could only collect some gossip instead of secret news.

After the report, Bilis became a bit nervous and glanced at Zhang Tie. "Uhm... I've got one problem!"

"What's that?"

"Those people... still don't trust that I'm working for you. They... they want to see you, their true boss before being certain!"

Zhang Tie slightly frowned at first, but soon calmed down. This was also within his expectations.

"Have they recovered?"

"Not yet, but after receiving treatment, many of them can walk now!"

"Someday next week I'll meet them!"

"Okay!"

Bilis then lowered his head...

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Now, Zhang Tie didn't have time to care about this trivial affair at all. What he mostly wanted to do was to return to his residence and enter the Trouble-Reappearance Situation to try his Red-Snake Sword...

Chapter 244: Carnival

All the average wild wolves and huge wolves in the surrounding mountains and plains surged towards Zhang Tie in waves...

At this time, the red-snake sword had become a flexible, spiritual snake that was swimming in the space 1 m-3 m in front of Zhang Tie. All the wild wolves that rushed into this space would lose their heads or receive terrifying wounds on their bodies, spattering blood; they wailed mournfully and rolled on the ground before dying.

Another three wild wolves charged at Zhang Tie with one in the front and two behind. Zhang Tie waved his red-snake sword and chopped off the head of the first wild wolf which was over 1 m away from him. Right after that, the blade elongated once again and reached 3 m away. After drawing an elegant "S"

curve, it cut two terrifying two-feet long wounds on the wild wolves behind. Those wounds went from their heads to their tails, causing them to scream miserably.

The wild wolves attacked Zhang Tie like an endless tide. The moment he killed the three wild wolves, another one charged at him. When the wild wolf was about to open its bloody mouth and bite at Zhang Tie's shin, the blade that had been reaching 3 m away immediately drew back like a lightning bolt. Before Zhang Tie moved, that blade bounced back and flew past that wild wolf. As a result, the moment the wild wolf moved close to Zhang Tie, it spattered a great amount of fresh blood, then mournfully wailed and rolled away.

The blade was almost completely drawn back, only revealing a small section of less than 20 cm from the handle. Zhang Tie rapidly moved aside and avoided a huge wolf that had silently sneaked close and then fiercely charged at the most critical moment. However, while it was still in the air, Zhang Tie had used his dagger-like sword to thrust at it several times...

As a result, the moment the huge wolf fell on to the ground, it tilted down.

More wild wolves charged at him and just after a wave of his hand, an over 2-m long blade cut through the wild wolves like how it had dealt with the others before...

Then the blade drew back once again and turned into a 1-m long sword, like an average sword. Holding it, Zhang Tie felt as if he was using an average long sword. He then rushed into the wolf pack and brought a foul wind and a rain of blood...

Ten minutes later, Zhang Tie thrust his long sword into the last huge wolf's mouth. The rapidly elongating blade directly cut through the huge wolf's body and drilled out from its bottom before drawing back. Holding the sword, Zhang Tie glanced over the shiny blade with no fresh blood on it since the beginning of this massacre. He burst out laughing...

If Second Lieutenant Pi Ping and that first lieutenant of the Equipment Center would have caught sight of him using this red-snake sword so adroitly, they would've been greatly amazed, so much that their mouths could even hold a big duck egg.

The Trouble-Reappearance Situation broke into light dots once again.

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Today was the third day after Zhang Tie got his red-snake sword. The fact was that if you wanted to adapt to a weapon, you had to practice it on a battlefield.

These days, holding this sword, Zhang Tie had experienced many battles and deaths in the Trouble-Reappearance Situations. He had been wounded by the sword many times due to his improper use.

After experiencing so many battles and deaths at the cost of his life and fresh blood, after being attacked by thousands of wild wolves and huge wolves in total, Zhang Tie sensed the secret of red-snake sword for the first time. Holding the sword, he finally understood how to flexibly use this sword from his inner heart.

Zhang Tie realized that he had truly gotten a treasure. This red-snake sword was definitely a top weapon in the arsenal. If Zhang Tie would've been asked to name it, the name he would grant would definitely give people a feeling of coarseness - Man's D*ck.

The whole sword could change length and hardness at his will. What else was it if not a man's d*ck.

The secret to manipulating the red-snake sword so adroitly lay in the frequently changing hidden strength that was poured into the blade. With hidden strength, the sword's blade could become hard and elongate. If it was too long, the blade would be a bit flexible which would make it hard to control.

At this time, the swordsman should make adjustments to the hidden strength that he had injected into the blade for the sake of performance so that the hidden strength that in the blade could keep in a mobile balance with the weird performance of the blade. This way, the swordsman would be able to freely manipulate this sword and exert its power to its largest extent.

For a warrior, when he used a weapon, the strength he injected into the weapon was relatively stable, so it was a huge challenge for many people to inject a changing hidden strength into the weapon they used. When one used this weapon, he needed to calculate and frequently change the amount of the hidden strength that was injected based on different situations, which meant a heavy burden on one's mentality and physical strength. Especially in combat, this burden could not be born by many people. However, for Zhang Tie, who had terrifying spiritual energy and the extremely great mental arithmetic by abacus, it was even simpler than drinking cold water in this case.

At the beginning, Zhang Tie had not adapted to this sword well, but after figuring out the know-how of changing the amount of the hidden strength according to the blade's performance and the actual situation when the blade was pushed out to a certain length through numerous times of practice, he was able to exert its power to the utmost.

Sometimes, Zhang Tie felt that the item in his hand was a mix a sophisticated weapon instead of being just a sword. It might be more fitting to see it as a cross-disciplinary weapon.

When the blade only reached a bit longer than 20 cm, this sword could be used as a dagger or a short saber.

When the blade reached a bit longer than 1 m, it could retain its largest rigidity and have a proper tenacity after being injected with hidden strength. This sword then could be used as a delicate long sword that could easily cut iron like cutting mud.

When the 3 m blade was fully extended, this sword could be used as a terrifying battle sword that could even match the "Man's Certificate". Its attack radius could reach over 4 m if counting Zhang Tie's arms and steps. Additionally, the super thin blade made of unknown metal was definitely more effective than that of the "Man's Certificate". Used with enough strength, this red-snake sword could definitely be used as a whip and a spear.

When one used it as a whip, its blade could whip the opponent. After using it adroitly, one could bundle something using the sword and bring it in front of him. When one used it as a spear, the sharp sword tip, it could easily cut through a huge sword or a varanid within 2-4 m. After being injected with hidden strength, the triangular-shaped sword tip could rapidly stretch out like a hidden weapon to reinforce the piercing effect.

The guy who invented this sword was definitely a genius. However, a genius' work would always be isolated and buried among a great amount of fierce weapons that shone with icy lights. Even if someone didn't complain about its feminine look and took a casual look at it, how could one immediately know the design's essence and usage of this weapon. They would only feel it was not easily controlled. Due to various reasons, the red-snake sword was in the end discovered by Zhang Tie.

In truth, if not because Zhang Tie didn't want to expose his real strength and was not in the frontier, he would not have chosen this weird weapon as the reward for him winning the Iron-Blood Medal. However, based on the weapon's capabilities, he made the right choice this time. He was filled with surprise inside.

...

The next few days were Zhang Tie's most relaxed and pleasant days in Blapei.

Being in the weird state where she bled yet wasn't wounded, Hanna became obedient and didn't come to Zhang Tie at midnight like before, giving him more time to immerse himself in the Trouble-Reappearance Situations to constantly improve his fighting skills.

In contrast, Hanna's elder brother always got up early and returned home late each day as the "agent" for setting free earthworms for Zhang Tie. The farming households in the neighboring villages of Chevli eagerly sold their earthworms to Hanna's elder brother, whom then had all the earthworms set free in the wild.

Although Zhang Tie wasn't set the earthworms free himself, the merit value points of having Hanna's elder brother do it were still making the Fruit of Redemption grow, the effect of which was still on Zhang Tie.

He could check the effect of having Hanna's elder brother set the earthworms free, which really surprised him. Learning that it was truly feasible, Zhang Tie estimated that even if he didn't have to go to Blapei, he could still have an agent like Hanna's elder brother to set the earthworms free for him. Perhaps in a few years, even before the holy war, he would have achieved the medium recovery body. He was really happy from eating fruits at such a stable frequency.

Additionally, the affair of Zhang Tie buying earthworms in Chevli village had not only spread across Chevli but also the neighboring villages. Tempted by the silver coins, some households in Chevli and some in neighboring villages started to raise earthworms. Although they didn't know whether that idiot would come here to purchase their earthworms a year later, it was not bad to just have a try.

Of course, Zhang Tie was happy they thought of doing it.

During the most leisurely and relaxed days, many people across Blapei and even in the Chevli village were actually busy in a nervous and joyful state, because a few days later, the most important and grandest annual beer festival in Blapei would arrive.

On the day of the beer festival, villages like Chevli would organize several festooned vehicles to travel to downtown in Blapei. The strongest men and the most beautiful women and the most delicious beer in Chevli would go together with the festooned vehicles to celebrate the carnival for one day in downtown. It was a big event for the entire village.

With such a hot atmosphere, the carnival of the beer festival in Blapei was coming...

Chapter 245: An Elder from Zhang Clan

At dusk, an airship appeared above the civic square of Blackhot City. It arrived so abruptly as if it was emerging out of the void. Before most people in Blackhot City noticed, it had already appeared.

For most average citizens in Blackhot City, airships were a rarity. That's why when some people with sharp eyes noticed the sudden appearance of an airship above the civic square of Blackhot City, many people nearby raised their heads and stared at that it hovering over 200 m above the ground.

Nobody had seen that airship before. The flat, smooth, and streamlined airship had two stable flaps like a bird's wings. It's light shone silver. Looking from the ground, it was like a flying silver fish floating in the sky.

Because it wasn't too high up, people on the ground could clearly see the propellers on the tail and the two flaps of the airship.

Generally speaking, this was an elegant and domineering airship. The moment people saw it, they would know it was definitely an advanced airship.

The arrival of the airship excited the photographers who were soliciting trades on the civic square. They adjusted the right angles and supporting their photographic equipment, saved the citizens of Blackhot City from missing such a chance to take a photo with such a beautiful airship. Certainly, there were many citizens who wanted to take photos.

The airship kept hovering above the civic square. Nobody knew what it was going to do. Many people in Blackhot City speculated that it came from the Norman Empire. There might be a big figure inside.

