

Daily Life 1021

Chapter 1021: A Case Caused By Copying Homework (1)

Before the official start of the summer break, No. 60 High's Headmaster Chen Tianxiang held a pre-vacation teacher's meeting. During the meeting, he had a very grave expression on his face.

"Teachers of No. 60 High... I have bad news."

The teachers' hearts trembled – they had never heard Headmaster Chen speak so seriously before, and they discussed among themselves in whispers below the dais for a while. Exactly what major thing had happened to make the usually steady Headmaster Chen show such despondence on his face?

"All of you should be well aware that after sixty years of hard work, this is the year that our No. 60 High has the best hope of being selected and promoted to a key city high school."

Headmaster Chen said slowly, "From the summer break onward, we will gradually complete the upgrade of our facilities, and our teaching team will also be promoted. After our school becomes a key city high school, teachers who have served for more than ten years will receive a key city high school teacher's allowance directly granted by the General Administration of 100 Schools.

"After the promotion to a key city high school, if you continue to teach at No. 60 High and reach fifty years of service, you can get a house in Songhai city, in the school zone around No. 60 High. Your children won't need to be interviewed to enter the school, and the tuition is completely free.

"Another thing is that after the promotion to a key city high school, teachers can take sword boat shuttles on fixed routes to work. In addition to this, we will have a domestic as well as an international team-building activity for all teachers each year. The team-building activities will improve the cohesiveness of our teaching team. At the same time, it'll help relieve some of your stress when you're busy, and you can expand your knowledge in various ways."

Below the dais, Director Shi was a little baffled at Headmaster Chen's words. "Isn't that good news?"

Headmaster Chen nodded. “Mm, it’s good news. Now comes the bad news.”

“...”

“A very important part of being upgraded to a key city high school is the handover of the ‘Jade Scroll of School History.’ This is a record of the initial founding of No. 60 High on jade paper, and is the one important piece of material evidence we have of No. 60 High’s qualifications as an established school. It’s stamped with the wordless magic seals of all the former headmasters.”

Headmaster Chen steepled his fingers together and said in a low voice, “Previously, I took out the Jade Scroll of School History and placed it on my office table. I planned to stamp it with my own wordless magic seal before finally handing it over to the upper department for review. But I regret to say, the Jade Scroll of School History has disappeared.”

“Disappeared?”

“How can it disappear?”

The teachers were in uproar below the dais.

Logically speaking, a school’s Jade Scroll of School History actually wasn’t anything of value... even a thief wouldn’t look at it.

The most important thing, as a lot of the teachers knew, was that there weren’t any words on the scroll. This included the headmaster’s stamp, which was a wordless magic seal. All this was for the sake of keeping the scroll in pristine condition; the right verbal magic password was required to make the words appear on the scroll.

“Principal, has the scroll been stolen, then?” The teachers couldn’t remain calm after this.

They had now reached the stage where every key city high school candidate had to submit the materials for an audit, and the submission deadline was the last day of the summer break. If they couldn’t find the scroll before then, the chance to qualify for a promotion this year would probably fall into No. 59 High’s lap.

While No. 60 High would lose their best chance in a century...

This wasn't just about the students' learning, but also the welfare benefits for teachers.

A number of teachers had actually planned to resign in recent years, but with No. 60 High's promotion on the horizon, they had decided to stay and continue teaching.

All their hearts turned cold at such a huge crisis cropping up at this critical time.

"Silence, all of you."

Headmaster Chen was unperturbed as he spoke. His voice couldn't be considered loud, but it carried the dignity of a headmaster, and the situation calmed down for the time being.

"I know all of you are worried, but now is not the time to be anxious; now is the moment that we teachers of No. 60 High should conduct ourselves gracefully. The closer we get to the critical juncture, the more we must remain calm in the face of a crisis." Headmaster Chen stood up, and his gaze swept over the teachers below him. "There is still some time before we have to submit the materials for a qualification review: our No. 60 High still has sixty days to turn things around.

"From my understanding of the preliminary situation, we can rule out the possibility that the scroll was stolen. In the months leading up to the summer break, the General Administration of 100 Schools once held a jade paper recycling operation, and Director Shi and I collected all the old exercise books and scrolls made of jade paper and placed them in my office.

"After looking at the surveillance cameras, it appears that the Jade Scroll of School History was mixed in with the others when a student came to move the things, since it looks just like a blank scroll... It's no wonder it would be treated as trash, given that there's no writing on it; our sect is in fact partly to blame for this."

"Then where can we find the Jade Scroll of School History?" a teacher asked the critical question.

And Headmaster Chen already had the answer.

It was also the main purpose of this teacher's meeting which he was holding today.

He dropped his forehead into his hands. “After recycling the jade paper and purifying it with magic, the General Administration of 100 Schools already cut it up for this year’s summer holiday homework...”

All the teachers: “...”

“So the good news is that our Jade Scroll of School History is still in Songhai city. However, I’m afraid that it has already been cut up into several parts and is scattered among this year’s high school holiday homework. As long as we can find all the parts of the scroll during the summer break, I can restore it with magic.”

As Headmaster Chen said this, his gaze swept over the teachers around him and he gave them an imploring look. “Every teacher present is an elite of our No. 60 High. You deal in various aspects of education and make diligent contributions toward nurturing the flowers of the cultivation world! This year is our No. 60 High’s best chance of being promoted to a key city high school in a century! I’m humbly asking everyone here to do everything in your power to find all the cut-up parts of the Jade Scroll of School History during the summer break! Everyone, please!”

After saying this, Headmaster Chen straightened before bowing deeply to all the teachers of No. 60 High below the dais.

Thus, a search operation centered around No. 60 High’s Jade Scroll of School History went into full swing during the summer break...

Since it was summer, a lot of students made plans to travel.

To narrow down the scope, the teachers of No. 60 High limited their search to places like coffee shops and fast food restaurants in Songhai city. As soon as they discovered any students copying homework, they wouldn’t hesitate to seize them on the spot.

Chapter 1022: A Case Caused By Copying Homework (2)

No one could have expected that the all-important Jade Scroll of School History would actually be reduced to jade paper pulp at such a critical time and turned into summer vacation homework. Now that the homework had already been given to every Songhai city high school student, looking for all the pieces of the Jade Scroll of School History would be just like fishing for a needle in the sea.

In light of this problem, Headmaster Chen had released a radar app in the teachers' group chat which could lock onto the scroll's approximate location. But the scroll had been cut up into so many parts, so the response range was decreased accordingly: only when the scroll was within a range of fifty meters would the app respond.

And the lead teacher in charge of directing the teachers in the search for the Jade Scroll of School History naturally was Old Antique.

Old Antique had a good relationship with the kids and there wasn't any generation gap – he would even bring up the latest memes in class. It could be said that he was the teacher closest to the youngsters.

Headmaster Chen and Director Shi both felt that only Old Antique could take up this significant responsibility.

Old Antique clearly lived up to their expectations, and formulated a detailed search plan that very night: "Next, I've divided the teachers into several groups; the listing has been sent to the group chat. Take note, teachers: this has to do with our future benefits. I hope everyone will be meticulous during this summer break!"

Everyone looked at the list, which basically consisted of two-person teams. The division of labor was made very clear.

Fast food restaurant team, coffee shop team, library team, magic treasures and electronic shops team, spirit sword shops team... and most unbelievable of all, there was even an airport team. That was to say, even if there were students who had arranged to go overseas to copy homework, teachers could stop them on the spot...

"We don't have enough manpower." Some of the teachers checked the division of labor on the list. Even with all the teachers of No. 60 High sent out, they could only cover one district at most.

But there were twenty-two districts in Songhai city, and chain stores like fast food restaurants and coffee shops numbered in the thousands. Furthermore, their response range was only fifty meters. How long would their search take?

“Don’t worry, teachers. Please trust my directions, and just do your work to the best of your abilities.” Old Antique smiled confidently.

He was naturally well aware that he would have to look for external help in this situation, otherwise it would be very difficult for No. 60 High’s teachers to complete this task on their own.

As for whom to go to for help... first of all, Odd Zhuo absolutely couldn’t hear about this – Headmaster Chen had made this very clear when he had appointed Old Antique as chief commander.

