

Devil World 391

Chapter 391 – Family Reunion

“Wait a moment!!” Right as Yue Zhong and the rest were about to leave the security checkpoint, a worker chased up to Yue Zhong as he called out.

Yue Zhong turned around and asked: “What’s the matter?”

The young man then explained himself: “The current regulation in Guilin City is that only authorized vehicles can travel on the road! The authorization tag can be bought at 1 ton of rations! Of course you can leave the vehicles with us or choose to sell it off. If you leave it with us, the parking fee will be 1 jin of rations a day. If you want to sell it off, we can buy it at a hundred jin of rations!”

Yue Zhong pondered for awhile, before pulling out a huge bag of rice and handed it to the worker: “I’ll choose to park it then!! There’s a hundred jin of rice here! It should be enough for 100 days!”

Shi He, the worker, received the bag of rice, as he observed Yue Zhong’s team carefully, his gaze lingering on Ning Yuxin’s figure for awhile before revealing a relaxed smile: “Got it! I’m Shi He, how about becoming friends!”

Although Shi He was young, he was extremely sharp. He could tell that these people in front of him were experts for them to possess such a calm and steadfast attitude. Furthermore, to be able to travel or drift in this new world, this group of people was definitely not simple. There was no disadvantage in making friends like these.

Yue Zhong smiled mildly: “I’m Yue Zhong! If there’s time, let’s meet up! I have things to do, so I’ll be leaving first!”

After which, Yue Zhong brought Shang Lun and the rest towards the centre of Guilin City.

“Yue Zhong eh!” Shi He watched the retreating backs of Yue Zhong and his team, and resolved to get in his good books the next time they met.

Yue Zhong and the rest walked along the roads towards the inner parts of Guilin City, and along the way, they noticed various differences from other places they have been.

In the city, while many shops had closed down due to the carnage, there were a variety of other shops that had popped up. There were those that sold homemade crossbow bolts, ropes, machetes, shields, etc. There were martial arts dojos that taught close combat, and there were even stores selling leather clothes made of Mutant Beast hides. Finally, there were small eateries everywhere, giving it a vibrant feel and a thriving vibe.

Although it could not compare to the days of before the apocalypse, this scene in Guilin City was the most orderly and thriving that Yue Zhong had seen so far. It looked bustling and was comparable to the Long Hai City that Yue Zhong had established.

The fact that Guilin City could grow to this current stage, was because of its 850,000 survivors. The army cleared up the enemies around the city, while the government officials ensured stability and peace within the city walls. Both gave rise to a peace and prosperity that Guilin City enjoyed.

Yue Zhong continued walking, and he discovered the underlying ugliness of the city as well. At certain alleyways, they would discover thin and weak survivors with tattered clothes and sunken faces.

They even saw some bodies that were obviously starved to death, or those survivors who had committed suicide. The worse thing was that, even though the living survivors saw these tragic scenes, they did not do anything for the bodies, instead choosing to keep a wide berth.

At the Salon Street of the pre-apocalypse Guilin City, there were already many women who had decided to sell themselves. A few hundred had dolled themselves as they lounged about, as they tried to latch themselves onto any man who walked by, negotiating terms while pulling the men into the rooms to begin their “fleshy” deals.

Although there were shortcomings, Yue Zhong had to admit that, other than his own Long Hai City, Guilin City did possess the potential to be a place to grow. And the one point that Yue Zhong lost out on was the fact that Guilin City had close to 900,000 survivors whereas Long Hai had only more than 100,000.

As Yue Zhong and his team continued, they finally arrived in front of Ming Sheng Garden District 23, Unit 4, Room No. 607.

This unit was bought by Yue Zhong’s parents previously in Guilin City, before they were transferred to Nanning for work and had to buy a new place. Yue Zhong guessed that if they were to be here in Guilin City, they would definitely be staying here.

Yue Zhong stood in front of that door for a long time, as he carried his hope and anxiety in his heart, before fearfully knocking the door. By this time, it had already been almost a year since the apocalypse had set in, which meant a year where plenty could happen. He was extremely worried that it would be strangers meeting him instead of his parents, who could have been killed by zombies already.

The door opened, as the slightly unfamiliar face of a middle-aged lady popped out, and upon seeing it, Yue Zhong’s heart immediately sank.

The middle-aged lady looked at Yue Zhong for a while, as though she was unsure, before she suddenly broke into an excited smile: “You... you are... Yue Zhong!! You must be Yue Zhong right?! You’re back!! Xiao Ning, Yue Zhong... Yue Zhong’s back!!”

“What?! Yue Zhong!! Yue Zhong is it truly you?” Right at this time, another middle-aged housewife walked out from a room, and the moment she laid eyes on Yue Zhong, emotional tears welled up in her eyes, and she ran over to hug Yue Zhong as she balled loudly. “You’re back!! My son’s still alive!! My son’s alive!! Thank God!! Thank God!! My son’s still alive!!”

In this post-apocalyptic world, countless families have been broken up and collapsed due to deaths and the cruelty of human nature. Yue Zhong’s mother Ning Li had followed her husband Yue Ming in escaping to Guilin City, but both had long given up hope of seeing their son ever again. Now, as she finally saw her son, she could not help her emotions from bursting out.

“Mum, I’m home!!” As Yue Zhong returned the embrace to his sobbing mother, even his hardened heart softened and impassive eyes reddened, as tears flowed freely.

Since the apocalypse, Yue Zhong had been in Hunan, but there was never a moment where he did not think about his family. However, the roads were perilous and the hordes of zombies prevented the possibility of making his way. He could only suppress his anxiety, and took things one step at a time. He hadn't really thought that it would be impossible to meet his parents ever again, but here he was, finally seeing his mother, and his heart was filled with myriad complex emotions.

"Where's Dad?" Yue Zhong regained his calm, as he looked towards the room expectantly, asking his mother Ning Li.

"He went to work! He hasn't knocked off yet!! Come Yue Zhong, I'll introduce you, this is Sun Jie. You remember, your Auntie Sun! When you were young, she carried you before!" Ning Li had cried for a while as well, and by now, after calming down, she pulled Yue Zhong to introduce the unfamiliar middle-aged woman.

Yue Zhong greeted Sun Jie with manners: "Auntie Sun, how do you do!"

Yue Zhong had heard of Sun Jie's name before, and knew she and Ning Li were playmates when young. Even when Yue Zhong's family moved to Nanning, Ning Li had not broken contact with Sun Jie.

Sun Jie beamed as she looked at Yue Zhong: "Good! Good! Yue Zhong, you have grown so well, such a dashing young man!"