Such a peaceful ambience remained unchanged for over ten minutes until a great amount of fully-armored soldiers and vehicles of the Norman Empire arrived as if to face a formidable enemy. An officer of the Norman Empire ordered the soldiers to evacuate the population from the civic square. Not until then did the citizens realized that something was not right and hurriedly left.

Looking at that airship, an officer of the land-to-air defense camp of No. 39 Division oozed fine sweat over his forehead. This airship moved so fast. The moment the air-defense troop in Blackhot City noticed it flying towards the air territory of Blackhot City without any symbol of the Norman Empire on it while its patterns and specifics didn't meet any airship in service or produced by the Norman Empire, the air-defense troop had delivered an air-defense warning to the land troop here.

Since the main stream-driven boiler of the air-defense weapons on the city wall of Blackhot City was in active state, after receiving the warning, the well-trained soldiers of the No. 39 Division pressurized the main boiler and prepared the air-defense weapons. During this process, the soldiers of the No. 39 Division really performed perfectly. However, this airship flew so fast that before the air-defense weapons were ready, it had already rushed into the LV 1 air territory within the city walls.

Because this airship hadn't come from the Norman Empire, if not for the officers of the air-defense camp who were absolutely sure that there was no such airship in the Sun Dynasty, the air-defense warning would have long been rung throughout the city.

However, the officers of air-defense camp were still oozing cold sweat all over.

"Sir, the lamp message vehicle of air-defense camp is already in place!"

"Contact those people on the airship using plain codes, inquire their status and purpose here!" the on-site officer delivered the order.

...

On the ground of the civic square, a professional land-to-air communications vehicle was already ready. On the vehicle was a group of special optical communications equipment. After receiving the order, the soldier rapidly peeled off the cover off the equipment and sent the same lamplight message twice towards the airship.

The airship soon replied as its lamplight signal equipment also started to twinkle towards the land.

Seeing the airship contacting the land, the officer of the air-defense camp finally let out a breath.

...

In only a few minutes, Colonel Leibniz, who had received the news, arrived at the civic square in a vehicle. The people in the airship wanted to talk directly to him and Colonel Leibniz didn't find it improper at all, because no matter whether in the Norman Empire or elsewhere, any people who could take such a luxurious airship were undoubtedly big figures who had both great status and background. At least Colonel Leibniz was not qualified to take such an air traffic tool.

When he arrived at the civic square, Colonel Leibniz raised his head and looked at that beautiful airship. He then re-confirmed that none of the generals' airships in the entire Iron-Horn Army could match this airship. In the entire North Border Army of the Norman Empire, perhaps only the personal airship of marshal Lin Changjiang which was customized from the east could match this airship.

Colonel Leibniz wondered why any big figure would be interested in this remote, small city.

After receiving the news that the supreme commander of Blackhot City had arrived, the people inside the airship started to get off.

Yes, get off. They directly got off from hundreds meters high in the air.

The moment the soldiers and officers of the air-defense camp of the Norman Empire caught sight of the black spots that jumped out of the airship in a tidy formation, everybody became dumbfounded as they widely opened their mouths. The black spots jumping out of the airship were people.

Those people rapidly jumped off the airship like dumplings diving into the water. They quickly narrowed the distance between them and the ground and reached the height of less than 50 m above the ground in a wink.

When everybody on the land thought those lunatics jumping out of the airship were going to become meat paste, they all felt that the sky had turned dark for a short while since all the lunatics had opened a helical rotor in hand which kept rotating. As a result, all the lunatics slowed down. Soon after that, they collected their parachutes before directly hitting the ground like meteors falling from the sky.

"Boom!"

All the soldiers standing around the square felt the ground tremble a bit. In a split second, many bricks on the ground broke into pieces like spider web stretching through the square.

All of a sudden, all the Chinese soldiers with black hair and eyes were standing straight like javelins, revealing a killing intent.

Seeing those people falling to the ground from several hundred meters high in a split second, everybody forcefully swallowed their saliva, including Colonel Leibniz. These people were powerful, very powerful, which could never be matched by the average troops of the No. 39 Division, or so the soldiers of No. 39 felt about them.

Face pale, the officer of the air-defense camp had watched those terrifying Chinese soldiers dropping from the airship to the ground at that fast speed, and he immediately recognized that the items they used just now were foldable rotachutes. What the most elite imperial airborne troops of the Norman Empire used were these rotachutes which were more advanced than common parachutes. This was not amazing. What made the face of the officer of the air-defense camp turn pale was their speed of descent, which was almost half of that needed by the imperial air troops.

This meant that if his troop was defending here, before all the land-to-air weapons were launched and a series of tactic movements such as locking on and aiming at those people were completed, they would have already fallen to the ground. In front of those people, the air-defense camp of the No. 39 Camp became absolutely useless. That was to say that those soldiers might face the overwhelming massacre next.

'Who are they? The Norman Empire cannot have such an elite troop!' the officer of the air-defense camp asked himself inside.

Not only the officer of the air-defense camp, even all the soldiers and the other officers of the No. 39 Division had the same question. Everybody was shocked by such a sudden appearance as the moment they caught sight of these people, they knew that they could never match them.

Even though those powerful soldiers jumping off the airship shocked everybody who saw it, the next scene almost popped out their eyes.

Soon after those powerful Chinese soldiers landed, another person jumped off the airship. He moved as fast as an arrow shot downwards from the airship. Almost in a blink, he had already drawn close to the ground from several hundreds meters in the air. Compared to those powerful soldiers who jumped off the airship and decelerated using rotachutes, this person didn't even use any equipment to decelerate at all. When he was close to the ground, he just suddenly stilled like a feather before lightly landing on the ground like stepping off the last step on a staircase, not even arising any dust.

Many soldiers and officers of the Norman Empire below were forcefully rubbing their eyes repetitively. They couldn't believe their own eyes. Among them, only the hearts of a few officers including Colonel Leibniz kept racing fiercely as they knew what the last person's amazing ability meant—he was a knight, a real knight. Only people above LV 15 could display such an immortal ability.

In this age, those talents who reached knight ranks were the real back bone of human beings' survival on this continent.

In the Norman Empire, a knight undoubtedly meant an army. All the armies of the Norman Empire were battle groups centered on knights. Any knight was qualified to be an army leader. The army leader of the Iron-Horn Army was a knight, a well-reputed knight in the Norman Empire—Black Iron Knight Lord Clausewitz. The Iron-Horn Army was an army centered around Lord Clausewitz.

Among all the countries and powers of Blackson Human Clan Corridor, the quantity of knights was the most direct and important standard of a country's national strength.

So undoubtedly, the last person getting off the airship would be able to match Lord Clausewitz's status regardless of his nationality. Of course Colonel Leibniz dared not neglect him.

Seeing that person focusing on him, Colonel Leibniz kept his shoulders square and walked towards him in a dignified way, giving him a military salute.

"I'm the highest ranking officer in Blackhot City, Colonel Leibniz, your excellency. Your airship has entered the LV 1 air territory of Blackhot City, may you tell me your purpose here?"

Because the opposite was a Chinese, Colonel Leibniz spoke in Chinese. In the Norman Empire, Chinese was a necessary language that had to be learned by everyone in the top class. It was also the standard language in all the top class receptions and salons. Chinese symbolized dignity. If Zhang Tie had heard Colonel Leibniz speaking Chinese so fluently, he would definitely have been stunned.

Hearing Colonel Leibniz's words, that old man who had gotten off the airship slightly nodded towards him before waving his hand to let another soldier beside him present Colonel Leibniz with a document.

The moment Colonel Leibniz caught sight of the bloody dragon of the Norman Empire, his spirits rose and he carefully took that document, getting a look inside. There was a special communications certificate and an action memo in all the air territories of the Norman Empire jointly presented by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Military Department of Norman Empire, based on which, that airship coming from Jinyun Country could legally enter the LV 1 air territory of any city in the Norman Empire.

Additionally, no matter what they did, they could still freely leave while the outcome should be charged on the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Military Department of Norman Empire. When necessary, at the sight of this document, any local officers and stationed army were obligated to assist and coordinate with the possessor of this document to carry out required actions.

Certainly, Colonel Leibniz could see through the truth of this document; however, the content made him muddle-headed—what for would a big figure ranked knight from Jinyun country come here with such a document? What was worth them traveling such a long distance?"

...

Of course, that airship hovering above the civic square of Blackhot City was very eye-catching. Not only the people in the civic square could see it, actually, as long as they raised their heads, almost all the people in the city could see the huge airship that shone with silver lights.

Already promoted to the manager of the workshop, Zhang Tie's dad was walking back home after leaving work. When he noticed that people beside him were pointing and looking far into the sky, he raised his head. The moment he caught sight of that huge airship, he became stunned and his lips slightly trembled. He quickly returned home, face turning pale.

Zhang Tie's home had remained unchanged. As his parents had to look after elder sister-in-law who was pregnant and was going to deliver a baby, Zhang family's rice brew store had not been opened for a long time. Each day, Zhang Tie's mom would spend most of the time on her daughter-in-law. These days, Zhang family's kitchen was filled with the aroma of various foods and soups, making passers-by drool. For this, Zhang family's relatives by marriage were very satisfied.

When Zhang Tie's dad returned home, he found that his wife was still stewing soup in the kitchen but looked not as energetic and spirited as usual. The moment she saw him, she bit her lips and wanted to say something.

"I know, I already saw it on the way back, it's the silver-wind level airship of the Huaiyuan Palace of Zhang Family..."

"Can they be here for other things?" Zhang Tie's mom hopefully asked.

"There's a mark of the Clansman Pavilion of Huaiyuan Palace. I'm sure!" Zhang Tie's dad gave a bitter smile. "This time, it must be the elders of the Clansman Pavilion who came here for our affair. If not, the elders of the Clansman Pavilion would have never come to this small city no matter what happened here!"

"We've been here for dozens of years. How could they find us?"

"I'm just a trivial figure in Huaiyuan Palace. At that time, I pretended to die to escape. Dozens of years soon passed with us being safe and sound. The fake corpse must have rotten away and been found by others recently. I guess that it must be Guoguo, he must have awakened his ancestral blood ties and exposed his trace..." Zhang Tie's dad smiled. "I didn't imagine that although I was average my whole life, but by marrying a good wife I'll have a son who will awaken the ancestral blood. I have no pity any more..."

Zhang Tie's mom stretched out her hands and took a tight hold of his, tears rolling down from her eyes while he comforted her by patting her hands.