Given that Odd Zhuo was a No. 60 High graduate, he might be biased when it came to rating the key city high schools, so he had to steer clear of activities related to No. 60 High for the next few months. Now, more than ever, Headmaster Chen couldn’t let him know about the missing Jade Scroll of School History. For one thing, he didn’t want Odd Zhuo to be troubled over this. For another, if the matter of their missing Jade Scroll of School History was exposed and the Alliance of Ten Thousand Schools got wind of it, they wouldn’t even qualify to be a key city high school candidate!

Thus, not only did they have to look for the Jade Scroll of School History, they had to do it secretly.

“Time to showcase my abilities.”

On a rooftop on No. 60 High’s school grounds, Old Antique’s thoughts turned in his mind as he gazed at the setting sun.

A few minutes later, two figures flashed in front of Old Antique.

They were none other than the two disciples he was proud of, Killer Daoist and Bandit Evil.

” Shifu! ” They dropped to one knee and cupped their fists in a salute.

“I’ve told you the specifics of the situation. How many people were you able to gather this time?”

“After Shadow Stream was taken down and their master caught, a lot of their assassins fled. Junior brother and I never stopped pursuing them until we caught and retrained them. Now is the time to put them to the test. Including the killer-level fellow brothers that have gathered, we have over two thousand people,” answered Killer Daoist.

“Mm, well done. That’s enough.”

Old Antique nodded. “The point of the operation this time is secrecy. Once you find the summer vacation homework, you just need to steal it; it would be best if the kids don’t find out. If you encounter a situation too hard to handle, you can sit tight and let me know, and I’ll immediately send over any nearby teachers.”

“Understood.” The two nodded, then turned into shadows that dispersed.

This was No. 60 High’s biggest opportunity to be promoted to a key city cultivation high school in a century, and no mishaps could be allowed to happen. Actually, what Old Antique cared about wasn’t the teacher benefits, but the fact that after No. 60 High became a key city high school... he would be able to set up an official snack counter on school grounds!!! He could sell his snacks openly and aboveboard, and no longer have to sneakily sell them to the kids out of his drawer!

Headmaster Chen had already promised that as long as Old Antique could collect all of the Jade Scroll of School History during the summer break, he would be given the right to run the snack counter! — Latiao!

At that time, he would bring in a huge amount of latiao !

...

Elsewhere, after the Palace of Mirrors was destroyed, the black shadow army’s plot seemed to have failed, but as Wang Ling had said, this was only the beginning.

It was what True Immortal She Pi had last said about the secret of “Shadow” that was the key to the entire incident.

There was a mysterious underground complex in the northern outskirts of Huaxiu nation.

This was an old tomb that had yet to be discovered: it was hidden very deeply and covered with all kinds of restrictions. After President Bai and the others came back to life, this old underground tomb, that didn't see the light of day, became their base of operations.

President Bai's eyes were fixed on a black shadow that flickered inside a mirror – this was the Almighty who had resurrected him and Devil Gut Fungus Lord back then, and who was now their boss.

“What do you want?” The person in the mirror spoke, his voice sounding like it belonged to a youngster.

“Your Excellency, after constant surveillance, my son has detected a fluctuation of Shadow. Although it's very weak, we can confirm that this is the fluctuation of Shadow that Your Excellency has been looking for.”

“Shadow hasn't truly been born yet – continue monitoring the fluctuation for now. There's no need to look for me until the fluctuation reaches its peak. Also, during this period, don't interfere with the family in that villa. Before the time is right, I need them alive.”

“Yes.” President Bai nodded his head. “Also, I have one other thing to report.”

“Speak.”

“A new situation has arisen: earlier, all the killers on the international ranking list suddenly received the highest kill order and have gathered together. I suspect that this might have something to do with the fluctuation of Shadow; perhaps, they are also looking for the source of the fluctuation...”

“You can handle this sort of petty thing yourself. Just remember to do as I say.”

“Yes...”

Chapter 1023: A Case Caused By Copying Homework (3)

This time, over two thousand killers had come together for a large-scale operation, regardless of qualifications or age, and President Bai found this fishy. To be able to command and move two thousand killers, it had to be those two epic-level killers in the circle who were behind this...

“Gorgeous Itinerant and Daoist Taotie...” President Bai immediately thought of these two fellow brothers.

“Does father think these two are in charge of this operation? But the rumor is that they’ve already cut off ties with each other,” Bai Youquan murmured to himself. After rebuilding their base in this underground tomb, they had been secretly recruiting people from all over the place. With the Night Chief subordinates who had escaped before and some hidden Dark Network peak experts acting as a foundation, they set up a brand new black shadow army.

They also tried employing some killers, but none of those on the list of killers paid any attention to their invitation.

This was ample proof that these killers already had backers, or at the very least, that there was someone directing all their movements behind the scenes.

After the assassin organization Shadow Stream was wiped out, the party who could win over the hearts of the killers and unite all of them in a short period of time... President Bai and Bai Youquan couldn’t think of anyone else except the two epic-level killers.

They wanted to monitor the fluctuation of Shadow, but the secret of the fluctuation was by no means known only to their family.

According to President Bai’s investigation, while it seemed that Immortal She Pi had been executed back then, it might actually have been for the sake of hiding the secret of the “fluctuation of Shadow.”

Perhaps, every country’s cultivation government was already monitoring this matter in secret.

But how had this group of killers found out?

President Bai felt a little restless. His task was to ensure that no one interfered with the fluctuation of Shadow before it reached its peak. President Bai thus couldn't help but be exceptionally wary of this large-scale, collective killer operation.

"I might be worrying too much, but since His Excellency has permitted us to act, nothing can be allowed to go wrong."

President Bai's fingers incessantly tapped the bench that he was sitting on. "Dispatch someone at once. Whatever they're doing, they can't be allowed to succeed."

"Very well, father," Bai Youquan replied.

A few minutes later...

Inside the underground tomb, Bai Youquan came up with a new command plan for the black shadow army.

Black shadows overlapped each other in front of him, surging with the auras of multiple experts.

"This time, we have to stop the killers, but remember, this must be done undercover. Your identities must not be exposed. So, everyone has to take off the black shadow suit that signifies our organization. Change into something else to pass as killers yourself."

"Should we act together?" someone asked.

"No need."

Bai Youquan shook his head and said thoughtfully, "We will send in the same number of people as the other side. Keep an eye on one person each! If they don't make a move, neither will we! We just need to curb their movements! During the operation, be careful not to injure our own accidentally!"

"Before the master plan is in place, everyone must please keep a low profile. If you run into a situation that you can't handle, you can report back to me."

"Yes, Captain Bai!"

Right after Bai Youquan was done speaking.

The layers upon layers of shadows in front of him, which were as black as crows, scattered on the spot.

...

Everything happened so suddenly. The moment Wang Ling saw the back of Teacher Pan, his mind swiftly and automatically filled in the big picture. This was the legendary “Great Mind Fill Spell.” He truly wasn’t deliberately peeking into Teacher Pan’s thoughts; he just wanted to know whether Teacher Pan’s appearance was coincidental or calculated.

From the conclusion of the Great Mind Fill Spell, it was clear that it was the latter.

And it wasn’t just Teacher Pan; Wang Ling’s “Great Mind Fill Spell” had even picked up on the operation that Old Antique was directing.

No wonder there were so many cultivators lurking nearby – Wang Ling had noticed them when he was walking down the street. They had hidden themselves completely in the dark street corners where the sun didn’t shine.

It was this occupational habit which left Wang Ling in no doubt of their identities. He hadn’t known at first what these people had shown up here for, since they didn’t have any killing intent.

Given Wang Ling’s abilities, he usually could immediately determine whether or not a killer harbored malicious intentions, no matter how well they could conceal their killing intent.

Now that he had the whole picture, Wang Ling suddenly understood.

It turned out that this group of killers... was here to freaking grab homework...

Using his identity as an epic-level killer, Old Antique had teamed up with his junior brother Daoist Taotie to get two thousand killers to spread out in all directions in the twenty-two districts of Songhai city...

Unexpectedly, such a large-scale operation had been launched all for the sake of homework...

Wang Ling took a deep breath. For the first time in his life, he felt a little suffocated...