Sun Jie continued smiling as she asked Ning Li: "Since he's back! Why not let Xiao Yun and the rest take a look at him?"

Ning Li responded heartily: "Yes!"

Sun Jie smiled, before looking warily at Ning Yuxin outside the door, and then left: "I'll head back first!"

Ning Li then noticed Ning Yuxin and the rest before asking Yue Zhong: "Yue Zhong! Are these your friends?"

Yue Zhong lied: "This Ning Yuxin is my university schoolmate. These 3 are Bai Xiaosheng, Shang Lun and Ying Kaishan. They are friends I made on my journey back. Thanks to them, I could reach here safely."

Yue Zhong could not just tell the truth to his mother: 'Your son Yue Zhong has already become a mighty general who is a bona-fide killing machine. He is the leader of over 200,000 survivors, and this group consists of a maidservant who was the spoils of war, while the other 3 are just a few of your son's subordinates.'

Ning Li looked at them with gratitude: "Thank you so much! I'm so thankful that you guys have looked after my son. Since you guys have just arrived here, you must be lacking a place to settle down. If you guys don't mind the small space, why don't you live here?"

In Ning Li's heart, there was nothing more important than her son. Since Bai Xiaosheng and the rest had protected Yue Zhong, they were her benefactors. Although having to sustain 4 more additional people in this new world order would be tougher, she was willing to bite the bullet.

Ning Yuxin responded extremely politely: "Thank you Auntie!!"

Bai Xiaosheng took a glance at the room and replied proudly: “Yue Zhong!! You don’t have to worry about the 3 of us!! We will look for somewhere nearby! You just spend time with your family!”

Ning Li’s residence was truly on the dilapidated side, and was obviously poor. On one hand, Bai Xiaosheng wasn’t willing to stay here, on the other, he could not bear to be indebted to Yue Zhong’s family.

Bai Xiaosheng turned and walked out: “Let’s go! Old Ying! Old Shang!!”

The corner of their mouths turned up in a smile, and seeing that Yue Zhong did not say anything, they left quickly. They had already agreed beforehand on a signal, if Yue Zhong were to use it, they would all converge here at the first notice.

Ning Yuxin hesitated a while before leaving as well. She was not willing to come in between the family reunion.

After Ning Yuxin left, Yue Zhong then started asking about the happenings from Ning Li.

Before the apocalypse, Yue Zhong’s father Yue Ming had been an ordinary civil servant, while his mother was a staff member of an institution. While the family wasn’t poor, they were not rich as well. After the apocalypse, the 2 of them had escaped to Guilin City, and Yue Ming had stayed with the government as a clerk, while Ning Li had remained unemployed, staying at home.

The treatment of civil servants weren’t too bad, as Yue Zhong’s father could earn 40 jin worth of food, 1 jin of fuel, and 1 jin of meat every month in trade-in tickets and the family survived on this!

Since there were so many mouths to feed in Guilin City, the atmosphere was slightly tense. The total amount to feed close to 900,000 mouths numbered extremely high every day. The current monetary approach was to use tickets to exchange for items.*1

Chapter 392 – xcx

Ning Li looked at her son with a doting look and said: “It’s good that you’re back!! Your dad will help you get a job here! After that you can find marry a decent girl and bear me a grandchild!”

Ning Li was very traditional, and just hoped for her son to settle down, marry a girl, and leave on peacefully.

Yue Zhong did not want to turn his mother down at this juncture and only smiled and nodded: “Sure!!”

In the evening, close to 6pm, Yue Zhong’s father Yue Ming came home and saw Yue Zhong, before saying a single sentence mildly: “It’s good that you’re back!”

Yue Zhong detected Yue Ming’s body trembling, and could see that his father was suppressing his emotions.

Yue Ming had always been the pillar of support in the family, and could not easily lose his composure in front of his son. Men had always been less expressive of their emotions anyway.

Yue Zhong also responded with a sentence: “Dad! I’m home!”

"It's good that you're back!" Yue Ming looked at Yue Zhong once before he sat down on the sofa and his body trembled. He held up a newspaper to block himself, as even the usually stoic he could not help but shed a few tears upon seeing his long lost son.

Ning Li left the father-son pair in the living room, as she went to the kitchen and got busy.

Fried vegetables and roasted meat, these rare food after the apocalypse were displayed on the table, and there were even 4 buns and some dumplings. This was considered a sumptuous meal, and this single meal had been at the cost of half a month of Yue Ming's meat and fuel wages.

Not long after, Sun Jie brought a young pretty lady with black, shoulder-length hair, a tall figure, with a pure and innocent charm to the Yue household.

The moment that demure lady entered the house, she greeted Yue Ming and Ning Li politely: "Uncle! Auntie!"

Ning Li smiled warmheartedly: "Come! Come! Yue Zhong, this is Gao Xiaoyun, she's Auntie Sun's daughter! She's 18 this year, just slightly younger than you. You must take good care of Xiaoyun-meimei in the future! Xiaoyun, this is your Yue Zhong-gege!! You should hang out more with him."

When Yue Zhong heard this, he understood the meaning of the dinner. Ning Li wanted to arrange marriage between the both of them. This meal was to introduce the 2 of them to each other.

Sun Jie also spoke up enthusiastically: "Xiaoyun, this is your Yue Zhong-gege! He was a university student, if you have anything you're unsure about in the future, just seek help from him. Yue Zhong, the 2 of you youngsters should have a lot to talk about, we won't bother you! Go on and have a chat. Go on!"

Gao Xiaoyun looked towards Yue Zhong and smiled gently: "How do you do, Yue Zhong-gege!!"

Yue Zhong responded with a smile: "How do you do, Xiaoyun!"

After that, Gao Xiaoyun proceeded to have her dinner quietly. Whenever Yue Zhong initiated a sentence, she would reply with a sentence. This continued all the way till the meal ended.

After dinner, Gao Xiaoyun looked to Yue Zhong and said: "Yue Zhong-gege! Can you come with me?"

Yue Zhong returned her look and said: "Sure!"

"Something's happening!!" Sun Jie and Ning Li exchanged a glance, the pair of friends broke out in satisfied smiles. Their relationship was great in the first place, and had hoped to join through marriage. It was their wish to see Yue Zhong and Gao Xiaoyun get together.

Gao Xiaoyun and Yue Zhong walked below the apartment for a few steps before she turned around and spoke out: "Yue Zhong-gege! Can you go to my mum and turn the arranged marriage down? I have someone I like already!"

Yue Zhong looked at Gao Xiaoyun and replied indifferently: "These matters, you should be the one to tell your mum!"