"Don't worry, I just pretended to die and escaped together with you. It's not a big mistake. The worst that can happen is that I'll be recorded on the "Guilty Deeds Record" and be punished to do labor work for a few years back in the Huaiyuan Palace. As the recent years have been becoming less and less peaceful, perhaps with Huaiyuan Palace at my side, it'll be a good thing for me!"

"It's my mistake. You could have..."

Zhang Tie's mom's tears fell like rain...

"I wouldn't be qualified to be a man if I hadn't been brave enough to escape with you. Compared to you, that real estate was nothing at all. "

At this moment, Zhang Tie's dad became very masculine and fascinating.

...

At supper, Zhang Yang, Zhang Tie's elder brother returned home after a day's work. Dad pulled him in to a room. Ten minutes later, Zhang Yang came out with a shocked expression. He then looked at his mom and his dad. He felt like seeing a fairytale, a real life love fairytale which had always been beside him during the past dozens of years. It was featured by daily firewood, rice, oil, and salt...

After supper, Zhang family was covered with a restless ambiance. About an hour later, when it became completely dark, the barks along the whole street outside suddenly stopped, replaced by the sound of "Kaka" caused by heavy and tidy footsteps.

Hearing the footsteps stopping outside their house, Zhang Tie's dad, mom, Zhang Yang, and elder sister-in-law all held their breath.

The gate of Zhang house opened by itself and a figure with crossed hands behind its back slowly walked inside.

The moment he saw that figure, Zhang Tie's dad trembled all over and hurriedly pulled his wife to kneel in front of him. Seeing their parents kneeling down, Zhang Tie's elder brother also hurriedly knelt down together with his wife.

"Zhang Ping, the unworthy descendant of Huaiyuan Palace of Zhang Clan welcomes Sixth Uncle..."

That one was rightly the last person who had jumped off the airship. Looking emotionless, that person didn't say anything. After glancing over everyone, he took a look at the rice brew store, the the kitchen, and finally the main hall. When he caught sight of the incense tablets that were placed respectively on the incense burner table in the middle of the main hall, his expression became a bit better.

The elder gave a cold harrumph through his nostrils. After glancing at the people kneeling on the ground, he pointed at the elder sister-in-law. "As you've married a member of the Zhang clan and are pregnant with a blood-tied descendant of Zhang clan, you don't have to do this, stand up!"

"Zhang Ping, do you know your fault?"

The elder's voice immediately became solemn...

At this time, when the dusk fell in Blackhot City and a group of people got off the airship and came to Zhang Tie's home, everybody in Blapei was making the final preparations for tomorrow's beer festival and carnival. The entire Chevli village was filled with a rich atmosphere of the upcoming festival.

As a girl who would travel along with tomorrow's festooned vehicle downtown, Hanna stayed with the girls in the village for almost the whole day. They were decorating the festooned vehicles, preparing new clothes, and dressing their hair. Of course, they would load their own beer into the barrels when they came back in the evening to sell them in Blapei tomorrow.

From unmarried girls in Blapei, the girl whose beer was the most delicious in tomorrow's competition, she would have the honor to win the title of "Beer Queen". For girls in Blapei, that was sovereign praise and agreement. What it meant to the girls of Blapei was what for an average soldier of the Iron-Horn Army would mean to suddenly become an army leader.

There was a "Beer Queen" from Chevli before, but it was over 30 years ago. Yet it was still often mentioned with pride by the villagers—Chevli was a treasure land which once had a Beer Queen! Additionally, this honor was not awarded every year. Only the girl who could brew the truly delicious beer that won everybody's praise had the chance to win this special honor. In the last four years, nobody had won this special honor in Blapei

Although Hanna also had the ambition to become the "Beer Queen" in the beer festival like all the other girls in Blapei, she knew that it was almost impossible. She had learned brewing beer from her elder sister-in-law and her mom. Although it was not the worst, it could only reach an average level in Chevli village. It was really hard to make her craftsmanship outstanding among all the other girls. Even her family members didn't think that she could win such a special honor.

But no matter what, happiness counted most in the beer festival.

Hanna's family members thought this as they helped her pour the fermented beer into wooden barrels from the beer fermenter...

But the moment they opened the lid of the fermenter, old Harley was the first to smell the special fragrance which was utterly different from before. The moment he smelled it, old Harley loudly exclaimed.

Chapter 246: The Effect of the Mutated Yeast

Zhang Tie came back a bit late tonight. In the past few days, once he was free at daytime, he would take a round in the neighboring villages and the wild for two purposes: first, to look for the animals raised in the neighboring farming households that could be set free and lead to the corresponding Fruit of Redemption; second, to cultivate by himself.

On a huge, bald rock on top of a hill several kilometers away from Chevli village, Zhang Tie found a good place that was suitable for him to cultivate the "Bear Back Iron Body Skill". Over there, no matter how he would hit that rock using his back, that huge rock weighing several thousands tons would remain unchanged. This brought Zhang Tie another chance to strengthen his body and promote the growth of Iron-Body Fruit.

Based on his current strength, if he practiced "Bear Back Iron Body Skill" against the wall of Hanna's house, once he exerted his full strength, he might collapse the wall. However, if he used less strength, he might not be able to achieve the ideal effect. That's why he had to find a proper place to practice this skill. If he could not find a stout tree, he had to find a huge rock or a cliff that could stand his thousands of kgs' force.

Zhang Tie guessed that one of the reasons why he wasn't killed during that bloody fight with the undying army of the Sun Dynasty might also lie in the Iron-Body Fruit. Although he had not eaten too

many Iron-Body Fruits, the effect of those he had eaten must have been utilised at the most critical moment and saved his life. Because of this, Zhang Tie started to pay more attention to the Iron-Body Fruits after his body fully recovered.

Especially now that his body had mutated to a preliminary recovery body, Zhang Tie had super great wound recovery and healing capability which suggested much more special ideas about his future cultivation road. The effect of the Iron-Body Fruit reinforced his physical defense and anti-striking capability. If he could further exert this effect together with the effect of his preliminary recovery body, he would definitely have a greater chance to survive and be as robust as a cockroach which had a super strong vitality.

Zhang Tie was actually very afraid of death, so after gaining the preliminary recovery body, he immediately became extremely concerned about the Iron-Body Fruit. That's why these days, he definitely spent more time practicing "Bear Back Iron-Body Skill" than ever before.

At daytime, he would ram his back against that huge rock. When he had to stop due to pain, he would forcefully pat his lower abdomen, chests, neck, thighs, and shins. After that, the pain on his back would have relieve somewhat and he would start to ram his back against the huge rock again.

He kept doing that all day long. Even though it were lunch or supper time, he would hurriedly eat some dried rations before returning to his practice.

Zhang Tie really regarded himself as a red iron plate that needed to be hammered. Each time he was hammered and rammed, he would enjoy great happiness. Sometimes, as long as one's mentality changed, arduous and boring cultivation could also be filled with pleasure. For Zhang Tie, this cultivation process was actually a special individual game.

Since he constantly practiced like this, four days ago, the first Iron-Body Fruit after his complete recovery became mature. After eating it, Zhang Tie finally felt its sweet juices. It didn't make him suffer from diarrhea, just turned into a wisp of icy energy that penetrated into his skin and muscles from inside to the outside.

In the following two days, when Zhang Tie constantly patted and rammed himself, he had a different feeling as he felt a wisp of comfortable, warm qi and energy that started to fuse with his skin and muscles. In the process of alternatively warm cultivation and eating icy fruits, Zhang Tie really felt like a hot, red iron plate being quenched after being hammered.

After recovery, the second Iron-Body Fruit was 82% ripe yesterday. After today's practice, Zhang Tie estimated that it would have become completely ripe. Besides this Iron-Body Fruit, the first Leakless Fruit after recovery should also have ripened today. The moment he thought that he could engulf two fruits tonight, Zhang Tie became highly spirited.

After igniting two more burning points, he would be able to be promoted to a LV 5 warrior. As Blapei was peaceful now, and he had gained a preliminary recovery body, Zhang Tie was thinking about completing this promotion in the next month or two. Although this promotion was twice as difficult as the one before, it was of great significance to Zhang Tie at this moment.

If there was no emergency, he felt that his Iron-Blood hidden strength could be promoted to Iron-Blood invisible strength when he reached level 5. Controlled by the invisible strength, his Iron-Blood Fist and

red-snake sword would be even more powerful. Additionally, when he reached level 5, his physical strength and potential would be further tapped, which meant that his javelin attacks would be more horrifying.

Actually, on that night when he fought with the undying army of the Sun Dynasty, the speed of the javelin that Zhang Tie had freely thrown had already reached the speed of sound. However, Zhang Tie clearly knew that the sonic boom skill that he could grasp had just passed the sound barrier. He could not fully play the role of the sonic boom yet as the effect of his sonic boom was not stable yet. But when he reached level 5, none of the above problems would exist. Perhaps by then, the javelins could fully exert their power in Zhang Tie's hand.

...

When Zhang Tie came back to Chevli, it was already night. However, the village was ten times more boisterous than usual. As the beer carnival was tomorrow, many people in Chevli village had started to make torches and festival lanterns. Additionally, many kids couldn't wait to ignite the torches and the festival lanterns and played with them. Looking from afar, the Chevli village was brightly lit and filled with people's laughter and joyful words.

People here enjoyed eating roasted geese in festivals. Tonight, from many houses in Chevli village drifted the aroma of roasted geese.

Speaking of them, Zhang Tie had made a new discovery these days—in Blapei, actually, he could set free some more animals, namely those chickens, ducks, and geese that were raised in many houses in the villages neighboring Blapei. It wouldn't even cost him too much money to set free those animals. To tell the truth, Zhang Tie was really curious what would the Fruit of Redemption look like after he set free those average livestock.

Although this idea was very good, Zhang Tie couldn't find any proper reason to do this. He was afraid that the moment he set those livestock in the wild, they would be caught back by others. It wouldn't work at all.

Although he could set them free in the Castle of Black Iron, where he didn't need to worry about them being caught back by others, it wasn't exactly the beset solution. He had brought some earthworms inside the Castle of Black Iron several days ago and made earthworms the second animal that settled there after the bees, but the livestock were much bigger than earthworms.

It would work if he brought a couple of into the Castle of Black Iron, but it would be too eye-catching if he brought too many of them inside. Additionally, since he was living in Hanna's home, if he often brought chickens and ducks back in to his room which would then disappear the next day, leaving nothing at all, how could he explain that to them. Even an idiot would notice something wrong. Of course, Zhang Tie didn't want to be the target of the public.

...