At that very moment, Teacher Pan was right up ahead. Sticking his hands in his pockets, Wang Ling lowered his head slightly.

There were only a few individuals between him and Teacher Pan; if she turned around now, she would see him right away.

Things had become a little troublesome after all...

Wang Ling's pace was unhurried and he didn't act rashly. The killers dispatched by Old Antique were lying in wait in the shadows nearby. With so many eyes on him, any suspicious move he made would expose him.

As he passed a convenience store, Wang Ling turned and entered it.

He planned to wait for Teacher Pan to walk away a little further before ducking into the coffee shop.

Looking at the current situation, however, it didn't seem like Teacher Pan planned on leaving any time soon...

So Wang Ling took a cap out of his pocket and put it on his head.

Wang Ling actually didn't have this cap on hand to begin with – this was a magical ability called the “Great Creation Spell,” which he could use to create whatever object he wanted out of spiritual energy. In theory, this spell could even create food, but the food would be tasteless.

At that moment, Wang Ling felt like he had turned into a spy.

To make his behavior look more natural, he picked up an original flavor crispy noodle snack packet from the shelf, paid for it, then went over to sit down at the snack table inside the convenience store.

But not long after he sat down, he suddenly heard Little Peanut's voice next to his ear. "Wang Ling?"

Little Peanut wasn't tall to begin with, and a white cloth was wrapped around his head. He was wrapped up tightly like a mummy, and was wearing sunglasses. Wang Ling almost didn't recognize Su Xiao, if it hadn't been for his voice.

"Ha ha ha, it looks like you didn't recognize me – that's a relief, then!" Little Peanut grinned.

Wang Ling: "... This clearly looked even more suspicious!

"I got here before you, but unfortunately, I didn't make it into the coffee shop."

Little Peanut then pointed to the door, in Teacher Pan's direction. "I'm hiding from Old Pan, just like you."

Wang Ling: "..."

Chapter 1024: Wang Ling, Do You Get Stronger In the Face of Strength?

As a pioneer teacher at No. 60 High, Teacher Pan was without doubt a capable and formidable woman. Wang Ling had to admit that when he first entered No. 60 High, he hadn't liked his teacher-in-charge of his. However, after prolonged association, he had discovered a side of Teacher Pan which no one knew. As for when his view of her completely changed, it was during the incident with Old Antique and his junior brother Daoist Taotie a few months ago.

Their quarrel had led to the Shuigou Sect incident, which affected a number of innocent students. It was during this very incident that Teacher Pan had proven to everyone that she was an outstanding teacher of the people of the cultivation world.

Nevertheless, there were times when she was very inflexible.

For example, she attached great importance to her students' grades.

And as another example, in an age of free love, she was inflexible about banning puppy love among her students.

But in this world, was there anyone who could be the best and most perfect person?

It could only be said that as a teacher-in-charge, Teacher Pan stood by her own teaching style.

Even though she was well aware that such insistence looked like “inflexibility” in the eyes of some students.

In the convenience store, Wang Ling looked out the window.

He felt that given Old Pan’s personality, she would probably still go out to catch students copying homework even if the Jade Scroll of School History hadn’t gone missing.

Su Xiao sent their location to Super Chen in the group chat. “We’re in the convenience store next to the coffee shop, but we can’t get in...” After that, he sent a picture taken from the window of the convenience store. Although it wasn’t very clear, it still caught half of Old Pan’s back.

“...”

Inside the coffee shop, Super Chen and Dopey Guo were stupefied when they saw the photo.

Dopey Guo: “Shit! Why is Old Pan at the entrance now... the summer break isn’t over yet, right???”

Little Peanut: “Did they bring forward the period to catch people?”

Super Chen was upset for a moment when he heard this; in the past few years, the teachers only started hunting down those copying homework close to the end of the summer break; it was happening a little too early this year.

Super Chen: “Surely the teachers aren’t that free? Maybe she has some other task? But to be on the safe side, let’s end today’s operation here and meet another day...”

“We have no choice, that’s the only thing we can do.” Dopey Guo nodded his head.

These two crafty class fellows instantly turned into wusses in front of Old Pan, and Wang Ling couldn’t help but sigh at their true nature.

But given the situation today, they indeed had no other choice, and Wang Ling could only leave with Loopy Toad first.

Getting to his feet, he looked down involuntarily, and his brain mind blank — unexpectedly, Loopy Toad had disappeared!

“The hell, Wang Ling, did you bring Loopy Toad with you?” At that moment, Little Peanut was struck by fright when he looked outside the convenience store.

At the convenience store entrance, Teacher Pan was rubbing Loopy Toad’s chubby, green body... Poor Loopy Toad had been caught, and its face was full of despair as it stretched out its paws in the direction of the convenience store...

It had left Wang Ling just now to relieve itself at the base of a tree, and never expected to be caught by Teacher Pan on its way back to the convenience store.

To Loopy Toad, she was a scary woman... the reason it was able to become a dog back then was largely thanks to her.

Trouble always came in twos and threes! Who would have thought that Loopy Toad would once again fall into Teacher Pan’s hands?

At the same time, Su Xiao saw Loopy Toad waving at the convenience store and was immediately anxious. “Shit! Don’t wave in this direction!!! Old Pan will see everything!!!”

Wang Ling: “...”

Thus, what Wang Ling was most worried about still happened.

At Loopy Toad's waving, Teacher Pan finally noticed the two figures in the convenience store. She walked in with Loopy Toad in her arms and adjusted her gold-rimmed glasses. "Students Su Xiao and Wang Ling, why are you here?"

Despite her question, she didn't seem to think Su Xiao and Wang Ling were copying homework.

Su Xiao was the class commissary in charge of studies and a well-behaved kid, as well as the Dao talisman class representative, so Old Pan had a good impression of him at school.

As for Wang Ling, this kid didn't like to talk and his grades never changed; he was always in the middle in the class ranking. However, Teacher felt that he was an open and guileless kid, which was rare — at least, he didn't create havoc at school. Also, the most important thing was that Wang Ling's handwriting was very good — beautiful and neat. Thus, while Teacher Pan's impression of Wang Ling wasn't as good as of Su Xiao, she didn't detest him.

What was more, Wang Ling was the class mascot.

The sudden appearance of the class commissary and mascot naturally wouldn't arouse Teacher Pan's suspicions.

Furthermore, she didn't see any other students nearby, which excluded the possibility that they were lending their homework out to be copied.

Wang Ling: "..."

When Wang Ling heard Teacher Pan's thoughts, a few beads of cold sweat trickled out...

When all was said and done, she was a vanguard teacher of No. 60 High, and her instincts were absolutely spot-on.

"Hello, Teacher Pan!" Su Xiao hurriedly greeted her. "It's like this: Classmate Wang Ling was just about to come over to my place with Loopy Toad to play!"

"I see." Teacher Pan nodded.

Little Peanut had simply made up an excuse, but it was foolproof since his place indeed wasn't far from here. It was completely possible that Wang Ling had come with Loopy Toad to play with Su Xiao; Teacher Pan was even a little happy to hear that.

She thus said, "If it were anyone else, I would think they had come out to copy homework, but Su Xiao would never do such a foolish thing."

Wang Ling and Su Xiao: "..."

After that, Teacher Pan turned to Wang Ling and gave him a rare smile. "I never thought that Student Wang Ling could be so motivated."

Wang Ling: "???"

Teacher Pan: "Taking Loopy Toad out on such a hot day to look for Su Xiao, you probably have some study problem you want him to help you with?"

Su Xiao hurriedly nodded his head and replied very quickly, "Yes yes yes!"

Wang Ling: "..."

Little Peanut actually wasn't good at lying, but after hanging around Super Chen and Dopey Guo these two slick customers, this Student Little Peanut had completely turned into Peanut Oil...

Teacher Pan: "It's good to want to make progress. Your grades have always been right down the middle in class, and I find it strange that they've never changed. Looking at your previous test papers, your grades are always in the middle whether the questions are difficult or easy... Wang Ling, do you get stronger in the face of strength, and weaker in the face of weakness?"

Wang Ling: "..."

Loopy Toad: "..."

"But as long as you're motivated, I believe your grades will definitely improve." Teacher Pan nodded meaningfully before reaching out to rub Wang Ling's head lightly.