Sun Jie and Ning Li were on good terms. If Yue Zhong said he was the one to turn Gao Xiaoyun down, Ning Li would feel extremely bad towards Sun Jie. Yue Zhong did not want to be the bad guy in this scenario. Although Gao Xiaoyun could be considered a pretty flower, compared to Chen Yao, Zhuo Yatong, or Ji Qingwu, she could not match them at all. In Yue Zhong's heart, this Gao Xiaoyun was not even comparable to a single strand of hair on his mother's head. He was naturally unwilling to cause his mother distress.

Gao Xiaoyun looked at Yue Zhong and retorted: "Yue Zhong-gege! Don't be like this!! I won't like you! Can you be magnanimous about this? If you want to try and hold on, it makes you look bad as a man! Guys should be cooler about this. Go tell my mum that you want to decline this relationship, and in exchange, I'll get you a job. Although there aren't any formal preparation, I can introduce you to the police post!"

Yue Zhong's gaze turned cold: "Xiaoyun-meimei! You look too highly upon yourself! Please don't get me wrong, I have no feelings for you! However, if Auntie Sun and my mum insists that we try, I wouldn't mind giving it a shot. If you want to reject me, please go tell Auntie Sun yourself! I won't pester you."

In Long An County, Yue Zhong could easily find over a hundred girls with better appearances than Gao Xiaoyun. Initially he had thought she was refined and demure, however, he never expected her to be so narcissistic, and he lost all favourable impressions of her.

"Let's conclude our chat here! Good bye!" Yue Zhong left Gao Xiaoyun alone and went home.

As Yue Zhong left, Gao Xiaoyun's pretty face was distorted in anger, as she stared coldly at Yue Zhong's back, before snorting and left for her own house.

The moment Yue Zhong reached home, Ning Li came to him and ask expectantly: "How was it, son? Xiaoyun's pretty right!! Were there any feelings?"

Yue Zhong glanced at Ning Li and responded: "Mum! She said that she has someone already! We won't have any chance!"

Ning Li grumbled and consoled Yue Zhong: "She already has someone she likes? How come I didn't know that? Why didn't she say so!! This Sun Jie also! Her own daughter has already fallen for someone else but she wants to introduce her to my son. Ah, son, your mum is to be blamed for not sorting things out properly!! However, since my son's so outstanding, you're definitely able to find someone much better than Gao Xiaoyun!!"

In the eyes of parents, their own offsprings would be the best in the world, and Ning Li was no exception.

Ning Li was depressed for awhile, before she suddenly brightened up: "Oh yes! Son! Didn't you travel with that university schoolmate Ning Yuxin? Is she your girlfriend?"

Ning Yuxin had a demeanor that far surpassed Gao Xiaoyun, and in Ning Li's eyes, she was the perfect candidate.

Yue Zhong chuckled bitterly: "Mum! Why did your thoughts go to her?"

Ning Li paced about and muttered to herself: "She's too pretty though! I'm afraid it would be hard to keep her at home! If she marries in, who knows if she makes my son a cuckold. It's too bad!! Actually Gao Xiaoyun would be just nice, not too pretty or ugly! What a pity, you guys don't have the fate!"

Ning Li then said confidently: "While our household may not be rich, in this world, we're considered better off than others! Son, don't worry, with my connections, I'll definitely help you find a good wife, better than Gao Xiaoyun!"

Yue Ming's household wasn't considered rich, but as he was a civil servant, he had a steady rice bowl, and it was considered decent.

It must be known that with the problem of tight rations, plus that everybody was still reliant on the mercy relief of gruel rations, in a society where many women would sell their own bodies for just a bun and the selling of one's own children for food was common, marrying into a household with a steady ration was considered the dream of many ladies.

Yue Zhong saw that Ning Li was about to start nagging, and he massaged his throbbing head and changed the topic: "Mum! I'm going to bed!"

"En! The mattress is ready! Go have a good rest!"

Ning Li just responded simply, before muttering to herself again: "The Chens' daughter is still too young. As for the Qins...no, she's not good looking. The young lady of the Luos' can be considered pretty, but she's a bit short. The Li' daughter is too old, already hitting 26!"

It's truly tough to be a parent. As Ning Li was pondering over the issue of a daughter-in-law, Yue Zhong was sleeping comfortably. He had been fighting non-stop and killed countless enemies. Even when he was in bed with the beauties in his life, his heart still longed to see his parents. Now that he has seen them alive and well, he slept extremely soundly.

"Time for breakfast!"

Early the next morning, Yue Zhong came to the table, and saw that there were 3 bowls of porridge and 3 half buns.

"Mum! These are items I found outside in villages!!" Yue Zhong looked at the contents on the table, before going back to the room, and pulled out flour, rice, various canned foods, digestive biscuits, milk, chocolates, cigarettes and other foods from his bag.

Ning Li looked in astonishment at the assortment of items, and smiled happily: "Great!! Great!! My son is truly capable! Haha!!"

Amongst those food in Yue Zhong's bag, if they were to be measured against Yue Ming's salary, it could be said that they were worth at least half a year of wages.

Yue Ming looked at the food that Yue Zhong brought out, and pulled out 4 green tickets and handed them to Yue Zhong: "Here's tickets for 40jin of food! Go rest and have fun these 2 days! After that, I'll bring you for interviews. Heading out to find stuff is too dangerous. If you're not careful, you won't make it back alive. It's better if you stay inside here and find some work, and work hard. Next time, you can become a government personnel."

Yue Zhong received the tickets, and smiled at Yue Ming, before turning and heading out: “I got it! I’ll be heading out first!”

After leaving his house, Yue Zhong pondered for awhile, and decided not to summon anybody as he left towards the market on his own.

Chapter 393 – Market

The market in Guilin City was bustling, and many different food vendors were peddling their cooking.

“Mutant Pig Meat Skewers! Delicious Mutant Pig Meat Skewers! Each stick is 2 meal ticket! It’s absolutely delicious, and worth the buy!!”

“Authentic Ning County snacks! They’re mouth watering, come and have a taste people!!”

“.....”

Along the streets, there were many stalls run by food vendors, and countless passersby would be drawn by the aroma, as they pulled out food tickets to exchange for different foods to try.

In Guilin City, with the governance of a 2-factions cabinet, as well as the soldiers of Du Shanxiong who patrolled the surroundings of Guilin City to maintain peace and security, it gave the city the chance to slowly grow.

Along the way, Yue Zhong realised that the 40 jin worth of food tickets could exchange for about 400 RMB prior to the apocalypse. In a world where the economy had almost collapsed, such a sum was considered huge.