When he returned to Hanna's home, Hanna instantly pulled him back into the dining room. What made him surprised was that all of Hanna's family members were staring at a glass of beer on the table in the middle of the dining room. Old Harley, Hanna's dad, and Hanna's elder brother were piously gazing at

that glass of beer on the table without even blinking. Hanna's mom and elder sister-in-law also were pretty nervous.

'Why are they staring at that glass of beer? What's happening? Is it a traditional ceremony that is going to be held before the beer festival?'

But before Zhang Tie could open his mouth, he saw Hanna silently glance at him, and so he swallowed his words back.

After a long while, old Harley who was staring at that glass of beer let out a sigh.

"Already six minutes!"

"The bubbles are still there!" Hanna's elder brother said, his eyes shining bright.

"The bubbles in the beginning definitely reached over three centimeters!" Hanna's dad added in an obviously trembling voice.

After that, the three men exchanged glances with evident uncontrollable excitement and ecstasy.

Zhang Tie saw nothing special. After silently asking Hanna what was happening, she told him that for men who treated beer as their lives in Blapei, during the past hundreds of years, they had already concluded a series of methods to appraise the quality of beer. Besides tasting it, they could also judge it with their eyes. Take the bubbles of the beer for an instance, many people could judge the quality only by the bubbles and luster—the standard of top-class beer was that the bubbles could rise three centimeters above the mouth of the glass and remain unchanged for at least four-five minutes.

After smelling its odor, checking its luster and tasting it, its lasting time was the final procedure to appraise its quality. The result was super excellent like the other aspects, so all Hanna's family members became really excited by that.

...

"It looks perfect too. I drunk too fast just now and failed to appraise it's real taste. I will try it again..."

Licking his lips, Hanna's elder brother stretched out his hand to take that glass of beer on the table.

"Bastard, you've drunk one glass before!"

Hanna's dad pushed away the reaching hand of Hanna's elder brother with a cold expression while stretching his own hand towards that glass of beer.

"Cough...cough..." Old Harley coughed twice.

Hearing that, Hanna's dad's hand froze in the air.

When old Harley was about to take that glass with a big smile, Hanna took the initiative and picked that glass of beer from the table. She then brought it in front of Zhang Tie. Old Harley gave an embarrassed smile as he drew back his hand.

"Try it!"

Hanna stared at Zhang Tie, full of expectations.

Zhang Tie held the glass and took a careful look. Given its luster, the glass of beer seemed to be more translucent and pure than those he had drunk before. Although it was under the lamp light in the evening, holding the glass, Zhang Tie felt like holding a big piece of excellent yellow crystal which had a very strong texture visually.

When he moved the beer close to his mouth, a unique fragrance brought a sense of liveliness. To tell the truth, Zhang Tie had not smelt such a good odor from beer ever since he was born.

The moment the golden liquid entered his mouth, it tasted both fine, smooth, and refreshing, seeming not to have that bitterness and astringency of other beer. Instead, it was fully energetic. It seemed like every wisp of sunlight's essence had been absorbed by the raw materials that then were turned into alcohol.

With just a sip, Zhang Tie had become addicted to it.

Although he was not an expert in tasting beer, he clearly knew that the beer in his hand was definitely the most excellent one.

While the other three men in the room were forcefully swallowing their saliva, Zhang Tie bottomed that glass of beer.

After that, he glanced at Hanna with an expression of inquiry. Hanna slightly nodded. Zhang Tie then understood it at once.

This beer was brewed by Hanna using the mutated yeast that he had given to her!

At this moment Zhang Tie was so shocked that he became speechless.

This beer was brewed with the yeast that only contained one third of the properties of the original basic aura yeast. What if the original basic aura yeast was used?

Zhang Tie's heart pounded as he suddenly remembered that what he had brewed in the Castle of Black Iron with those mutated yeast could be drinkable too.

His heart raced fiercely.

...

"Does the God bless our Hanna to be this year's Beer Queen?"

Hanna's mom was so excited that she even dropped tears.

"It cannot be that. The beer that Hanna brewed before had not been this tasty. Since she brewed it like always, how could she make such special beer?" Hanna's elder brother became dubious. "No way, I will try another glass to check whether it was an illusion just now!"

"Nobody is allowed to taste Hanna's beer any more!" Old Harley solemnly glanced at Hanna's elder brother as he had immediately seen through his plot. "Tomorrow, the beer will conquer every man in Blapei; Hanna will definitely be the Beer Queen of Blapei!" Saying this, old Harley glanced at Zhang Tie and forced a smile. "Can you temporarily keep the secret of what happened tonight for Hanna?"

Zhang Tie nodded.

"You know, we've got one more thing to negotiate at home..."

Zhang Tie felt embarrassed at once. The moment he was going to leave, his arm was grabbed by Hanna. Being straightforward, she directly revealed the secret to the other family members.

"Grandpa, you don't need to feel strange about that anymore. The reason that my beer is different from before is that Zhang Tie gifted me a packet of very special powder of beer yeast before..."

After being slightly stunned, Hanna's dad instantly sprung up from beside the table. He didn't let Zhang Tie leave, instead, he rushed outside and looked around. After finding no people there, he hurriedly closed the door.

Besides Hanna, everybody in the room focused their gleaming eyes on Zhang Tie, causing him to feel like he was surrounded by a pack of wolves...

Chapter 247: The Start of the Carnival

The annual beer festival in Blapei would be fixed on the first weekend of each November. Because the beer festival originated from the festivity of farmers in the most leisurely time of Blapei, even though the month chosen was not as hot as June and July, people's passion for their favorite beer was enough to ignite the whole Blapei on the same day each year.

Even if facing the danger of war and just having suffered a bomb attack from the Sun Dynasty several weeks before, each house in Blapei today still became boisterous like flaring fire.

It seemed that because of having been oppressed by the upcoming war, people here became really mad and decided to give full vent to their inner emotions.

Old Harley said that the quantity of festooned vehicles from Chevli village this year was the largest in recent years. The festooned vehicles were also more beautiful than before.

For this festival, Zhang Tie also showed great interest. Since last night, old Harley had been ten times more enthusiastic about him than ever before. After learning that Zhang Tie had not prepared a traditional costume for the beer festival, in the early morning, he sent a whole new, decent costume to Zhang Tie.

This proper and decent costume included a jazz hat decorated with beautiful feathers, an average and good-looking jujube-wood walking stick, a black woolen coat without lapels, a small black vest, a round, woolen half-body cloak, a pair of black leather jazz pants, a pair of stockings, and a pair of brown, round-head brogues.

Once he dressed in these clothes, Zhang Tie found himself very funny. Looking at himself in the mirror, he felt like he was much more mature. If a mustache was put on his mouth corner, he would look like a mature gentleman. Since he was almost 16 years old, Zhang Tie's lips were covered with fine cyan hair, making him as tender as a Chinese onion.

Zhang Tie estimated that this costume had cost old Harley at least 20-30 silver coins. When old Harley sent it here, he was even worried that Zhang Tie wouldn't receive it.

After Zhang Tie generously received the clothes, all the family members of old Harley became excited. After all, these items were really trivial compared to what Zhang Tie had promised them last night.

After what happened last night, he had turned from an ostentatious outsider to a respected guest of old Harley's family.

Hanna also changed to a set of beautiful clothes today. She wore a beautiful dress with corset and an open collar whose neckline was decorated with a circle of delicate folded lace. Her shoulders and breasts were decorated with a rectangular purple silky cloth of beautiful lace, on which was a bow knot and some beautiful bibelots. The sleeves of the skirt were bulging puff sleeves. The lower part of the skirt which was also decorated with many delicate ornaments reached her feet.

Of course, on the lower part of the skirt was an apron that greatly impressed Zhang Tie. It was said that an apron represented that the working woman was diligent.

As an unmarried woman, Hanna wore a beautiful garland woven of camellia.

In this costume, Hanna became more fascinating and beautiful. Zhang Tie liked it very much as it revealed her womanly figure and displayed her plump breasts and butt that attracted men's attention.

...

At this moment, Zhang Tie was standing near the windowsill in his room, revealing a weird expression. He seemed to be enjoying the scene, gasping, and watching the courtyard of Hanna's home.

Besides Zhang Tie, everybody in Hanna's home were wearing new clothes. Even old Harley had changed to a set of clean and decent clothes.

"Zhang Tie, have you seen Hanna?"

Seeing Zhang Tie standing next to the windowsill in his room and facing the courtyard, old Harley who was seeking for Hanna raised his head and asked.

"I saw her down there in the courtyard just now!" Zhang Tie answered loudly from upstairs.

"Where has that wicked girl gone..." Old Harley mumbled downstairs in the courtyard before turning back and leaving.

What Zhang Tie said just now was true. A moment ago, he truly had seen Hanna in the courtyard. but now...

Hearing Zhang Tie talking with old Harley, Hanna who was squatting down and working hard became more excited. After forcefully swallowing and spitting several times, Hanna's apex nasi had almost reached Zhang Tie's pubis on the lower abdomen. With eyes half closed, Hanna became slightly intoxicated. At a rhythm, she would slightly groan besides the "zi zi" sound made by her lips

getting in contact with Zhang Tie's d*ck. It seemed that this state could bring her a certain pleasure.

Zhang Tie was very pleased as he liked to do this very much, spiritually, physically, and even visually.

Because she was squatting in front of Zhang Tie in a dress with an open collar, her slightly raised head, revealed the beautiful curve of her neck and the part above her clavicle. Zhang Tie felt that Hanna was like a beautiful swan at this moment.

A beautiful swan singing a song for him...

Zhang Tie felt very lucky.

Around ten minutes later, Zhang Tie started to violently tremble. Out of consciousness, he hugged Hanna's hand with his own while Hanna also accelerated the frequency tacitly. Her blond hair started to crazily weave under the camellia corolla. Finally, Hanna's whole face almost lay on Zhang Tie's lower abdomen as she tightly held Zhang Tie's d*ck in her mouth and remained still. At the same time, Zhang Tie completed a thorough ejection in the deepest part of Hanna's mouth...

...

Hanna swallowed everything before extracting the last drop of body fluid of Zhang Tie with her lips and tongue and put that tamed thing into his jazz pants.

"Your waistband is very beautiful. Is it new? I've not seen it before..."

After arranging Zhang Tie's pants, Hanna noticed his new waistband.

"Yea, It's new!" Zhang Tie could only reply in this way.

Already having stood up, Hanna touched the red snakes which were embedded in the buckle of the waistband. "That's weird, it's two snakes; isn't it be a bit large for a buckle of a waistband? But it's very beautiful and gorgeous. Plus that weird snake, you have three snakes now, one big and two small, hey hey..."