It was at that moment that her wristwatch suddenly vibrated.

It was in response to a fragment of the Jade Scroll of School History!

It was inside a range of fifty meters around them!

“Student Wang Ling, Student Su Xiao, I still have something urgent to deal with! We’ll talk later! I’m leaving first!” After that, Teacher Pan directly summoned her spirit sword, stepped on it, and flew out of the convenience store with a whoosh.

...

At that moment, not far from the convenience store —

Lotus Sun and Feather Lin, who hadn’t shown up in the book for so long that even the author might have forgotten about them, were walking out of a mall hand-in-hand...

Chapter 1025: Lotus Sun’s Constitution

What was the ideal way to spend time with your best friend? It was probably like Feather Lin and Lotus Sun’s relationship: going to the bathroom hand-in-hand and strolling arm in arm through the mall with bags of different sizes.

This was the typical ideal of a best friend.

Especially during the holidays; was there anything better than going shopping together?

Feather Lin and Lotus Sun walked arm in arm. Their trip to the mall today was very fruitful. This Huaguo Cultivation Mall was also a large shopping mall chain under Huaguo Water Curtain Group. If you brought Lotus Sun along to buy stuff, her face could get you a discount.

A lot of shop assistants didn't know Lotus Sun's true identity, but they were shocked when they saw this girl, who looked like she was still in high school, take out a diamond card from her storage pouch.

Huaguo Water Curtain Group had released less than a hundred of these diamond cards in the entire country. Cardholders could enjoy a premium Bill Me Later service; that was to say, you could take the item with you right away and pay later, and you could get a discount up to 50%.

Furthermore, you could pay in all kinds of ways, and even pay in instalments up to twenty years!! More relaxed than Huabei! — Mom doesn't have to worry about me becoming an online shopaholic!

"This time, it's all thanks to Rongrong 1 ! I have so many clothes I want to buy..."

"It's no big deal; you can take your time paying it back on the card."

"No problem! I won't take long! After I pair up two more couples next month, I'll get another commission!" Feather Lin was cheerful.

"..."

Actually, Lotus Sun had heard about the business Feather Lin was running. To put it bluntly, she acted as an inter-school matchmaker and introduced individuals with the aim of dating

Feather Lin's business, moreover, covered a wide range. There were traces of her in almost all the high schools in Peiyuan district. Style, type, gender... You just needed to tell this Fujoshi Lin what you wanted, and your most suitable match would appear right away. In fact, Lotus Sun had always felt that Feather Lin was awesome; she wasn't any ordinary fujoshi, but a techno-nerd fujoshi! Feather Lin had specially designed a dating app for this "high school romance matchmaking system"!

No one could have imagined that this dating app had been created by a high school student who was still at the Foundation Establishment level.

Feather Lin's monthly revenue from this app not only covered her tuition fees and living expenses, but could even support a family.

Feather was a pitiful girl from a single-parent household. Her parents divorced when she was very young, and she had to take care of her mother and older brother.

Feather Lin's mother raised these siblings and finally collapsed several years ago after years of toil. As for Feather's brother... Lotus Sun remembered that he was disabled after he was unlucky enough to be hit in the spine by an object thrown out on the street when he was very young, causing him to lose all feeling in his lower body.

He had been too young to undergo rehabilitative surgery back then, and after missing the best time window for treatment, his injury was irreversible and there was no chance that his lower body would recover (Of course, if Wang Ling had been the one who was hit back then, that object would have bounced back and crushed to death the person who had thrown it.).

Anyone who heard about this household situation would feel pity, but Feather Lin didn't seem to care. She was a tough girl with a strong heart that even a man couldn't match.

Worried that her mother would collapse from exhaustion again, Feather Lin now had an auntie come in to help clean the house and push Brother Lin outside every day to bask in the sun.

"Sigh, who knows when someone will take a fancy to my big bro," Feather Lin said as the two girls walked out of the mall.

It wasn't easy to find a match for a disabled person. As far as Lotus Sun knew, however, this Brother Lin had excellent grades.

He couldn't get into a cultivation college because of his disabled lower body, but in an ordinary school, his grades were among the best and he was a true curve wrecker.

"Seriously, Feather, do you want to try my family's pills? Who knows, your brother might be able to recover..."

"When I started earning money previously, I did ask him if he wanted to see a doctor again. My brother refused; he's used to being in a wheelchair." Feather Lin spread her hands and said, "But that doesn't matter – I believe that as long as I don't give up, I'll definitely be able to find my brother a boyfriend!"

Lotus Sun: “Boy... boyfriend...”

Feather Lin: “In any case, he has no feeling in his lower body. If I don’t find him a boyfriend, do you think I can find him a girl?”

“...”

Lotus Sun now seemed to understand why it was very hard to find a match for this Brother Lin.

The two girls walked to the curb where the Huaguo Water Curtain Group car was already parked.

Apart from going out shopping together today, the two girls also discussed the summer holiday homework. This wasn’t copying homework at all – the two girls were discussing how to write the essays for their summer holiday homework. Like everyone else, they also had to evaluate their classmates after a semester of getting along with one another.

When it came to evaluating Wang Ling, these two heroines were stumped...

After talking it over, they decided to come out today to discuss it further.

Just as they were about to get into the car, a familiar figure atop a streak of light flew in their direction at a speed that stunned them for an instant.

“Protect! Protect!” the driver in charge immediately bellowed.

The black car’s trunk lid sprung open. It had been expanded with the Space Expansion Skill commonly used in the cultivation world, and all the bodyguards who had accompanied Lotus Sun had been stuffed into the trunk. Hearing the command to protect, over ten burly men in black rushed out of the trunk to encircle Lotus Sun and Feather Lin.

...

At that moment, the killers sent by Old Antique who were hiding in the dark also saw this scene.

“What do we do? That person seems to be a teacher from No. 60 High...”

“Gorgeous Itinerant said that he would personally pass on the killers’ secret know-how to whoever grabs the homework! It’s now or never!”

“Now or never! Go! In any case, we just need to grab the homework. Don’t hurt anyone accidentally!”

...

On the other side, on another street corner, several youngsters in plain clothes were also paying attention to this chaotic scene.

“What do we do? The killers seem to be making a move...”

“Captain Bai said that no matter what they’re going to do, we have to stop them! Even if they’re offering a senior birthday greetings, we can’t let them succeed! It’s now or never!”

The black shadow soldiers responsible for tailing the killers took off the plain clothes they were wearing to reveal night outfits underneath. Someone shouted “Charge!” and they all rushed in Lotus Sun’s direction...

...

Just like that, in the blink of an eye, three different forces appeared on the street.

It was utter chaos...

“What is this...” Lotus Sun covered her small mouth, stunned by the scene in front of her.

She saw numerous dark shadows flying toward her and Feather Lin from all sides.

“...” Feather Lin realized that Lotus Sun seemed to have a constitution which attracted killers...

Chapter 1026: I. Am. A. Teacher!

Ever since the incident with the Shadow Stream assassins, extreme precautions had been taken when it came to Lotus Sun's personal safety. Retrieving the Jade Scroll of School History was indeed very important, but the current situation had suddenly changed. As No. 60 High's vanguard teacher as well as Grade One, Class Three's homeroom teacher, there was no way Teacher Pan would stand by and watch! The safety of the students was always the top priority!

Even so, she was still shocked by the number of people – over a hundred killers had actually been hiding on a commercial street like this (It actually wasn't a hundred, but the black shadow soldiers and the killers were wearing very similar clothing, so Teacher Pan had completely lumped the two forces together.)?

Including the bodyguards dispatched by Huaguo Water Curtain Group, there were now three forces on this commercial street.

When you were heavily outnumbered, it was only right to retreat. Teacher Pan knew that the killers had absolutely come prepared for the assassin operation this time, but they would only hurt her students over her dead body! Otherwise, don't even think about it!

"Everyone! Please protect my two students and evacuate them safely!"

Teacher Pan raised her spirit sword as she stood alone as cover at the very front, her words directed to the group of bodyguards.

While these bodyguards were at the Golden Core stage, the professional bodyguards from security companies in most cases had accelerated realms: their foundations were shaky and they had pitifully little real combat experience. In a crisis, they could only surround their employer in a "parked bus" formation 1 according to the crisis plan provided by the company.