Yue Zhong followed the paths and weaved in and out of streets until he came to the busiest street Xinyang Street, to discover that there were stalls set up everywhere, displaying all sorts of Mutant Plants and Mutant Beast meat and bones. Even the hides and anything to do with mutant lifeforms were sold here.

These items were brought by powerful lone warriors, or the small squads that were assembled to scavenge for items on the outside. As long as even ordinary humans made preparations, using simple melee tools were enough to hunt a huge Mutant Beast. This intelligence and craftiness was the reason why the human race had been oppressing everything else before the apocalypse.

“How are you selling this?” Yue Zhong walked to a stall, and picked up a nuclei with properties unknown and asked the vendor. He had seen with a single glance that this nuclei was most likely obtained from a Mutant Beast of above Level 40. So far, the only usage that Yue Zhong had discovered of such nuclei was that they could be used to power up other Mutant Beasts, giving them room to grow and evolve.

The stall vendor glanced at Yue Zhong, and shook out of his stupor, opening a price with excitement: “5-jin ticket!!”

At first, everyone had thought that these nuclei from Mutant Beasts were some treasures, however with the passing of time, no one discovered a use for them. They were soon reduced to ornaments and decorations. There were even cases of squads directly throwing them away when hunting Mutant Beasts.

Yue Zhong frowned as he rejected the offer: "Such an item just looks nice! How can you open with such a high price? These are just used for decor after all, 1-liang ticket, will you sell?"

The vendor started employing all his tactics to try and promote his goods: "Boss, while these items are useless, and are just for looks, see how pretty it is! It may not have any use now, but who knows, after things are stabilized, it might be even more valuable than a bloodstone!! Invest in it now, after the prices shoot up, you're sure to make a fortune! If it wasn't for the fact that I'm in dire straits, I wouldn't sell them!! Since you are interested in them, I'm willing to give you a discount for it. 2-jin ticket!"

Yue Zhong seemed to hesitate, before he pulled out a 10-jin ticket and handed it to the vendor: "Alright! 2-jin ticket it is!"

"Fool! In this world, these pretty stones would be at most worth 1-liang or 2. This young idiot!" The stall vendor received the payment with glee and celebrated silently as he mocked Yue Zhong in his heart.

The vendor handed the nuclei and 8-jin ticket to Yue Zhong before asking warmly: "Oh yes!! Boss!! Do you want more of them? If you do, I can help you get some more!! If you want 10 and more, I can give you 80% discount on them!!"

In this market, everyone knew the selling price for a nuclei was at most a few liangs, and it was rare to find an unsuspecting sheep to fleece. He had thus become excited. In this Guilin City, there were many survivors who had managed to escape to this place, and they understood the suffering of insufficient rations. Under these circumstances, many would stoop low to earn more tickets for themselves.

Yue Zhong pretended to consider, before nodding: "En! Ok, I'll take 20 then! Having more wouldn't make a difference!"

"20!! Please wait!" The vendor beamed, and responded with a single sentence, as he abandoned his worthless stand, asking someone to man it for him, while he ran through the crowd of the market.

Not long after, the vendor came running back with a huge bag, revealing an assorted group of nuclei: "Boss!! There's a total of 36! Please double check!"

Yue Zhong pretended to be shocked: "Didn't I ask for just 20. Why did you bring 36?"

The vendor cajoled Yue Zhong: "Boss! You're a businessman, how can 20 be enough? The 36 in here is the entire amount of this street. Once you buy them over, you're the monopoly of the nuclei business! By then, when the prices rise, you can call the price!! Even if you were to sell each for 20jin, no one would dispute!! If you can do such a business, your family will also look up to you!"

Yue Zhong put on a face as though he was won over, and handed the 40 jin ticket to him: "Makes sense!! Alright, I'll buy them all!"

The vendor took the 40 jin tickets and had an ugly expression: "This... this doesn't seem to be enough!"

"Is this enough then?" Yue Zhong chuckled and pulled out a pouch of Chinese tobacco and handed it to the vendor.

The vendor immediately grabbed it and responded hastily: "Enough!! Enough!! They're all yours!!"

In Guilin City, as the manufacturing of tobacco had stopped, tobacco was considered a luxury good, and only the upper echelons of society got to enjoy them. If the vendor brought this Chinese tobacco to the government to exchange, it would be worth at least 100 jin. Just gaining this was a huge profit for the vendor already.

Yue Zhong looked at the vendor: "Since you've accepted my tobacco, then my ration tickets...."

The vendor grinned in happiness as he gripped the tobacco tightly, passing the ration tickets back to Yue Zhong: "Take it back!! Take it all back!!"

Yue Zhong laughed and took the bag as well as his tickets. With the bag of nuclei, he could rear another Type 2 Mutant Beast. However, they were harder to control, he could only choose to push Lightning into a Type 3 Mutant Beast, before evolving one of the little brothers of Lightning.

"Hold it!!"

Right at this time, the soft yet bright voice of a young girl rang out, as Yue Zhong turned to the source of the voice, he saw a teenage girl of about 17 or 18, with exceptional looks and her long hair in a ponytail. Her lithe body was wrapped in black Mutant Beast hide, and she had a Dark Magic Blade hanging by her waist. Her eyes were full of spirit, and she exuded a heroic aura. She was currently flanked by 6 other males as she came over.

Yue Zhong looked at the young beauty and arched his brows as he asked: "What's the matter?"

Chen Qianhong had a domineering tone as she spoke to Yue Zhong: "The nuclei in your hands! I will buy them all! Don't worry, I, Chen Qianhong, will not let you get the short end of the stick! Whatever you used to buy it, I'll buy it from you at 3 times the price!"

"3 times!! Damn it!! Damn it!! Why did I sell so fast! If only I was a little slower! 3 times!! Ah!!!" The vendor was currently full of regret as he muttered to himself.

Yue Zhong looked coldly at Chen Qianhong and declined: "Not selling!"

A suave young man beside her who was decked in designer clothes, with a slightly pale face, frowned as he shouted at Yue Zhong: "What gall!! Do you know who this lady is?"

Yue Zhong's brows arched, and challenged the pale-face young man: "I don't know and I don't care! This is something I bought! Don't tell me you guys want to rob? Or that in Guilin City has no regards for rules and regulations? We can do whatever we want to, is that it?"

"You...." The pale-faced man became speechless upon Yue Zhong's retort, feeling that he lost face and could not help wanting to threaten Yue Zhong.

"Dan Yu!! Don't be rash! He's right! The goods are his! It's his right not to sell! We can't force him!"