"You coquettish woman!"

Zhang Tie became slightly dumbfounded as he found that this woman was even more lewd than him.

"What? Don't you like it?"

Hanna stared at Zhang Tie in an enchanting way.

"I do like it!" Zhang Tie honestly answered.

"Many times last month you've forcefully ejected into my body by pressing me down, I was worried about being pregnant; unexpectedly, my menstruation still arrived last month on time!"

"Haven't I told you that if I don't want you to get pregnant, you won't get pregnant!" Zhang Tie replied with a smile as this was a mysterious function brought by the small tree.

Only when he wanted to have babies could the essence ejected from him contain the most important energy that could breed new lives. Normally, although the essence looked no different from usual, it would never make a woman pregnant.

When he made love with Pandora in Blackhot City for the first time, the selective dialog box had popped out in his mind at the most critical moment, making Zhang Tie more relaxed and happier to make love

with those girls of the Rose Association later on. This truly saved a lot of trouble for him by preventing the women from getting pregnant. Besides the fruits, Zhang Tie felt that this function of the small tree was the most considerate.

"You know what, I've already recovered today. Little boy, don't forget to wait for your teacher at night! Now, I have to go to the festooned vehicles..."

After stealthily glancing at the courtyard, Hanna kissed Zhang Tie's face, then rearranged her dress, and, walking on her tiptoes, quietly ran down the stairs from Zhang Tie's room.

...

Five minutes after Hanna had left, Zhang Tie also went downstairs like a thief.

Today, most of the people in Chevli village wanted to go along with the festooned vehicles to see the flower parade and the evening carnival in Blapei. Previously, old Harley and Hanna's dad had also wanted to be there; however, after what had happened last night, the two men of Hanna's family decided to stay at home.

Last night, when Hanna explained that the reason for the beer being so delicious lay in the special yeast powder gifted by Zhang Tie, all the other family members became thrilled. Of course, the quality of the yeast used to ferment the beer could not be judged by one's eyes or mouth. However, people in Blapei who had several hundred years' traditions in brewing beer truly had their own method to test the quality of the yeast gifted so as to check the truth of Hanna's words.

Old Harley only took a small half glass of beer zymotic fluid from the fermenter. After that he fetched a vial and sprayed a bit of weird powder from the vial into it. He then slightly shook the bottle. After a short while, at the sight of the small half glass of zymotic fluid, old Harley became so thrilled that his words started to be disordered.

"Oh, my god, it's true; how could it be? There's no other anaerobia except for yeast in the zymotic fluid. This was really a wholly new yeast that I've never seen before..."

After Hanna explained it to Zhang Tie, he finally understood why old Harley was so excited.

In Chevli village, all the zymotic fluid left from brewed beer was recyclable. However, the recycling times were limited to 4-5 times. It would be ineffective after being recycled 6-7 times. The reason was as follows: during the process of beer fermentation, besides yeast, there would be other anaerobia. After each fermentation, the quantity of these anaerobia would increase. When the quantity and proportion of other anaerobia became greater than 20% of the total amount of yeast in the zymotic fluid, the beer brewed would taste bad.

For a long time, people in Blapei had concluded a series of methods to test the proportion of other anaerobia in zymotic fluid to determine the zymotic fluid's availability. Zhang Tie didn't know what old Harley had sprayed into the zymotic fluid, but Hanna told him that if there were anaerobia inside, after spraying the powders inside, the color of the zymotic fluid would change accordingly. Experienced people could identify the proportion of anaerobia inside from the changing color.

After spraying the powders inside, old Harley was shocked by the result as there was almost no anaerobia inside the zymotic fluid. However, this phenomenon had never been seen during the past

hundreds of years in Blapei. After being brewed for the first time, the content of anaerobia inside the zymotic fluid would usually increase by 3-5%. Old Harley's family members had not even heard about any zymotic fluid that would contain no anaerobia after being used once. Of course, the reason was the special yeast spices in the zymotic fluid.

Hanna's words were verified at once.

All the family members clearly knew what this meant.

Such zymotic fluid could be recycled forever. However, this wasn't the real deal. What was most important was that as long as they were not afraid of trouble, after some filtering procedures, they could use the yeast in the zymotic fluid to cultivate more of the same yeast, which could be used to brew more top-quality beer. And top-quality beer symbolized great honor and a great amount of money in Blapei...

A bright road suddenly appeared in front of Hanna's family members!

However, Hanna's family members didn't know that the yeast was fully under the control of Zhang Tie. As it was a mutated species from his Castle of Black Iron, if Zhang Tie didn't like something, he could lock and change some of the yeast's gene functions to stop its reproduction. After eating the Fruit of Creator which could control the yeast, once Zhang Tie sent an order in his mind, he could kill all the yeasts which had been carried out of the Castle of Black Iron at once.

Facing the eyes of Hanna's family members that were full of desire, Zhang Tie had made an agreement with them last night which almost drove them mad.

...

The beer brewing workshop in Hanna's home was locked for today while the remaining zymotic fluid was carefully stored away. But even so, they were still not reassured, so two men stayed to keep an eye on the treasure.

In Blapei, the value of yeast that could improve beer's quality could almost drive everybody mad.

From last night, the affair of Zhang Tie gifting his mutated yeast to Hanna had become the top secret in old Harley's home.

...

Because he planned to go back downtown today, Zhang Tie followed the festooned vehicles and the teams to head for Blapei after taking a very roundabout way.

Hanna took her beer and sat on the predominant festooned vehicle while everybody in Chevli village including the village head surrounded her like numerous stars circling around the shiny moon. Last night, old Harley had silently called the village head into his home. After drinking a glass of Hanna's beer, the village head decided to let Hanna represent Chevli village to compete for this year's Beer Queen...

The news that Hanna was going to compete for the title of Beer Queen immediately shocked the whole Chevli village.

As Hanna hadn't brewed too much beer using the yeast given by Zhang Tie, not everyone could have a chance to taste her beer to verify her qualification. But after the village head shown the same "bubble certificate" in the public like what Zhang Tie had seen last night, all the villagers in Chevli were conquered.

For people in Blapei, the quality of beer could be identified by eyes.

The moment they opened Hanna's barrel, the fragrance of the beer almost caused a chaos among the team that had entered Blapei.

After the chaos, the team of festooned vehicles of Chevli village no longer looked like going for a parade in Blapei any more, instead, they looked more like an army heading for a battle as everybody was highly spirited and with a high morale. If there was truly a Beer Queen in Chevli village, it would be a huge pride and honor for all the villagers in Chevli.

In this atmosphere, Zhang Tie was ignored by others and was pushed to the end of the team. Nevertheless, he didn't mind it at all.

Seeing Hanna's happiness while being surrounded by the people as if she was a queen, Zhang Tie also felt glad for her.

He was truly in a good mood today!

At least good at this moment!

...

After the arrival of the teams of festooned vehicles from surrounding villages, the grand beer carnival in Blapei officially kicked off at noon.

Today, every place in Blapei was well decorated. Roadside stores, houses, and lamp poles—all were covered with colored ribbons, flags, and various joyful symbols.

The first news that Zhang Tie heard after arriving to the downtown area was not about the beer festival but about the war. Last night, in revenge, a brave airship of the Iron-Horn Army had dashed into the air territory of the Sun Dynasty and dropped two bombs on to an important logistics base of the Brilliant Feathers in Lazian City which was 160 km away from the frontier of the two armies, which greatly shocked the Sun Dynasty and its predominant army—the Brilliant Feathers.

Zhang Tie read the news in the official newspaper of Blapei. Although it made him speechless, it was still very inspiring. Certainly, it might also be a propaganda act to deliver such news to a city which had been attacked by the Brilliant Feathers of the Sun Dynasty on the same day of the beer festival.

After all, the spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty had not been caught yet. However, it seemed that the rare patrolling soldiers of the No. 21 Division could be seen on the streets in such a festival atmosphere because of the arrival of such a grand festival and the two bombs last night.

Previously, Zhang Tie had wanted to follow the festooned vehicles of Chevli to watch how Hanna competed for the title of the Beer Queen, but sadly soon after he entered the downtown area, he lost contact with the team of the festooned vehicles...

Chapter 248: Trap and Honor

The boisterous atmosphere in Blapei because of the beer festival was almost out of Zhang Tie's imagination. Walking through the streets, he could see many people in holiday clothes surrounding the teams of festooned vehicles which were heading downtown. Those festooned vehicles came from all the suburban areas around Blapei. Additionally, many communities and business groups downtown also organized festooned vehicles to parade through the streets. Some were even matched with bands and dressed clowns walking on stilts. The festooned vehicles passed by with flying colorful ribbons and flags.

When Zhang Tie came to a populated place, he saw beautiful women displaying themselves by constantly sending air kisses in all directions and tossing great amounts of petals. Some of them were even tossing small trinkets like locusts woven from wheat straws, which made the surrounding kids reach to grab them.

Beer brewing workshops, roadside bars, and beer hotels in Blapei pushed out many competitions. As a result, the whole city became extremely boisterous.

Among the various competitions, the most common one was beer drinking in a limited amount of time that anyone could participate in at the cost of only one silver coin. The final winner would have a chance to win a bonus besides tasting many kinds of beer for free.

Zhang Tie had intended to push into the civic square to watch the Competition for the title of Beer Queen. However, because the area around the civic square was the most boisterous place today, when Zhang Tie was two blocks away from the civic square, the road became so crowded that he could not even move. Even if he tried for the two other directions, the dense population still held him back like a flesh wall. After pushing for ten minutes, Zhang Tie still had not moved even ten meters forward.

In the crowded streets, women screams could be heard from time to time, someone having stealthily touched their bodies.

Seeing what was happening around him, Zhang Tie had no other choice but to stop. If Hanna became this year's Beer Queen, he would learn of it at night. Each year, after the Beer Queen was selected, she would gain a great bonus and an imperial crown. The Beer Queen would sit on a special festooned vehicle and travel across Blapei.

For women in Blapei, Beer Queen was almost the highest praise and the most brilliant honor that they could gain in their whole lives. The selection of the Beer Queen was the start of the climax of the entire beer festival and carnival of Blapei. However, according to the customs, the Beer Queen could not be selected until the dusk fell and torches were ignited.

Zhang Tie really wanted to see how Hanna looked when she was selected as the Beer Queen. Since that cute girl had brought him so much happiness these days, he hoped that today could be the happiest day in her life. Zhang Tie didn't know the quality of the other women's beers as he was a layman about beer, but seeing her family members, the village head, the villagers of Chevli village becoming so confident about her, he also became confident of her success.