What was the worst situation in a battle? Naturally, it was a set method!

No matter how amazing a set method was, it would eventually be seen through. These people were professional killers, who were wise in the ways of breaking formations and assassination – what could a parked bus formation do against these people?

Fortunately, it seemed that the assassins sent to kill Lotus Sun only had a numbers advantage; Teacher Pan felt that she would still have a good chance of winning if it were a one-on-one match up, but now that she was outnumbered, her response strategy had to change.

“Teacher Pan!” The two girls were worried about Teacher Pan’s safety.

Protected by numerous bodyguards, they retreated inch by inch along the wall on the street.

Teacher Pan gripped the spirit sword, and light reflected off her stylish gold-rimmed glasses. Looking at the hundred or so assassins out of the corner of her eye, she couldn’t help the beads of cold sweat which trickled down her cheeks.

It was explicitly forbidden to fight on the streets. There was one exception, however, and that was reasonable self-defense!

“All of you! As long as I’m here, don’t think that you can do anything to my students.”

Saying that, Teacher Pan stuck the spirit sword into the ground.

She had never revealed her fighting capability in front of her students before. She had a pretty pure spirit root inside her — an earth spirit root! Cultivators with the earth spirit root used the forces of nature. A spirit root that was properly developed could both attack and defend! While it wasn’t as lethal as the fire spirit root or as invulnerable as the metal spirit root’s defense, it had well-rounded abilities!

The greatest advantage of the earth spirit root, moreover, was that it could disregard the terrain!

Even in a cultivation world, it was still earth that was under the feet of cultivators!

“What do we do?”

Neither the killers nor the black shadow soldiers planned to kill anyone. The former wanted to grab homework, while the latter wanted to block the killers.

They were two different forces, and enemies to boot... But Teacher Pan's appearance had thrown the battle situation into disarray and these two factions were both considered assassins!

"Sword wall!" Following Teacher Pan's low cry, the spirit sword in the ground began to tremble, and there was a violent sound of an earthquake on the street before a wall of earth tens of meters tall rose out of the ground. The wall resembled a precious sword, springing out of the ground like a bamboo shoot!

When the killers and black shadow soldiers heard Teacher Pan's words, the corners of their lips twitched.

Cheap... b*itch 1 ...

How could this teacher of the people swear at others?!

Behind the earth wall, Teacher Pan was still on high alert. She didn't know how long the wall would be able to ward off the attack, but at least it could buy their side some time.

Someone had already sounded the alarm, and the cultivation police were on their way.

As soon as reinforcements arrived, the curtain would fall on this dramatic farce.

The leader of this group of killers knew they were running out of time. Whether they succeeded or failed, they could only give it a try. "You lot, jump over and cut them off! If there's an opportunity, grab the thing, otherwise retreat if there really is no other choice! The rest of you, follow me and stall this teacher and this bunch coming out of nowhere!"

With the clear assignation of tasks, the killers were promptly divided into two groups.

Seeing this, the black shadow soldiers also hurriedly split into two groups as they rushed over, but the killers who stayed behind were calm and fearless, and wouldn't let them leave.

“Brother! Do you have to do this? We all have masters to answer to; you should have sensed that we’re not here to kill anyone,” one of the black shadow soldiers said.

The two forces looked at each other, neither side giving way. The whole street had fallen into chaos and businesses shut their doors one after another, unwilling to get involved in the fight. Just then, sirens sounded in the distance.

How could such a brawl not attract the police’s attention?

“Brother! The cultivation police station is sending people over. This sort of confrontation in public is distasteful!” one of the killers replied

“That’s right, it’s too distasteful!” The black shadow soldiers also agreed since they understood how serious the situation was

“Then how about we retreat? Let’s fight another day!”

“Good! Retreat first! Everyone retreat on the count of three!”

Standing opposite each other, the leaders of both sides counted down from three to one, and the two groups vanished from the street together, escaping into the shadows.

As for the killers that had been sent after Lotus Sun, they also chose to swiftly withdraw after hearing the sirens.

In the blink of an eye, the auras of both forces disappeared without a trace.

“They’re professional assassins, after all...” Teacher Pan released the earthen sword wall she had set up. The sun shone again, and her figure cast a long shadow on the ground.

Wang Ling and Little Peanut looked at this scene from a distance. Super Chen and Hero Guo also came out of the coffee shop. They had always had a very stereotypical impression of Teacher Pan, but everyone was now deeply moved.

“Teacher Pan...” Lotus Sun and Feather Lin never expected that in such a moment, faced with over a hundred killers, Teacher Pan would step forward like a female knight. They also never thought that Teacher Pan’s figure would become so tall and big on this day.

“It’s nothing, I was just doing what I had to do.”

Teacher Pan put the spirit sword away and pushed up her glasses. “I. Am. A. Teacher!”

“Old Pan!!”

Super Chen shouted excitedly at the coffee shop entrance, “Old Pan! You’re 2.8 metres 1 tall today!”

Teacher Pan’s smile vanished.

It could only be said that as a vanguard teacher of No. 60 High, Teacher Pan was in the end Teacher Pan; even when she was being praised, her expression was still composed.

She looked up at Super Chen and Dopey Guo standing at the coffee shop entrance and said, “So you’ve finally come out.”

Super Chen and Dopey Guo: “???”

Teacher Pan: “Before I left the office, I heard you two making noise inside the coffee shop’s private room about copying homework.”

Super Chen and Dopey Guo: “...”

Teacher Pan: “Both of you, give me your homework. I’m going to wipe it clean.”

Super Chen and Dopey Guo wanted to cry, but had no tears to shed.

They never thought that coming out today, not only would they fail to copy homework, the sections they had done would even be wiped completely clean...

Tragic!

Too tragic...

Wang Ling, Little Peanut, Lotus Sun and Feather Lin observed a moment of silence for them.

Chapter 1027: Summon Team Leader Little Silver

Not only hadn't Super Chen and Dopey Guo these two slippery fellows gotten away with their plan, their whereabouts this time had been exposed, and they would probably become Old Pan's main target of surveillance in the days to come. After this incident, Wang Ling felt that rather than say that Teacher Pan was inflexible, it was more that she was a person with principles. The main problem with copying homework wasn't the failure to absorb knowledge, but that it easily bred laziness.

Once it developed into the "laziness cancer," then it really would be completely incurable...

When Foundation Establishment high school students entered the second semester of Senior Grade Two, they started to do wave after wave of practice exercises, as if they were stir-frying leftover

rice

, which was bound to be boring and tedious. A lazy student might feel that to copy someone else's homework was to master the content already, when in fact there was no improvement at all.

Review the old to understand the new.

The reason why Old Pan was so strict was so that the kids could get through the college entrance exam smoothly.

She didn't blame them for not understanding her intentions now; in any case, once the college entrance exam was over, gratitude and grudges alike would end with it.

Thus, it wasn't like Wang Ling hadn't obtained anything from this outing.

It gave him a little more understanding about the kind of person his homeroom teacher Old Pan was.

Teacher Pan's "vanguard teacher" title was a hot topic both in and outside school. After her ex-student Odd Zhuo made a name for himself in battle, Teacher Pan's career took off; she was awarded the title "City Gold-Class Teacher" several years running after that.

This selection naturally aroused criticism and dispute.

Some felt that Teacher Pan's abilities didn't live up to the title and she didn't deserve it at all; with her own hands, however, she had ultimately proven that she was indeed an outstanding teacher of the people.

Apart from understanding Old Pan a little better, Wang Ling had also gained something else.

While it had looked like one group coming to grab homework on the street, it was actually two different forces.

After the Palace of Mirrors incident, the black shadow army that had disappeared had revealed themselves here once again.

Someone else might not have been able to confirm that the second force among the group of killers were black shadow soldiers, but that definitely couldn't escape Wang Ling's eyes.

The other party had spent a long time setting up the Palace of Mirrors, but when it came down to the crunch, there wasn't any resistance at all and the entire army had retreated. The purpose behind this was very clear: the Palace of Mirrors was a stepping stone in a bigger plot.

This was a far trickier villain than any he had faced before; if the Night Chief task difficulty was S-level, Wang Ling felt that the reappearance of this black shadow army could be rated 3S for the time being.