Chen Qianhong waved her hand as she blocked the path of the brash young man with obvious ill intent. She casted a deep look at Yue Zhong and scoffed: "Brat! If you don't want to sell then it's fine! It's not like you can eat them anyway! Also! Guilin City is a place of law and order, don't spout nonsense! Let's go!"

Chen Qianhong reprimanded Yue Zhong in a self-righteous tone, shooting him a dirty look, before turning around in a proud manner and left with her 6 lackeys.

Yue Zhong looked at the pompous and self-righteous figure leaving, and turned to ask the stall vendor: "Who is that Chen Qianhong? What an attitude!"

The vendor proceeded to explain to Yue Zhong patiently: "You haven't heard of her? She's the daughter of our Guilin City's mayor Chen Ying! Although she is really arrogant, she is still decent. Whenever she buys something, she would always pay fairly. But, that Dan Yu guy you offended beside her is not a good thing. His father is the District Head of Xinyang District, and he himself has some ties with the Green Bamboo Gang. Whoever in this street offends him, would be dragged away by people to be beaten up. You better leave quickly!!"

Yue Zhong had given the stall vendor good business, hence he wasn't stingy with his information.

"Green Bamboo Gang! Interesting!!" Yue Zhong laughed, and didn't seem to mind, before striding off. Even the Heaven Sect had fallen at his hands, a small gang allowed by the government to exist wouldn't pose a problem to him.

Dan Yu followed Chen Qianhong for a while, waiting for her to check out another stall before stepping to a side.

A man swiftly arrived in front of Dan Yu.

Dan Yu looked at the man and gave an order coldly: "Go get some men from Boss Zhao at the Green Bamboo Gang, and go teach that bastard a lesson! Get those nuclei from his hands also! Quickly!"

"Yes! Young master!" The servant responded quickly and left in a flash.

Dan Yu looked coldly at the direction which Yue Zhong had left, and snorted coldly: "Want to go against me? Looking to die!"

Yue Zhong walked about in Xinyang Street for quite a while, arriving at the 2nd Street, and noticed that there were stalls set up here as well. However, the crowd was noticeably lesser, with only about 100 stalls. In front of those stalls though, there were many people gathered.

Yue Zhong came to one of the stall, and noticed that the stall displayed only a [Shadow Steps] skillbook as well as a Tang Replica Sword.

"Level 2 Skill [Shadow Steps]! Exchanging for a Level 3 [Strength Consolidation]. Or a Level 3 Strength-type treasure! Level 1 Tang Replica Sword, exchanging for 50 tonnes of rations! Or a Level 2 Strength-based Equipment! Don't haggle, those who can't afford them, scram!"

On the table of that stall, there were those 2 System treasures, at the same time, there was a banner on top with those words.

"Isn't the price of the Tang Replica Sword too expensive! Can you lower the price?"

"How about I purchase the Skill Book with 10 tonnes of rations?"

"....."

As the people gathered around the stall, many tried to haggle. A number of them wanted to use rations and other similar items to exchange for the System equipment, especially the Tang Replica Sword, which

was the key starting point for enhancement. They competed aggressively, before a middle-aged man used 50 tonnes of rations to purchase the Tang Replica Sword.

Although there were only about 100 stall vendors, they all took out precious System equipment for exchange with items they wanted.

In Guilin City, with close to 900,000 survivors, the number of Enhancers grew with the passing of time, and they grew stronger as well. Hence, there was a market of exchange amongst these Enhancers. The bulk of items traded in this Xinyang 2nd Street were God & Devil System Equipment, and although they were normal items, the scene caused Yue Zhong to be wide-eyed with surprise.

Yue Zhong continued walking and looking around, before he came to a stop and his eyes shone: "Ah! A decent treasure! Someone was actually willing to bring this equipment out!"

"Level 3 Treasure: Sapphire Ring, upon equipping, +1 to all attributes."

Although the Sapphire Ring gave +1 to all attributes, the drop rate of this Sapphire Ring was extremely low. Yue Zhong had hunted so many zombies, and Mutant Beasts, but had never come across it. Furthermore, its enhancements did not clash with other rings, and Yue Zhong immediately set his mind on buying it.

Right at this time, the familiar female voice that Yue Zhong heard earlier resounded beside him, as Chen Qianhong walked up to the stall in her black suit, her face icy-cold as she asked: "How much for this Sapphire Ring?"

Chapter 394 – Conflict Arises

The young man, who was dressed in black, replied indifferently: "A Necklace only! I want a Level 3 and above Agility-based Necklace, trading One for one!"

Chen Qianhong thought for awhile, before she pulled out a Ring of Fireball from her bag, a Ring of Ice Pick, as well as a Dark Magic Blade, placing them in front of the young man in black and asked earnestly: "I don't have a Level 3 Agility-based Necklace. How about I use these 3 items to exchange for that Sapphire Ring of yours?"

The young man immediately rejected it coolly: "Not exchanging!"

Dan Yu's face turned ugly, and stepped forward to threaten: "Oei! What kind of tone is that! Do you know whos she is? Do you not want to live to see tomorrow's daylight?!"

The young stall vendor immediately pulled out a Dark Magic Blade, as a dark force coagulated atop the blade, causing a sense of fear to arise in those who looked at it. The young man pointed the blade at Dan Yu, and barked out coldly: "Scram!"

A strong surge of killing intent billowed out from the young man, enveloping Dan Yu, who immediately turned pale. He retreated a few steps, and plopped down weakly on his backside, trembling as he stammered: "You can't kill me!! My dad is the District Chief Dan Hong!"

Hearing this, all the stall vendors around gathered together, as they glared at Dan Yu with a ferocious glint in their eyes. The killing intent from all the stall vendors became extremely heavy, and the tension in the air was palpable.

In this 2nd Street of Xinyang, there was an unspoken rule, which was that regardless of background, whoever came here had to deal according to the vendor's wishes. If anyone wanted to forcefully rob, use their authority to override the vendors, or even force a deal, all the Enhancers would immediately step forwards to get rid of the troublemaker. Hearing the retarded words from Dan Yu, each and every single Enhancer on site who was Level 10 and above, stood up to stare at Dan Yu and Chen Qianhong's group.

"Friends! Please keep your weapon! This time, it was my friend that did not know the rules, and he's ignorant! I will apologize on behalf of him." Chen Qianhong bowed deeply towards the young man in apology.

Chen Qianhong then sternly said: "However! Guilin City is a lawful society! Please sheathe your weapon, and use your strength on the zombies and Mutant Beasts, not on your fellow humans!"