Old Harley casually mentioned that he slept very well after drinking two glasses of beer that Hanna had brewed using that marvelous yeast. These years, as he was growing old, he usually coughed at night. However, it was very strange last night as he didn't cough at all. Until this morning, he was still highly spirited.

Although others didn't put much weight on what old Harley had said, Zhang Tie bore it in mind as he remembered that when he had health problems or felt uncomfortable at a young age such as coughing or catching cold, his mom would always feed him the fruit yeast solution which was used to make the rice brew. It was very marvelous. Each time he drunk that, his health would become much better, so Zhang Tie had not gone for a doctor since he was young, neither did he suffer from any big disease while those small problems could be solved at home.

Perhaps the yeast could extract the substances from plants that were beneficial to people's health. Benefiting from this, old Harley slept quite well last night. Thinking this, after Zhang Tie came back to his residence last night, he ate two fruits to enhance his real strength. Additionally, he also took a look at those vats of fruit yeast solution that he had brewed in the lab of the Castle of Black Iron.

He had brewed too much, and the craftsmanship that he used to brew the fruit yeast fluid was obviously different from one used to brew beer. After a month, the fruits in the solution had not been completely decomposed. It meant that it would take a longer time for the yeast fluid to complete its final fermentation. However, the fragrance from the vats of yeast fluid had already filled the air, making him intoxicated.

The beer brewed from the yeast that only had one third of the properties of the basic aura yeast was great to drink, so the original basic aura yeast should be even more outstanding.

As for why the fluid fermented by yeast would have so many marvelous functions, Zhang Tie could not figure it out due to the limited knowledge that he had received since he was born.

Zhang Tie was thinking that perhaps he should go to the private library once again today to read a few more books and have a good study on the functions of yeast as the beer that Hanna had brewed using his yeast had made him realize that such trivial things might be very useful in the future.

...

The parading festooned vehicles parked in the afternoon in every street of Blapei. They became mobile stalls for selling beer and roasted meat. Zhang Tie then spent three silver coins to drink a few glasses of beer and eat some roasted meat in a festooned vehicle, accompanied by beautiful and passionate girls of Blapei who danced happily in the melodious music of a violin.

In such a boisterous and happy atmosphere, Zhang Tie really didn't want to wear his military uniform and return to the No. 9 Equipment Center and face a pile of worn-out machines. Right now he might as well do something else.

So after leaving the secret signal in the rendezvous point to Bilis, Zhang Tie came to the Grant's Library once again. He stayed in the retrieval area for two hours. Finally, he grew disappointed and left. Although there were some books on yeast, all of them were only related to beer brewing. No other aspects about yeast were mentioned in those books.

In such a private library, due to limited quantity of books, one could not usually find the knowledge that he truly needed. Perhaps he truly had really good luck last time.

After leaving the library, Zhang Tie soon arrived at the rendezvous point where he usually met Bilis.

As was expected, Bilis was already there.

"You're really responsive today, I thought you might not see my secret signal until night!" Zhang Tie leisurely told Bilis.

"I... I've been waiting for your news these days, so those guys even started to doubt the words that I told them several days ago!" Bilis seemed to be a bit nervous. "If you don't show up in a couple of days, I might not even dare to see them anymore!"

"Ho...ho..." Zhang Tie gave a smile. He also felt that Bilis was nervous. However, he didn't care about that as he guessed that he was nervous because he couldn't control those guys. "Don't worry, I will go see them with you today. I hope they can recognize me in this costume!"

Hearing Zhang Tie's words, Bilis let out a breath. "That's great! If you can show up in front of them, it will be more convenient for me to serve you from then on!"

"Where are they?"

"Some of them are at home; but as we often kill time in a billiard room in Xicheng District, many of them are also there today!"

"Well, I will go meet them then!"

Because of traffic control in Blapei today, with the exception of parading festooned vehicles and military vehicles, all other vehicles were forbidden to move on the roads downtown, so the two people could only go to that place on foot.

Compared to other places in Blapei, there seemed to be more poor people in Xicheng District. Buildings here were old. There were many slums and some factories. The coke-oven plants and the only steel plant in Blapei were also located in this district, so as one could imagine, the environment here was very bad.

Bilis guided Zhang Tie through the roads in the downtown area. Seeing the narrow and dirty lanes that he was walking through and the exceptionally less wealthy population which formed a sharp contrast with the boisterous atmosphere that he had seen, Zhang Tie slightly frowned. Many people here looked dumb, indifferent, grim and fierce, making him very uncomfortable.

"Do you usually stay here?"

"Yea, most of us do. This is the most chaotic area, this Xicheng District of Blapei. About two thirds of thieves, liars, rogues, rapists, prostitutes, jobless workers, low-level hatchet men, and drug addicts of the city live here. Previously, many criminals who were wanted by the Andaman Alliance also stayed here!" Bilis carefully answered.

Thinking of that night when Bilis and the other guys came to find him trouble for only two gold coins, Zhang Tie shook his head inside.

"Once you follow me, I promise you that you will soon leave this place and get to live a decent life!" Zhang Tie told Bilis very seriously.

Hearing Zhang Tie's words, Bilis suddenly slowed his speed, his shoulders and neck becoming stiff.

For some reason, since he entered this region, Zhang Tie felt like he was being watched. He glanced over all sorts of people who were silently looking at him from behind dim windows and doors and the prostitutes who had started to solicit trades under roadside lamps by leaning against dim wall corners at dusk. He then shook his head and forced a self-mocking smile. His clothes were truly not congruous with this place, so no wonder he would attract others' attention.

Bilis guided Zhang Tie into a beer hotel in a dim lane. The hotel had a very poor business with only a couple of people drinking beer inside. Zhang Tie glanced over the hotel and found nothing special.

"The billiard room is behind the hotel..."

Zhang Tie then followed Bilis into the billiard room which was made to entertain the guests of the hotel.

The size of the billiard room here was medium with 4-5 billiard tables inside, but for some reason, nobody was inside at all.

"Where are they? Can you wait here for a minute, please? Those guys might be hugging women upstairs. As they don't know you are here, I will call them downstairs!" Bilis said, lowering his head.

Zhang Tie nodded and Bilis left the billiard room. For some reason, Zhang Tie felt that the man was a bit flustered when he left.

After ten more seconds, Zhang Tie frowned as he felt that something was not right. Additionally, he smelt something bloody...

When Zhang Tie's face turned pale, with a loud "boom", a wall on the hotel's side was suddenly pushed down. The entire wall collapsed outward. Before Zhang Tie could make any response, a pile of people "flew" inside from the direction of the collapsed wall.

In this case, of course Zhang Tie instinctively avoided them. However, these people seemed weird as they all lay on the ground after "flying" inside...

They were not "flying" inside but being "thrown" inside. They were not live people but a pile of corpses in dark red military uniforms of the Norman Empire with various wounds on them. Strangely their faces felt familiar to Zhang Tie.

The fifteen corpses filled the whole billiard room at once. The nearest corpse was one meter away from Zhang Tie, face turned upward. Zhang Tie immediately recognized him—it was the guy who had beaten him and whom he had killed that night two week ago .

"We found the saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty!" someone loudly screamed outside.

Soon after that, many guys in red gloves rushed inside from the collapsed wall. With weapons in hands, they immediately surrounded Zhang Tie. Many red gloves then slashed towards the corpses on the ground and the surrounding walls and worn-out billiard tables. Some of them even slashed on themselves, none of the wounds fatal.

All of a sudden, the billiard room in the beer hotel seemed to have witnessed a fierce battle.

A red glove with silver hair then slowly walked out of the crowd gazing at Zhang Tie like how a wolf gazes at its prey.

"Major Franca, the remaining forces of the Sun Dynasty refused to be caught, so we've killed them all except for one person. When we rushed inside just now, this person was negotiating with these saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty. He was submitting an item to the saboteurs."

After his words, a red glove ranked first lieutenant searched out an item from a corpse lying on the ground and gave it to Major Franca.

That major then carefully unfolded that item with blood stains on it. He took a glance at it before facing Zhang Tie with a smile. "This item is the map containing the defenses of the Comprehensive Logistics Relief Base of Blapei and all the material warehouses. Who are you? How could you have this item?"

Hearing this, Zhang Tie knew that he was set up once again. The pit that he was in was bottomless...

"You bastard, motherf*cker!" Zhang Tie fiercely swore...

...

When Zhang Tie was surrounded by a group of red gloves, on the civic square of Blapei, after the afternoon's competition, the final result of the competition for the title of the Beer Queen was revealed: the winner today overwhelmed all her competitors and conquered all the 21 beer tasters from the Blapei Beer Industry Association.

Today, the civic square witnessed a miracle, a miracle that could make all the 21 beer tasters to vote for the same person without any hesitation. This had never happened in the history of Blapei. In the recent years, there was not even one woman who could gain more than half the votes from all the beer tasters and put on the crown of the Beer Queen of Blapei.

At this moment, in the center of the civic square, a single name gradually resonated. "Hanna... Hanna... Hanna..."

In the beginning, only a few people were shouting, but as time passed all the population in the square started repeating it while some of them even shouted loudly...

"Citizens of Blapei, please shout as you will, Blapei has its Beer Queen this year once again. This year's Beer Queen is Hanna. Hanna here brew the greatest beer in the history of Blapei. She conquered all the 21 honorable beer tasters..."

Tens of thousands of people started to cheer while many people from Chevli village were so excited that they even started to drop tears...

Chapter 249: Pulling out the Sword

Zhang Tie knew that he had already fallen into a delicately designed trap. At the sight of those corpses that he had killed two weeks ago, although being very infuriated, Zhang Tie still remained extremely calm.

Facing these strictly hierarchical and terrifying secret police of the Norman Empire, as long as he made one mistake, he would disappear from this world.

Although these people had died two weeks ago, they were still well preserved like having been killed just now. Zhang Tie was not that foolish to ask how they could have preserved these corpses so well as it was just a trivial problem. Donder had told him many methods to preserve corpses such as the most commonly seen freezing or if something slightly more complex - ointment or paste. There were many methods that could be used to keep corpses "fresh", allowing the others to set him up.

The moment he saw those corpses, Zhang Tie immediately figured out a couple things. First, these were the people who had burned the warehouse. They did this to destroy the scene and prevent him from noticing that the corpses had disappeared when he went back to check on them. Zhang Tie had then believed that the fire was set by other saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty.