"Are there two parties?"

That night, Wang Ling had a text message conversation with Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal.

The reappearance of the black shadow army was the greatest piece of news, because they still knew nothing about this force. They currently didn't know what this group's objective was, and any bit of information they could get was good.

Speaking of the Office of Strategic Deception gathering information, this was handled by the intelligence team, and the team leader was Little Silver. But in truth, Little Silver just supervised the Lord and Lady of the Castle. Before Mo Immortal Castle was annexed by the Office of Strategic Deception, it had once been the largest intelligence organization in Huaxiu nation and even enjoyed a good reputation overseas.

After being annexed, their intelligence network wasn't impaired; on the contrary, it was enhanced with funding. However, the Office of Strategic Deception didn't keep this intelligence network to itself; apart from private commissions, which weren't made public, the intelligence, for the most part, was also shared with Huaxiu Alliance.

For example, the intelligence on the black shadow army this time.

With the other party exposing themselves in Songhai city, the crucial task now was to track down their base.

"Don't worry, Brother Ling, I'll take care of it," Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal vowed. He realized that right now, the black shadow army was a formidable enemy which would likely become a problem for the Office of Strategic Deception in the future. Thus, before the real war broke out, it was crucial for them to learn everything about this group.

When it came to gathering information, Wang Ling actually had a second task he wanted carried out. It was a private matter, however, so Wang Ling didn't go into detail with Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal, and decided to wait for Little Silver first.

It was actually about No. 60 High's missing Jade Scroll of School History. Teacher Pan had already made up a reason and taken Lotus Sun's homework back with her, but Dog Two had smelled something on the exercise book.

Exercise books that had bits of the Jade Scroll of School History mixed into them were clearly different from the rest. Wang Ling thought that if Loopy Toad and Little Silver teamed up for a search, they should be able to find all the fragments of the scroll very quickly.

Old Antique's detector, which had been developed by the office of academic affairs, only had a fifty-meter range, to say nothing of how dangerous it was with the dispatched killers lurking all over Songhai city. But Loopy Toad and Little Silver were different; after being raised by Wang Ling, Loopy Toad was almost on the level of a quasi-holy beast, while Little Silver was a holy beast to begin with.

Holy beasts aside, a quasi-holy beast's level of aura perception was already very acute, and was even more accurate than some magical instruments.

Wang Ling hadn't planned to get involved in school matters at first.

But he decided to help out this time.

Not for No. 60, or for Headmaster Chen, but for Old Pan.

...

Little Silver had been holed up inside Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal's villa ever since the Beast King's Remains incident. Occasionally, he would go to the Office of Strategic Deception's Internet cafe to test out Cultivation Emulator with Bai Qiao.

_Cultivation Emulator'_s first trial run had been a success, garnering a lot of good reviews from players. However, the virtual pod's mind link function had to be made more stable for a better gaming experience, so the beta test was postponed yet again.

Actually, quite a number of big shots among the internal staff had participated in the first trial run.

For example, Holy Beast King and Daoist Guang.

While Holy Beast King had been rescued from his seclusion and was no longer trapped inside an endless plot loop in his game world, he had been trapped for too long, and had completely become a gamer shut-in. Furthermore, he had become obsessed with live streams and was now a fan of Daoist Guang.

As for Daoist Guang, he was now at his peak.

His number of believers could already make one loop around the earth.

But it seemed that Daoist Guang still had no intention of being resurrected – it was too much fun being a live streamer!

Little Silver also kept himself busy; after becoming addicted to Father Wang's novels, he started to write his own stories. He loved sharing them with Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal, and would sometimes read it in the latter's face, looking for praise.

“Grenade-Throwing, Grenade-Throwing! Look! What about this section I wrote? Master will definitely like it!”

This was the sentence Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal heard the most from Little Silver recently.

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal wasn't familiar with raising holy beasts, but he had come to realize that no matter how good he was to Little Silver, Master was still number one in the latter's heart. Honestly speaking, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal felt a little jealous sometimes.

Little Silver was slouched somewhat dispiritedly on the sofa in the morning; he was feeling a little weary after going out several days in a row to collect materials around the clock.

“Brother Silver, you should slow down...”

“I don't have a choice; collecting materials is like this, but you don't need to worry about me.” Little Silver waved his hand.

Then, he slowly got up from the sofa and struggled to change his clothes to go out. “Grenade-Throwing, I'm leaving... I won't be back for dinner.”

“It's only seven in the morning; where are you going so early?” Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal was startled.

“I checked my inbox earlier, and I just saw Master’s text... I need to hurry over.”

“Your aura is so weak, are you really alright?”

“Hm, I do seem a little down... this isn’t like me...”

After saying that, Little Silver bit his finger and sucked the holy beast blood that trickled out. After that, he bounced back to life as his expression glowed once again and he brimmed with vitality.

He ran to the door. “I’m leaving!!!”

Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal: “...”

To rehash something or serve up the same old product.

Chapter 1028: Little Silver Obediently Enters the Police Station

After so long, Little Silver finally received a message from Master, which made him very excited. Naturally, he had to be 100% hyped up to complete the task that Master had given him.

Unless a cultivator was sitting in meditation to regulate their breathing, even they would feel uncomfortable staying up for long periods of time. But Little Silver had the heart of a holy beast, and thus wasn’t too worried that he would suddenly keel over dead. However, there were still some side-effects from staying up late, like black circles under the eyes, obesity caused by a declining metabolism, depression and so on... But these didn’t mean anything to Little Silver; as long as he drank his own blood, he would be full of energy again.

If he took the earliest spirit bus, he should be able to get to Master’s house before noon! Previously, Little Silver had tried various ways of getting to the Wang family’s small villa, but found that the spirit bus was the most convenient. If he flew on a sword or drove himself, he couldn’t play with his phone on the road, and taxis were too expensive; he would rather spend that money on takeout.

The spirit bus was different. This sort of mass transport was more cost-efficient. Moreover, he could play games on the way! Actually, taking the subway was also good, but the Wang family's small villa was in too remote a location, which the subway didn't go through.

Most importantly, Little Silver really didn't want to be taken to the police station again – he had realized a very serious problem.

As long as he went out alone, he would definitely be taken to the cultivation police station for a chat...

For Little Silver, the police station's lunchboxes already weren't anything new.

"Not going online today?"

Little Silver got on the bus. As soon as he turned on his phone, he saw that Miss Bai Qiao had sent him a new text.

Cultivation Emulator's beta test had already entered the second round, and Bai Qiao wanted Little Silver to go over to the Internet cafe and help her test it out.

The reply she got was naturally Little Silver turning her down. "No, Master's looking for me today."

"Alright." Bai Qiao expressed her understanding. "Then I'll look for Old Guang and your boss."

The "boss" she was referring to was Beast King, which was a title that everyone had settled on after discussion to conceal his identity.

As long as Beast King was alive, there was still a chance for the holy beast race to reemerge.

They needed an opportunity; more than that, it required Beast King pulling himself together and assuming the responsibility of lifting up the race. But getting Beast King to pick himself up might not be so easy after the holy beast race had been thoroughly "persecuted" in the game...

Of course, as the boss, Beast King had already thought about abdicating and getting Little Silver to take over as the new “Beast King,” but Little Silver was just an 8000-year-old baby and had a long way to go before he reached the age of inheritance.

But Little Silver actually didn’t care about this, and had no interest in the position of “Beast King.”

How comfortable was his life now?

Learning from Master, staying at Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal’s place, eating takeout, drinking fat nerd happy water 1, playing games... how blissful was his life?

Little Silver started up Arknights. He heard that today was Bilibili’s tenth anniversary, and Arknights was giving out a headhunting permit, five recruitment tags, and twenty mid-tier EXP cards to each player.

Little Silver thought this game was still pretty thoughtful.

He then started recruiting with the extra prizes.

In a flash of cool, dazzling animation effects — white light +1, green ticket +5 1!

Thoughtful my foot!!

Little Silver roared inwardly and stomped his foot angrily where he was sitting.

“Mommy, mommy, that brother isn’t wearing shoes!” A cute boy on the side pointed at Little Silver’s pure white feet. His mother had in fact already noticed them, and her face revealed some embarrassment, but she still told her child not to point at other people as it was quite impolite.