The young man in black stared coolly at Chen Qianhong, and kept his Dark Magic Blade, before sitting down quietly without a word.

The rest of the vendors scattered back to their stalls, not congregating together. After all, everyone wanted to earn a living here in Guilin City. As long as they weren't forced to the extreme, they didn't want to antagonize the government. Unless of course they were willing to abandon their life here and go back to the wilderness.

Chen Qianhong heaved a sigh of relief upon seeing this. If these 100 some odd Enhancers were to band together, they were a force not to be underestimated. Especially since there were a number that were above Level 30. If they were to go crazy and create chaos in the city, it would definitely cause major problems.

Dan Yu stood up from the ground, as he thanked Chen Qianhong: "Thanks, Xiaohong*!!"

Chen Qianhong frowned as she snapped at Dan Yu: "Dan Yu! If you're going to be like this, just stay away from me in the future!"

Dan Yu had grown up spoilt and was accustomed to being domineering over others. After the apocalypse set in, his dad had gained power, and it caused him to be even more overbearing.

"Yes!! Yes!!" Dan Yu recoiled, and hung his head. He was always bullying the weak while fearing the strong, and since Chen Qianhong's father was more powerful than his own, he could only lower his head to her.

At this time, Yue Zhong came forward and brought out his Necklace of Hurricane, before handed it to the black-robed young man: "I have a Level 3 Necklace of Hurricane, to be traded for your Sapphire Ring. Will you exchange?"

The young man received the Necklace and inspected it carefully, before throwing the Sapphire Ring to Yue Zhong: "Deal!"

Dan Yu looked towards Yue Zhong, and his expression turned grim as he barked out “You again!!”

Yue Zhong did not even glance at Dan Yu, as he took up the Sapphire Ring and went to another store, treating Dan Yu as though he was air.

Chen Qianhong furrowed her eyebrows and reprimanded Dan Yu: “Dan Yu, for once, just shut up!”

When he was scolded by Chen Qianhong, Dan Yu immediately bowed his head, and his face twisted with fury. Anyone would be pissed when scolded like a dog.

Chen Qianhong looked at Yue Zhong deeply, before she turned around and left. She was extremely beautiful and exuded a noble aura, and her background was decent. Be it before the apocalypse or after, there was no shortage of men who tried to woo her, and she had seen all the different sorts of tricks men used to get her attention. To all those attention-seekers, she would only employ the best method, which was to ignore them.

Yue Zhong walked about the market for quite a while, and other than the Sapphire Ring, the majority of the stuff sold could not compare to his own equipment, and thus he had no plans of purchasing anymore.

Yue Zhong walked about idly, before settling at a small eatery that was popular with the crowd.

“2 bowls of dumplings!!”

“1 bowl of vegetarian noodles please!!”

The eatery was packed full of customers as they hollered their orders.

A number of the waiters and waitresses bustled about as they walked to and fro, serving the food and cleaning the tables of the customers who left.

Yue Zhong waited for quite a long time, before a bowl of meat dumplings were delivered to his table. He took a slurp of the soup, the aroma of the meat and broth wafting into his nostrils, and he felt vitalized. He took a bite of the meat dumpling, and the juiciness of the meat exploded in his mouth, assaulting his tastebuds with the simply delicious flavour.

“This is made from the meat of a Mutant Beast! No wonder it’s so fragrant!” Yue Zhong could tell immediately from a single bite, and he dug in with gusto.

Yue Zhong had already inhaled 6 of the dumplings, when a number of brutes wielding butcher knives and wooden bats entered the store noisily and shouted: “Make way!! Make way!! The Green Bamboo Gang is here on official business, those not involved scram to one side!!”

When those hooligans entered the shop, the customers were all frightened and ran out the shop.

The Green Bamboo Gang was after all one of the bigger gangs in Guilin City, and it was rumored that they were backed by a government official. They had numerous experts, and were extremely overbearing in their conduct of business. Ordinary citizens did not dare to antagonize them.

A slightly chubby middle-aged housewife rushed out from the counter with a cajoling smile, as she tried to persuade one of the gang members, a baldy with a scorpion tattoo: "This brother!! We have already paid our protection fee for the month!!"

The bald man with the scorpion tattoo stared at her and barked out: "We're not here to collect protection fee!! Get lost to one side! Don't hinder your father I from my business!"

When she was spoken to so explosively, the housewife trembled and ran to the kitchen taking the waitresses with her.

One of the hooligans present saw Yue Zhong sitting and enjoying his meat dumplings without a care in the world and immediately reported to Scorpion-Tattoo Baldy: "Brother Green Scorpion! That's the one!"

Green Scorpion glanced at Yue Zhong and barked out an order: "It's that kid. Go! Maim one of his hands!! Let him taste the consequences of offending those he shouldn't have!!"

The hooligans immediately rushed towards Yue Zhong's position. "Just because of a disagreement, you want a hand of mine! What tyranny!" said Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong glanced at the hooligans rushing at him, and his eyes flashed with a cold gleam. Casually reaching out with a speed like a striking snake, He grabbed the hand of one of the hooligans, twisting harshly with his 6-times Strength, breaking the hooligan's arm with a clean and clearly audible snap.

"Ahh!!!" The hooligan immediately screamed out in agony at the overbearing pain.

Yue Zhong then lashed out with a kick, sending the hooligan flying back and knocking several tables away, before the unfortunate fellow spat out a mouth of fresh blood and fainted without any signs of life.

Yue Zhong then grabbed the first man's dropped machete easily, swinging down viciously at a new target. The slash caused the arm of the newly targeted hooligan to be chopped off, and a jet of blood sprayed onto the walls in a violent manner. After his attack, he kicked out and sent that same hooligan flying into the wall.

"Enhancer!! He's a high-level Enhancer!!" Seeing how casually Yue Zhong dispatched 2 of his comrades, the remaining hooligan shouted out with fear.

Enhancers possessed tremendous combat power, and weren't existences that these ordinary gang members could afford to offend! Screaming, they scrambled away towards Green Scorpion.

"This won't do! Leave something behind!"

Yue Zhong's gaze was furious and cold, as he walked right in front of Green Scorpion, throwing the blood-stained machete in front of him, saying: "It's your turn! You must be the instigator! Leave your own right arm behind! I can spare your life! Or do you want me to remove both hands myself?"

Green Scorpion looked at the blood-stained scene in the store, his body trembling uncontrollably, and he gritted his teeth and asked: "You're too damn cruel!! How can you chop off so many people's arms! Don't you know this will ruin their lives?!"