Second, when he killed those people from the Sun Dynasty, the process was definitely under these people's monitoring. They had to have been hiding in the darkness. They must have witnessed how he killed those people or discovered it through investigation.

After understanding those two things, Zhang Tie became more clear-minded.

"You must be responsible for the two missing soldiers of the No. 21 Division. You did that to make me trust that Sun Dynasty's saboteurs were still in Blapei and make me believe that the fire was set by the saboteurs to destroy evidence inside and eliminate my doubts?" Zhang Tie asked icily, staring at the silver-haired Major Franca.

Major Franca then flicked his hand to let all the other red gloves surrounding Zhang Tie exit, leaving only him, Zhang Tie, and the corpses all over the ground in this messy billiard room of the beer hotel.

Zhang Tie's pupils immediately shrunk from his actions. At this moment, this one still dared to face him alone. This meant that this guy was at least a fighter above LV 8 and was very confident in defeating him. Zhang Tie didn't believe that this person who had been thinking about setting him up for such a long time didn't know his performance in the Iron-Blood Camp. Although being a LV 4 warrior, he could easily deal with LV 6-7 fighters.

"You're right. I assume the responsibility for the two missing soldiers of No. 21 Division to make everybody believe that the spies and saboteurs of the Sun Dynasty were still in Blapei. Given the effect, it worked!" Major Franca casually said as if chatting with Zhang Tie. Meanwhile, he took off his red gloves and slapped them onto one palm.

"It's said that there's a disagreement between members of the Order Committee of the Norman Empire and Marshal Lin Changjiang. Could that difference in views between the top-class figures truly make you so frenzied that you'd kill soldiers and frame military officers of the Norman Empire?"

Zhang Tie stared at Major Franca with sharp and fierce eyes.

Hearing Zhang Tie's words, Major Franca started to laugh like a lunatic.

"Now that you know what we've done, you must know our role in Blapei. Hehehehe, in the eyes of the big figures, small figures like us can only make someone disgusting. We are like a pile of rotten meat covered with worms or vomit, a number of beggars or dirty shit. We were dispatched here to make someone frown, lose appetite, or better lose temper several times at the sight of us. Do you know how we feel being treated as worms, rotten meat, shit and vomit? You could never know..." Major Franca's face twisted slightly. "In order to get rid of such life and easily throw out a pile of people like me as if cleaning up vomit, it's nothing serious to kill two soldiers and set up a military officer."

Under the laughter and wolf-like eyes of Major Franca, Zhang Tie saw an oppressed ambition, madness, and a terrifying man.

"That is to say, from the beginning, those spies of the Sun Dynasty had been under your monitoring."

"Hehe, smart!" Major Franca rubbed his thumb and his third finger, making a crispy sound, before pointed at those corpses lying on the ground. "Soon after coming to Blapei, I had clear trace of these mice and scumbags. Previously, I was just waiting for them to cause enough damage before catching them to satisfy the superior who had dispatched me to Blapei."

"These mice and scumbags were very far-sighted as they caught a disabled first lieutenant of the logistics department to force you to bring them into the logistics base of Blapei to cause great damage there. This was really a great idea. I actually hoped they would succeed there; sadly, against my expectations, you killed them all and completely destroyed my plan. Nevertheless, this was also a good thing as I found something more valuable from you!"

Major Franca licked his lips as he greedily stared at Zhang Tie.

"What do you want from me?" Zhang Tie asked icily.

"Not get, but trade!" Major Franca said, full of confidence. "As long as you tell me your secret, I will forget what happened here today. Nobody will have seen you here. You will continue to be a first lieutenant of the Iron-Horn Army and enjoy your life by making love with your mistress in Blapei and continue to enjoy your 'Woman's Excellence'."

Major Franca even told the name of a weapon that Zhang had Tie once used on battlefields.

"What secret?"

Zhang Tie's heart suddenly raced.

"Ho... ho... don't be nervous. I know you're very nervous. You've got too many secrets. For instance, how did you kill those people before they could react? How did you suddenly form Iron-Blood hidden strength? Why weren't you afraid of blue frost? How could you become a terrifying, powerful soldier from an average student in Blackhot City in only several months?" Major Franca then let out a sigh while his voice and eyes became tender. "Actually, I also want to be like you. If I can have your abilities, I can get rid of my life being regarded as vomit. Can you help me?"

Zhang Tie knew that it was useless to explain that he was struck by a lightning bolt any more. This man had set him up for the secret that could make him so powerful. Everything that happened today originated from this man's ambition and greed.

"What if I don't tell you?"

"Hehe, those people who sent me here would be interested in a young military officer from the Iron-Horn Army who would betray the Norman Empire!" Major Franca seriously looked at Zhang Tie. "I bet you don't know how the Order Review Committee and the secret police of the Norman Empire deal with traitors.

"You, your family members, even your friends will regret having come to this world. Even if you've formed the Iron-Blood Battle Qi, nobody will be able to save you. Even the Iron-Horn Army, Lin Changjiang, and the special protection tradition of the Battle God Church will not be able save you. Besides, you're just a trivial first lieutenant who has only formed the Iron-Blood Hidden Strength..."

Zhang Tie lowered his head. It was very weird that he didn't feel infuriated at all. For some reason, hearing Major Franca's words, he only recalled the scene at school several months ago. That day he had been leisurely sitting under a tree. Then some guys walked in front of him and threw down some dining plates, ignoring whether he would refuse or not...

Sometimes life was like this. You leisurely sat under a tree and watched the sky when some bastards decided that you were easily bullied and threw some dining plates in front of you, letting you make a choice between humiliation and pain.

Today, that person who threw a pile of dirty dining plates in front of him became someone from the secret police of the Norman Empire, the silver-haired Major Franca.

The same choice was put in front of Zhang Tie.

Franca thought it was a choice; however, it was not a choice for Zhang Tie at all as the two paths were both dead.

Raising his head, Zhang Tie glanced at Major Franca. "Although you've talked much just now, only one sentence is right!"

"Which sentence?"

"You're really disgusting. It was really proper to send you here to Blapei!" Zhang Tie calmly said.

Major Franca's face immediately turned blue...

"Have you made the decision? Do you know the outcome of refusing me at this moment..."

Major Franca fiercely gazed at Zhang Tie with his eyes needle-like. He wanted to continue...

But Zhang Tie smiled.

"Outcome? There's no outcome. You're just a small major, a small figure in the eyes of big figures. Perhaps I truly have some secrets, but who are you? You're not qualified to trade with me. Do you feel that it's your turn to be unrivaled across the Northern Border Army of the Norman Empire? Do you think that secret police could easily frame an officer of the Norman Empire who had won the Iron-Blood Medal by only talking?"

"Do you think to negotiate with me?" Major Franca asked, gazing at Zhang Tie as he revealed a scornful smile on his blue face, which also had a wisp of alertness mixed in it.

"There's no choice but I have another way to go!"

"Which way?"

"The bloody way!"

Zhang Tie pulled out his sword.

Chapter 250: The Bloody Way

Everyone's life was usually composed of accidents. Take the accident of Bilis setting him up for an instance, Zhang Tie had not imagined that he would encounter something like this today. After delicately arranging this trap, Major Franca had not imagined that Zhang Tie would dare and have the strength to fight back.

Previously, Franca had made a survey on Zhang Tie. He had made a lot of preparations to respond to Zhang Tie's ability that made fifteen people lose their strength to resist. However, what Major Franca had not imagined was that Zhang Tie had completely recovered.

Zhang Tie was attacking him not by poison, mysterious knowledge, but pure fighting skills.

The moment Zhang Tie started his attack, Major Franca's face slightly turned pale. Although with a pair of sharp eyes like that of a wolf, this major of secret police started to feel that what happened today was jumping away from his expectations and becoming uncontrollable.

According to his plan, Zhang Tie only had two choices: first, being compromised; second, being stubborn and getting caught. After arresting Zhang Tie, he would take him away from Blapei at the fastest speed to fix the fact that he had committed the crime. As long as Zhang Tie was in his hands, of course Franca had his way to make Zhang Tie obedient.

After all, Zhang Tie was just a 15-year old juvenile, a juvenile who was akin to a cripple. If not, why would those mice and scumbags of the Sun Dynasty target him?

Major Franca knew that Zhang Tie was setting free earthworms these days. He also knew his excuse for it. Although he found it weird, the excuse itself was reasonable. However, he had not imagined that Zhang Tie had completely recovered his combat effectiveness.

Besides, Zhang Tie even had been promoted to the preliminary recovery body as well as eaten two Iron-Body Fruits and one Leakless Fruit. At this moment, Zhang Tie not only had completely recovered his combat effectiveness, but his performance would have definitely surpass that of when he was in the Iron-Blood Camp.

Major Franca was more than two meters away from Zhang Tie, a billiard table between the two of them. The moment Zhang Tie popped out his red-snake sword, the sharp sword qi and the sword's tip had already went past the over two meter space like a long spear and rushed towards Major Franca's throat.

Now that he had launched the attack, Zhang Tie would never keep him alive. He would never care about his status, even being part of the secret police. Like on a battlefield, he would definitely be cold-blooded and waste no time...

'If I'm alive, I will kill you...'

However, as a major of the secret police, Franca was definitely not average. Having long been alert, he also responded instantly. Almost the moment he saw the sword qi, he had already moved back by tilting his body backwards.

Of course the red-snake sword moved faster than him. When Major Franca felt a sharp qi attacking his throat, he had no other choice but to incline his head to one side.

A wisp of silver hair fell off at once.

Major Franca's face immediately turned pale. If he had moved slower just now, he would have been struck through his throat just now.

Zhang Tie's combat effectiveness was really terrifying.

However, in that split second, Major Franca had already taken out his weapon, a pair of steel claws.

Major Franca caught the thin sword blade of the red-snake sword with his steel claw. However, the moment he caught it, he felt like having caught a twisting and smooth neck of a snake.

It bounced towards him and Major Franca then caught it with another steel claw. At the same time, the super long sword's body twisted towards him too. With no more hands, Major Franca could only let go and move back once again. This time the sword blade touched his face when he felt a cold breeze pass his face.

When he moved about five meters away from Zhang Tie, Major Franca felt wetness on his face. He touched it and found a finger-long wound cut on his face. In a split second, his sharp eyes became bloody.

The red gloves then rushed in like a tide once again.

"Kill him!"

Major Franca pointed at Zhang Tie as he delivered his order without any hesitation. By then, he clearly knew that if he could not kill Zhang Tie here and now, he would rush out. And if that happened, the whole thing would be totally out of his control.