Little Silver himself knew that this wasn’t a good habit, but as a pure-blooded holy beast, he didn’t wear shoes in his beast form! And the most important thing was that his hooves were very hard. He was barefoot in his human shape, but the soles of his feet were so thick that he didn’t feel any pain when he was walking. Conversely, wearing shoes gave him a strange sense of being bound.

Modern society was already very open; it was a person's free choice to not wear shoes, and no one could interfere. Besides, it wasn't as if Little Silver's feet smelled or something, and he felt that since it didn't affect anyone else, it was fine.

Just as he was thinking this, there was suddenly a very strong stench from behind his seat...

It was a white collar worker in a black suit. Out of the corner of his eye, Little Silver saw this white collar brother surreptitiously take off his shoe, unnoticed by anyone else, and scratch the sole of his foot, which suddenly itched for some reason or other.

Then, the stench wafted out...

The next second, everyone in the bus turned to look at Little Silver, who wasn't wearing shoes.

After glaring for several dozen seconds, the spirit bus driver uncle also couldn't take it any longer. He turned to look for the culprit who was the source of the stench, and Little Silver was the first person to catch his eye. "Little brother, can you please put on your shoes?! Otherwise, please get off!"

Little Silver felt very wronged. "It's not me..."

"You're the only one without shoes on the whole bus. Who else could it be?" That shameless white collar brother sitting behind Little Silver echoed the bus driver's sentiments.

Instantly, the whole bus flared up.

"Get off!"

"Hurry up and get off! It stinks!"

"It really isn't me!" Little Silver was furious.

He absolutely couldn't get off halfway. There weren't any bus stops on the way, and if he got off here, he wouldn't be able to reach the Wang family's small villa before noon.

The driver uncle pinched his nose, a resentful look on his face.

Confronted with this sort of unreasonable passenger, he wouldn't provoke him, for if he did and they scuffled, it was the entire bus of passengers who would suffer.

When the driver saw that Little Silver wasn't cooperating, he didn't hesitate to press the alarm button on the driver's seat.

The nearest cultivation police station instructed a patrol officer nearby to hurry over, and the latter arrived at the scene roughly two minutes later.

Standing atop a flying sword, the police uncle wore a professional smile. "Sir, please follow us back to the cultivation police station. We suspect that you're carrying a biological weapon."

Little Silver: "..."

...

Wang Ling had asked Little Silver to come over to team up with Loopy Toad and search for the whereabouts of the black shadow army as well as help the teachers of No. 60 High find the remaining fragments of the Jade Scroll of School History. Realistically speaking, the black shadow army's appearance on the streets would naturally attract the attention of the cultivation police.

The shadow army and a large number of assassins had moved in from opposite directions at the same time, but hadn't hurt anyone on the street – such an act could only be labeled an utter "conspiracy."

After the incident that day, Teacher Pan, Lotus Sun and Feather Lin had been taken to the cultivation police station to record their statements.

After detailed questioning, the three of them returned to their respective homes.

At the police station, Officer Gao studied the statements all the way until the next day. He felt that there was something fishy about the matter – maybe he should report it to his superiors.

Just as he was about to make a phone call, a familiar figure flashed past his office door.

“The brother at the door, wait!” Gao Mu thought he had seen someone familiar.

The patrol officer in charge of escorting Little Silver walked into the office and said, “It’s like this, we found him on the spirit bus earlier...”

“Screw found! Hurry up and let him go!” This was already Gao Tian’s nth time seeing Little Silver inside the police station.

And the outcome each time was a “misunderstanding”!

Of course, that wasn’t the most important thing – the most important thing was that the police station would become short of a huge amount of lunchboxes!!

“Huh?” The patrol officer was obviously clueless.

When Little Silver saw Officer Gao inside the office, he was very happy. “Ahahaha! So it’s Officer Gao! Why are you in this branch? Weren’t you at Anning District Cultivation Police Station?”

“I, I was promoted...”

“Congratulations! Since you’ve been promoted, does that mean the canteen in this police station is bigger?”

“...”

“Are there any new lunchboxes? Give me twenty, thanks.”

“You damn... aren’t you pushing it?” Officer Gao’s lips twitched.

“Not really – you don’t investigate the facts properly and you bring me in because of a misunderstanding every time. I’m not asking for compensation for psychological damage, I just want something to eat. Is that too much to ask?”

Officer Gao: “...”

Chapter 1029: Little Silver Helps Crack a Case

Since the advent of an era of national cultivation, order in the cultivation world no longer depended completely on strength, where the strong were revered and held power. In this era, realm didn't mean anything. Strong cultivators who acted immorally or against the law would also be severely punished.

Peace.

This was what all cultivators on Earth worked toward, but there were also those who liked to act recklessly and break the law. The cultivation police was thus a necessary existence.

Apart from specially deploying civil police, the cultivation police had a large cultivator patrol team under their banner — the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron.

This was the most basic-level position in the cultivation police, and a huge number of police officers comprised this group. Every day, they diligently patrolled the areas assigned to them on their flying swords in order to protect the city. The moment they received an alert, they could promptly dispatch people to check out the situation.

Odd Zhuo had in fact been a member of the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron before.

In order to enter a government department, most cultivators had to start with the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron. It was just that Odd Zhuo had lucked out; he had just passed the cultivation police assessment after graduating from university, and not long after obtaining an internship with the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron... the Gate Between Worlds descended.

And then... there was no “and then.”

Odd Zhuo became a hero of the times.

As for Officer Gao Tian, he wasn't as lucky as Odd Zhuo. However, his luck seemed to have changed; he had always felt that meeting Mr Little Silver was his misfortune, but in some sense, he had to admit that after encountering this Mr Little Silver, his career seemed to be progressing a lot more smoothly.

It took him five years to be promoted from the Immortal Arts Mobile Squadron to a second rank officer in the cultivation police. He didn't have to go out every day, and instead was responsible for handling easy call-ins from residents in the vicinity. After another five years, he then became a frontline police officer, and was responsible for dealing with online public sentiment at the main office.

In short, he was in charge of running all the official media accounts of the local police station and screening eye-catching rumors on WeMedia. Occasionally, he needed to ask his female colleague to help take selfies of herself to prove that the person running the official accounts was a lovely little sister police officer and not a rough fellow sitting guard in front of the computer with a bowl of instant noodles in his hands.

Of course, there were times when his colleagues from other departments were busy, and Gao Tian had to go help out with work like interrogation. For example, the last few times Little Silver was interrogated, it was Officer Gao who had offered to help out, which was how he had run into Little Silver.

His work day after day was dry and dull, but as an outstanding first rank cultivation police officer, Officer Gao was quite content. A first rank police officer could be promoted to a first rank police superintendent and get their own office. Gao Tian initially thought that it would take him another five or even ten years to reach that level.

Who would have thought that in the end, after arresting Little Silver twice, his leader would suddenly call him up one day and promote him.

When Officer Gao received the call, he was excited.

The senior officer on the other end told him that because of a change in personnel, there happened to be a vacant position for a police superintendent in another district. After careful screening, they determined that he had the best merits and overall performance, and thus promoted him.

Gao Tian didn't know whether this had anything to do with Little Silver.

But there indeed was a belief that silver-horned beasts could bring luck to the people around them.

The luck was like a widespread WIFI signal that could be absorbed by others. And so, after other people absorbed Little Silver's luck, he himself became very unlucky...

This was also why, whenever Little Silver went out, he would wind up in the police station. There were too many people around him, sucking away his luck! Conversely, he wouldn't run into any sort of problem if he was a shut-in who was holed up at home.

In the end, Gao Tian still ordered twenty lunchboxes from the canteen for Little Silver on his meal card. Actually, what Little Silver said was indeed true — they had caught the wrong person, so they needed to compensate him... What was more, after this Brother Little Silver was inspected, his feet indeed didn't smell.

When he bought the meals, Gao Tian took Little Silver to a pond next to the police station to verify it.

If his feet really stank, the fish in the pond would absolutely flip over belly up. In the end, some of the lotuses in the pond even bloomed, to say nothing of dead fish, and the crowd of police personnel was stupefied.