Yue Zhong looked at him mockingly: "Scum like you dare speak of cruelty to me! When you chop off people's arms, it's very fun for you guys isn't it? If I didn't have the strength, I would have been the one to suffer under you scum! You can chop people, but other people can't do the same to you? Since you aren't willing to do so, let me help you then!"

Chapter 395 – Blackmail! Mu Xiangling!

In truth, if they weren't in Guilin City, Yue Zhong would have exterminated them early on. Inside Guilin City, he could not just go on a killing spree and rid the world of such scum, as even though they were hooligans, if there was a sudden surge of deaths, the government would act as well.

"I'll do it myself!" Green Scorpion cried out in alarm, as he could feel the resolute intent from this terrifying man in front of him, and knew that if he didn't do it himself, both his arms would be immediately broken. At that point in time, he would become a true cripple.

Green Scorpion's right arm shook as he grabbed the blood-stained machete, and in a furious bellow, he hacked his own left shoulder, chopping his left arm off.

"Ah!!!" Green Scorpion cried out in pain, and kneeled on the floor, his forehead glistening with perspiration as he stared venomously at Yue Zhong and spat out: "Are you satisfied now?"

Yue Zhong looked at him coldly and asked: "Who told you to come after me?"

"It's that Dan Hong's son, Dan Yu!! He told us to come and fix you!!" Green Scorpion betrayed Dan Yu without a moment's hesitation, as he was currently filled with equal hatred and anger at Dan Yu for causing him to meet this devil in front of him!!

Yue Zhong maintained his cold gaze and said: "So it truly is him! You can scam now!! Don't appear in front of me again, otherwise, you guys won't live to see another day!"

"Let's go!!" Green Scorpion cried out to his men, afterwhich, he grabbed his dismembered arm and ran out.

Those who had lost their arms to Yue Zhong also quickly grabbed their arms and left.

Medical procedures had long since advanced to a stage where reattaching broken limbs was possible even before the apocalypse, by grabbing their arms, there was a chance for recovery.

Yue Zhong glanced at the store owner and his staff who were shivering while looking at him, and he pulled out a Tang Replica Sword and left it on the table: "My apologies for causing problems for your store! Treat this Tang Replica Sword as my compensation!"

This single Tang Replica Sword was easily worth 50 tonnes of rations. Even if it were on sale, it would command at least 10 tonnes of rations. 10 tonnes of rations was enough for this store to open up another 2 more branches.

The store owner's eyes gleamed as he rushed to grab the Tang Replica Sword, and he gratefully reminded Yue Zhong: "Esteemed hero!! The Green Bamboo Gang don't have a single decent person, since you have thoroughly offended them today, please take care of yourself! There are powerful Enhancers amongst them as well!"

"I got it! Thanks!"

After which, Yue Zhong left the store with big strides.

"Brother Green Scorpion!! What do we do? Do we just forego this? I'm unwilling to let this go!!" One of the hooligans spat out with extreme anger.

Green Scorpion's face was also twisted in anger as he roared out: "Of course not!! Bastard!! That bastard dares to go against us! The Green Bamboo Gang!! I must bury him!!"

Green Scorpion growled poisonously: "Go notify Court Leader Hu!! Let Court Leader Hu deal with him!! We must kill this bastard!!"

With the absence of a limb, Green Scorpion's combat ability was reduced by half. His position within Green Bamboo Gang would definitely drop and his future was looking bleak. His heart was currently filled with bitterness and anger. He had never once thought how his victims had feel when they faced the same plight, instead he only knew that he had been crippled by someone stronger, and he was filled with thoughts killing Yue Zhong and Dan Yu.

After leaving the store, Yue Zhong came across a young pretty girl of about 11 – 12 years, her hair tied up in pigtails. Her eyes were big and watery, her skin fair and tender. She was about 1.48m, and her limbs were slender and beautiful, giving her a frail appearance, that sense that with a good squeeze her bones might snap any moment.

The little loli blocked Yue Zhong's path and exclaimed: "Big Brother!! I lost my teddy bear! Can you help me find it?"

Yue Zhong glanced at the little loli and asked: "Where did you lose it?"

The loli pointed to a dark alley and said: "There!! I dropped my teddy bear somewhere there!"

Yue Zhong's mind was on alert, but he put on a smile and said: "Sure! Let's help you!"

This loli came out of nowhere and was suspicious, thus Yue Zhong suspected that she could be part of a trap set for him by his enemies. He wasn't afraid, however. As long as he was on alert, even if an enemy that was stronger than him was to appear, it would be hard to deal with Yue Zhong.

The loli just gave Yue Zhong an extremely sweet smile and said: "Thank you Big Brother!!"

"It's alright!" Yue Zhong naturally patted her shoulders. If she was an enemy, there would be a reaction from that seemingly harmless pat.

However, Yue Zhong's hand reached the shoulder of the loli without resistance, and as long as he willed it, he could crush her neck instantly.

"Big Brother?" The loli had no strange reaction however, and just turned around innocently to look at Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong continued without skipping a beat: "There was a worm on your shoulders earlier!"

"Oh! Thank you Big Brother! Xiangling's most afraid of bugs! Oh right Big Brother, my name is Mu Xiangling! What's your name?" Mu Xiangling tilted her head curiously and asked Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong replied: "I'm Yue Zhong!"

"Oh! So it's Yue Zhong-gege!"

Mu Xiangling and Yue Zhong came to the small alley, when she suddenly leapt into Yue Zhong's embrace, and used those huge round eyes of hers to look at Yue Zhong, her face an expression of shyness as she spoke: "Yue Zhong-gege! Xiyu, Xiyu likes Yue Zhong-gege!! Yue Zhong-gege!! You must like Xiyu too right!"

Mu Xiangling had pounced into Yue Zhong's embrace, and her hands reaching for Yue Zhong's zip with practiced ease.

"What's going on?" Yue Zhong was filled with questions, he had not sensed any killing intent from Mu Xiangling, and he was questioning himself if had suddenly become heaven-defyingly handsome, as why would there be a random loli that just pounced on him?!

Just as Yue Zhong was at a loss, Mu Xiangling pulled out a handphone and quickly took a picture of them, before leaping off his body, and her face instantly changed to one of disgust, spitting: "It's enough now! Perverted lolicon! You can get up!! A 100-jin ration ticket!! Give me that and I'll forego this matter, otherwise I'll go develop this picture and start handing it out! You will be scorned by the people here and will never have a place in society again! Even the police will keep looking for you!!"