From the moment Zhang Tie started to attack, Major Franca had a bad feeling. Zhang Tie's last words were very right. Whether it was in the Northern Border Army or in the Norman Empire, although sometimes he might have advantages, it was never his turn to be number one. Zhang Tie was a military officer while he was part of the secret police. If the secret police wanted to frame a military officer who had won the Iron-Blood Medal as traitor, unless he was caught in the scene...

Seeing Major Franca only suffering from a small wound facing his two fatal moves, Zhang Tie felt a bit pitiful as those moves were what he had comprehended after practicing the red-snake sword these

days. The first fatal move was a sword thrust while the second one was a three-section attack. They were both indefensible fatal moves.

In a split second, Zhang Tie understood that Major Franca's real strength was definitely above his own. As his best moves could only cause small wounds on him, it wouldn't be that easy to wound him again.

Seeing the two of them starting to fight, the other red gloves rushed in once again with the front ones holding a pitch-black cylinder. After hearing Major Franca's order, one of the red gloves standing at the front immediately put the cylinder facing Zhang Tie.

After a loud "boom", there was a huge net blown out towards Zhang Tie.

'Dammit!'

It was Zhang Tie's turn to show surprise. With a roll, he moved beneath a billiard table. Almost at the same time, the huge net covered the place where Zhang Tie had been standing before while some steel nails on the net's sides fixed to the ground at once...

Before the other people could shoot out their nets, the red gloves's eyes popped out as a 300-400 kg billiard table was lifted from the ground and flying towards them like Mountain Tai. Hurriedly they avoided it.

Soon after that Zhang Tie jumped out from behind the billiard table. With a sound of "chiliu", the sword qi of red-snake sword radiated from his hand and immediately flew through the narrow space like a spiritual snake...

Almost at the same time, some red gloves' heads flew away, fresh blood spurting out one meter high. In the meantime, Zhang Tie rushed towards the door.

"Stop him..." Major Franca shouted loudly while rushing towards him.

Hearing the order, some more red gloves surged towards Zhang Tie. However, before their weapons touched his shadow, the three meter long red-snake sword's blade slid through their bodies and hands. Almost at the same time, the red gloves released miserable screams; two more hands were now lying on the ground and several red gloves whose wounds were now longer than one meter in total were rolling on the floor.

When Zhang Tie was about to rush out through the door, another batch of red gloves rushed in. In a blink of an eye, the "s-shaped" snake-like sword qi swam across the narrow passageway, and it immediately became a bloody lane.

At this time, Major Franca rushed close to Zhang Tie.

After withdrawing the sword qi, the red-snake sword turned into a short sword at once. The moment Zhang Tie clashed his short sword with Major Franca's weird steel claw, he felt a weird yet familiar strength being passed from his red-snake sword into his arm. In a split second, Zhang Tie's hand was wounded.

It seemed like Iron-Blood hidden strength, yet it contained greater strength than Iron-Blood hidden strength as it had a feminine sense and was more aggressive.

'Iron-Blood invincible strength', a thought flashed across Zhang Tie's mind.

Seeing Zhang Tie's shocked expression, Major Franca sneered. "Did you think that only those guys of the Iron-Blood Camp can use Iron-Blood Fist Skill?"

Saying this, Major Franca didn't stop attacking and the two people experienced two rounds of fighting in a split second. Finally, Major Franca's steel claws broke through Zhang Tie's defense and he was punched by Major Franca and flew back in the air. Spurting out a mouth of fresh blood on his way, Zhang Tie was wounded once again.

'Dammit, this guy has also practiced the Iron-Blood Fist Skill. He even has formed Iron-Blood invincible strength. Perhaps this guy failed to form the Iron-Blood Battle Qi and turned to practice other battle qi. Still, he is still a powerful opponent. What's worse is that this guy is already LV 8, which makes him overwhelming...'

Zhang Tie knew that although the other red gloves might not defeat him, he could not defeat major Franca at this moment at least, especially in this narrow space where he could not use the full power of his strong points.

The moment Zhang Tie fell to the ground, he grabbed a billiard table from his side and threw it towards major Franca. Nevertheless, before the billiard table made of granite and covered with a faded green cloth reached Major Franca, it was punched to pieces.

Still, Zhang Tie had already won the precious time to escape.

He quickly moved back and forcefully slashed an "X-shaped" mark deep in the wall behind him using his red-snake sword. After that, Zhang Tie used his full strength to fiercely hit the wall, like how he practiced the "Bear Back Iron Body Skill".

As Major Franca's howled and his expression shifted to fury, Zhang Tie broke through the wall.

The rest of the secret police who were surrounding this beer hotel seemed to not have imagined that someone might break outside through the wall.

When Zhang Tie broke out, the nearest red glove was two meters away from him. By the time he turned his head, Zhang Tie had already rushed forward like a mad tiger. Before he even arrived in front of him and the rest of the secret police outside, the sword qi of his red-snake sword had reached more than ten people. In a blink of an eye, over ten heads were sent flying in the air. As a result, the red gloves were greatly weakened.

The highest combat effectiveness of these common secret police was merely equal to the common soldiers of the Brilliant Feathers. How could they hold back Zhang Tie who had been driven mad? In a split second, he had already broken the first encirclement.

Although the secret police standing at higher points shot a round of bolts towards him from their crossbows, Zhang Tie caught a man nearby and used him as a shield. Then before the second round of bolts could be shot and Major Franca rushed out of the beer hotel, Zhang tie was more than twenty meters away.

When he left, Zhang Tie saw Bilis's corpse lying on the ground outside the beer hotel and swore inside, 'You idiot, did you think you could survive when you've got yourself involved in framing a military officer of the Norman Empire?'

"Catch up with him!"

All the secret police ran after Zhang Tie together with Major Franca, who was gritting his teeth.

Not until then did Major Franca realize that he had forgotten one of the most important factors about Zhang Tie - his running speed. Although Major Franca obviously ran faster than most of the secret police, Zhang Tie's running speed was amazing. Even though he had been wounded, the distance between Major Franca and him was still becoming greater.

However, this was not what Major Franca was most concerned about, what worried him most happened when Zhang Tie ran several hundreds of meters and came to the area of downtown.

He didn't run towards the less populated place; instead, he ran towards the most populated place.

There were many people in the area who were celebrating the beer carnival. At this time, most folk had already ignited their torches. Because the Beer Queen of this year had been selected, when the dusk arrived, the grand carnival would start. Many people were waiting for the passing of the Beer Queen's festooned vehicle.

"Secret police Major Franca is a traitor; he killed the two missing soldiers of No.21 Division and framed a military officer of the logistics department of the Iron-Horn Army..."

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Zhang Tie kept running as he shouted loudly like a super great trumpet which could be heard by everybody on the avenue. Major Franca who was closely chasing after him was so infuriated that he almost spurted a mouthful of blood. This method was definitely more lethal than the slash on his face. At this moment, even though he could kill Zhang Tie at once, after those words had been shouted out, it would be impossible for the Iron-Horn Army not to make any response to this event.

When the people in the avenue heard Zhang Tie's appalling words, they all became stunned. But before they could make any response, a great amount of secret police with weapons in hand followed Major Franca out and the whole avenue became in chaos.

...

Watching Zhang Tie disappearing in the flurried crowd, Major Franca immediately stopped, his face turning extremely pale and ugly-looking. This had been absolutely out of his expectations.

At this moment, not only Major Franca, even the other secret police following him had twisted expressions. They knew what the outcome was. What they did was now known by the public.

Nobody noticed that Major Franca's fingers couldn't help but tremble slightly.

A person behind him forcefully swallowed his saliva as he lowered his voice to ask, "Major Franca..."

Major Franca gritted his teeth. "Contact the headquarters right away. When we carried out the mission in Blapei, we found First Lieutenant Zhang Tie of the Logistics Department of the Iron-Horn Army to be a traitor. After being revealed, he refused to be arrested by our forces. He even killed officers of the secret police and incited the Iron-Horn Army in Blapei to hate the secret police of the Norman Empire by spreading rumors.

"Now, Zhang Tie is escaping. I'll request the headquarters to deliver the class A order for arresting Zhang Tie. As Blapei is in extreme danger, in case of unnecessary conflict with the local soldiers of the Iron-Horn Army, we have to leave here right now!"

...

One hour later, in the minister's office of the headquarters of the Logistics Department of the Iron-Horn Army in Blapei, General Goethe smacked the desk, causing a loud sound in the office.

"Where are those bastards? Where's Major Franca? Where are they?"

The news made General Goethe so infuriated that his face turned red and his mustache rose.

"When Colonel Bach of No. 21 Division received the news and took soldiers to the airship base to stop the secret police from leaving, Major Franca had already flown away from Blapei along with the other secret police, giving a feeling as if they were escaping. Now, the soldiers of No. 21 Division are very furious..."

"Where's that first lieutenant?"

"We've not found First Lieutenant Zhang Tie. Based on the witnesses, he might have been wounded. At that moment, he was being chased by the secret police. It was said that he was a traitor."

"Nonsense! Could an officer who has been granted an Iron-Blood Medal be a traitor? Go fetch First Lieutenant Zhang Tie right now. Ask him to explain it. Meanwhile, contact the headquarters to warn the airship troop of the Iron-Horn Army to intercept those bastards in the air. I want them all under arrest and interrogated one by one. If those bastards truly dared to do this in Blapei, I will peel off their skin this time!"

"Yes sir!"

...

This night, it was not peaceful in Blapei. Through the whole night, Zhang Tie was not found, but Major Franca's airship was found 190 km away from Blapei in a valley in the northeast. It had been heavily destroyed with all the secret police having died except for Major Franca. According to the investigation, before the airship crashed, all the victims had been poisoned...

On the same day, in Nordinburg, the capital of Norman Empire's northern border, two orders for arrest were delivered at the same time: one was from the Northern Border Army of the Norman Empire; the other was from the Northern Border Order Review Committee of the Norman Empire.

The image of Major Franca appeared on the first order for arrest while the image of First Lieutenant Zhang Tie appeared on the second order for arrest. They were wanted at the same time.

Coincidentally, the crimes on the two orders for arrest were also the same - murder! One murdered the two missing soldiers of the Norman Empire and escaped while the other murdered the secret police of the Norman Empire and escaped. However, the charge of traitor didn't appear on either order for arrest.

Although big figures quarreled in Nordinburg, they made compromises too...

On the same day, a fish-like silver airship arrived at Blapei and hovered in the air for two days before silently leaving.