"After you're done eating, hurry up and leave." Gao Tian's mood was sour as he put the lunchboxes in front of Little Silver with a defeated air. He knew that with Little Silver's appetite, a mere twenty portions was far from enough.

Little Silver didn't stand on ceremony as he hadn't had breakfast before going out; an appetizer before hurrying over to Master's place wasn't bad. The food at the police station was always good; even if Little Silver had eaten it before, he found it delicious since it was free.

Although Little Silver knew it was a bit shameless to say so, but was there anything better than free food?

As he ate, Little Silver gazed at the worried frown on Gao Tian's face.

The truth was that Gao Tian currently had two cases to deal with.

The first was the wide-scale clash between the killers and the mysterious force that had happened within Officer Gao's jurisdiction yesterday. Just as he was about to report it to his superiors, Little Silver had shown up. It was only now that Officer Gao finally sent the report as an official internal email.

But they didn't have to rush with this first case. Not only didn't Officer Gao have any clues, he still had to wait for instructions from his superiors.

It was actually the second case that was a real headache for Gao Tian.

This was a serial murder case that had happened within his jurisdiction. Currently, all the residents of an entire apartment building were suspects, but the fact was that Officer Gao was unable to find any substantial evidence.

The mastermind behind the serial murders was very crafty; their arrangements were meticulous and their plots well thought out. There weren't even signs that magic had been used to wipe down the scene, which was ample proof that the mastermind hadn't left the slightest bit of evidence behind from the very first murder, and hence didn't need to use magic to clean up the crime scene.

"What kind of case is it?" Little Silver chewed on a braised pork meatball, eyes fixed on Gao Tian.

Gao Tian: "Mr Little Silver, this is an internal police matter."

"I know, but that doesn't mean you can't look for outside help," Little Silver said as he ate. "Don't look down on me; I'm actually also a team leader of the Office of Strategic Deception. Maybe I can help you."

"The Office of Strategic Deception?"

Gao Tian was blank for a moment before he immediately stood up in shock.

He was sure he hadn't heard wrong.

That was the super sect that had been set up in the shortest amount of time in the cultivation world, and the fastest to jump up to the top as the number one light force.

Gao Tian never expected Little Silver to actually be one of them, and part of the cadre to boot.

Pondering it carefully, he then had a terrifying thought.

He remembered that the last two times Little Silver had been taken to the police station, the person who had helped bail him out... it seemed to be the Chief of the Office of Strategic Deception, Grenade-Throwing Senior Immortal?

Chapter 1030: The Pain of Male and Female Shut-ins

“Is it here?”

In the end, Gao Tian still brought Little Silver to the apartment where the crime took place.

Little Silver felt that the area was familiar. He wasn't mistaken — he had been here before.

“Is there a family apartment block nearby? I have a friend living there,” said Little Silver

“That's right.” Gao Tian nodded.

It was also one of the main reasons why his superiors had charged him to solve these serial murders as quickly as possible and find the culprit.

Those who lived in the family apartments were all retired high-ranking civil servants in Huaxiu's political circle. Such a major homicide case in this jurisdiction was a major disruption in the lives of these retirees and was a security issue for the surrounding area.

Actually, the crime rate in Songhai city was very low, and the odds of a murder case happening even rarer. This was yet another reason why the higher-ups attached great importance to this case. Everyone knew that the area which this “family apartment block” was in would have excellent public security, yet despite knowing this, the murderer had still decided to act here. It was obvious that the murderer was extremely confident in his methods, and this could even be described as taunting the judicial system in contempt of the laws of the cultivation world.

Little Silver and Gao Tian stood at the entrance of the apartment building where the murders had taken place. There were six floors in all, and was called Divine Leisure Apartments.

“Take me in for a look.” Little Silver took out his phone to check the time.

“Are you in a hurry?”

“I need to get to East Huang Road by noon, so I have to solve the case by eleven.”

“...” Gao Tian took a deep breath. It was already nine o’clock now... Solve the case in two hours, do you think you’re Detective Conan? Even Conan needs twenty minutes!

But since they were already here, Gao Tian thought it was fine to show Little Silver around. In any case, he himself had planned to check out the crime scene again.

When they entered the residential building, Little Silver noticed that a temporary police box had already been set up at the security office on the first floor. The civil officers all straightened and saluted when they saw Gao Tian. “Captain Gao!”

“Have all the names been taken down?”

“Everything’s going to plan,” answered a police officer.

Without concrete evidence at the moment, all the residents in the building were treated as suspects and would be monitored when they went out. Their comings and goings had to be noted down until the culprit was found.

The arrangement served two purposes: to pick up any clues on the culprit as well as to safeguard the other residents. Now that there was a police box downstairs, the murderer presumably wouldn't dare act again for the time being.

"Give me a police staff pass," said Gao Tian.

An officer at the police box took down Little Silver's name and then gave him the pass. "Excuse me, Captain Gao, this is...?"

"An outside expert from the Office of Strategic Deception. I've invited him here to see whether he can help us find some leads," replied Gao Tian.

"An expert from the Office of Strategic Deception..." The officers exchanged startled looks.

Little Silver took the pass and hung it around his neck before lying down and sniffing the ground. As Gao Tian had told him on the way here, three people had died in this building recently, and Little Silver could clearly discern their scents.

The blood of the dead usually gave off the scent of resentment; normal cultivators wouldn't be able to pick it out, but Little Silver as a holy beast could.

Little Silver got to his feet and clapped his hands together.

"Three people really did die. I thought you were lying to me."

"So you lay on the ground to..."

"To sniff out the scents and confirm the facts. They each died on the second, third and fifth floors, right?"

"..." This was Gao Tian's first time seeing a case handled this way.

But he had to admit that Little Silver was really amazing: just by sniffing the ground on the first floor, he could tell that the murders had taken place on the second, third floor and fifth floors. This wasn't something an ordinary person could do.

On their way to the apartment building, he had told Little Silver how many people had died, but not the exact floors where the murders happened.

“Follow me.”

Gao Tian nodded and led Little Silver up the stairs to start investigating each floor.

“The first victim was a Golden Core cultivator in Unit 202, a young man who was 440 years old. He was an alchemist by profession, and basically never went out. When he died, the pills in his furnace were only half done and the kitchen ventilator was working normally. The first thing we did was to extract the smoke from the range hood, and we detected a minute trace of dark night spice.”

“Dark night spice?”

“It’s a banned drug sold on the Dark Network; just a pinch is enough to cause hallucinations. Unfortunately, we didn’t find any signs of a break-in, and didn’t find any clues on the alchemist’s body – it was burned instantly when the murderer threw it straight into the pill furnace after the deed.”

Gao Tian said, “The only thing we can determine, from the bloodstains left after the fight between the alchemist and the murderer, is that he was the first murder victim.”

“Someone he knew?”

“Not very likely. This alchemist was usually a loner; furthermore, he wasn’t local to this area. Even his neighbors don’t know much about him. To everyone else, he was a very mysterious man.”

“So the problem now is that you don’t know how the murderer broke into his place and killed him without leaving any traces behind, is that right?”

“Mm, that’s one of the issues.”

Gao Tian spoke as he walked. “After committing the first murder in Unit 202, the murderer only struck again twenty-four hours later on the third floor. The person who died was Li Daofei, an

online live streamer. Like the alchemist, she also seldom went out. Her main source of income was live streaming and she would usually do some tricks like swallowing spirit swords. But the murderer hadn't expected Li Daofei to be live streaming at the time. She was killed when she opened the door. Her fans heard a loud noise, and when she didn't come back after a while, they called the police.

"The third victim was a programmer. Likewise, the murderer only acted again after another twenty-four hours. At that time, we were already in the initial stages of our investigation. The murderer committed the third murder right under our noses, which was a blatant provocation."

"They all worked from home?" Little Silver trembled, since he also liked to hole up at home. He never thought he would see three shut-ins killed, just like that... Now, he finally understood how the term "damn shut-in 1" came about.

What was wrong with being a shut-in?

Was there anything wrong with just staying at home?

Little Silver grit his teeth as he pondered how he could destroy this murderer.

At that moment, he abruptly looked up the stairs. "The fourth."

"The fourth what?"

"On the sixth floor – I can smell the fourth victim," said Little Silver.