Mu Xiangling spoke with scorn: "A 100-jin ration ticket in exchange for a secure position in society! It's a decent bargain! You'd better not think about using force to snatch my phone away! On the other end of this street, there's a police post! If I were to scream out now, and then tear my clothes, you will become a pervert who tried to rape a child! Although there are many useless bums at the police post, there are a few decent ones there. I'm sure you don't want to be caught! The moment you're caught, you're dead meat!!"

"Blackmail!!" Hearing those words, Yue Zhong finally understood what had happened to him. He was tricked into an extortion scam by this shrewd little loli.

Yue Zhong glanced coolly at the loli who had seemingly become a different person, as his expression turned black, asking: "Seeing how smooth you were, you must have done this countless times?"

Mu Xiangling's eyes flashed with anger, as she used a tone that belied her age and she spat out: "Men are all perverted creatures! Treat them a little nicely, and their true colours are shown, they even feel good about themselves. You really think you're the reincarnation of Pan An? Wake up! The heavens would not drop freebies for the likes of you. Hand up the 100-jin ration ticket obediently, and I will delete the photo in front of you. I've always conducted my business properly."

"Who would have thought that I would be schooled by a little loli!! However, Mu Xiangling, you seem to have gotten something wrong! About who's the hunter, and who's the hunted!!" Yue Zhong stared at Mu Xiangling, as his pupils shrunk, and he activated his [Art of Fear].

The tyrannical Spirit attack launched at Mu Xiangling, and she was instantly enveloped in a terrifying illusion, as her body froze in terror, so much so that she could not move. Although she could see what happened to her, her body had no way of responding.

Yue Zhong casually retrieved the handphone from Mu Xiangling's hands and deleted the photo, before stuffing it back into her hands, and deactivating the skill.

"So you're a high-level Enhancer!!" The moment Mu Xiangling was pulled out of the illusion, she muttered with dejection.

Enhancers were powerful existences. Mu Xiangling was an ordinary human, and had no way of retaliating.

"That's right! I'm a high-level Enhancer!" Yue Zhong chuckled lightly, and in a wave, Mu Xiangling's handphone had appeared back in his hands. In that second, he had easily snatched her phone right in front of her.

Yue Zhong reached out and pinched her cheek, before giving her 3 candies and a 20-jin ration ticket: "Brat! Don't do such things in the future! Not everyone is reasonable like me! If you had really met those strong perverts, you would not be able to do anything in front of them. This is for you! Go home and lead a proper life!"

After this, Yue Zhong turned around to leave the alley. Everyone had their own principles and way of life, and while he had stopped her once, he could not stop her every time. There were many things he had to do, and could not waste time on a random loli he had just met.

Chapter 396 – It's A Deal!

"Wait up!!" Mu Xiangling ran up to Yue Zhong, and opened her arms wide to block Yue Zhong's path again.

Yue Zhong cocked his eyebrows and drawled: "Little rascal! Don't ask for a yard when given an inch!*"

Mu Xiangling looked at Yue Zhong with those huge beautiful eyes of hers, as a complicated gleam flashed in her gaze: "Yue Zhong, since you're a high-level Enhancer, you must have the capability, and you must be rich, right?"

Regardless of where or what faction, high-level Enhancers led very decent lives. This was common knowledge, and any faction would do well to win Enhancers over to their side. This was simply because Enhancers possessed incredible combat power, be it hunting zombies, Mutant Beasts or killing other humans, they were considered experts. A powerful Enhancer with tyrannical strength could easily change the flow of a battle.

Yue Zhong nodded: "That's right!"

Mu Xiangling stared fixedly at Yue Zhong, and in a serious tone that did not match her age: "Then, please buy me!! I'm pretty, and am still a virgin! I can cook, wash, shop for groceries, manage your books, whatever! As long as you buy me, once I'm older, I can become your woman, no questions asked! If you really can't wait, you can have me now. Even if you want to give me away as a present once you buy me, it's fine as well!! You want me to be a doll, I'll be a doll! Whatever ways you want to play with me, it's all doable! As long as you can offer a good enough price!!"

Yue Zhong returned her stare and asked slowly: "What is the price to buy you then?"

Mu Xiangling did possess extraordinary looks, and when she grows up in the future, it was very possible that she could be on the same level of beauty as Guo Yu or Chen Yao. Yue Zhong could be considered the leader of over a few ten thousands of survivors over at Guangxi, and the only beautiful loli that he had come across was that Ning Ruozhi, who was extremely adept at acting cute to gain his favour. As long as it was a reasonable price, he was willing to buy over this girl.

“Follow me!!” Mu Xiangling immediately turned around and walked away.

The moment she left the dark alleyway, she quickly raised her hand to tousle her hair, and then randomly grabbed some dirt off the ground to smear across herself. In just a few motions, an originally cute and pretty little girl transformed into a dirty and unbecoming little beggar.

Regardless of how beautiful a person can be, a messy and dirty appearance would belie her true appearance. Such a disguise was simple and crude, but extremely effective.

Yue Zhong observed her silently, it was obvious that this little loli knew how to protect herself, and had plenty of experience in surviving in this society. If it wasn't for Yue Zhong, she might have gotten yet away with another day's haul.

After her quick transformation into a little beggar, she brought Yue Zhong through random streets, before arriving at a dilapidated slum area, where the water was downright murky and rancid, and a horrible stench was present everywhere.

After tunneling about the different complicated alleys, Mu Xiangling and Yue Zhong arrived at an extremely rundown old room, as she pulled out a key to open the door.

The moment the door was pushed open, a strong medicinal scent wafted from within the house. Yue Zhong looked towards the direction of the smell, and saw a woman whose entire face looked swollen, her original features indistinguishable, and her body wrapped in blankets as she laid on a small bed.

“Mum! I'm back! Wait for a moment, I'll go prepare medicine for you!” Mu Xiangling walked to the woman, and got a cup of water as she fed her gently, before walking into the kitchen and started making medicine again.

Yue Zhong looked at the bedridden woman, who could not even make a sound, and could roughly guess the price of buying Mu Xiangling. He looked about the room.

In the room, there was practically nothing, just a small desk, a bed, and 2 chairs. On the small desk, there were a few middle-grade books placed neatly.

Although the house was sparse, it was tidy and clean. Everything inside seemed to be free of dust, and it could be seen that the little master of this house was efficient at cleaning.

Hardworking, gentle, dedicated, efficient, tidy, these were the qualities Yue Zhong noted about Mu Xiangling just by taking in his surroundings. These, as well as the earlier act of pretending to be cute, trying to trick him, as well as her street-smart.

After brewing the medicine, Mu Xiangling fed her mother with great care, before changing her adult diapers. She washed some clothes and wiped down her body, as she then fed her porridge. Mu Xiangling

bustled about for an entire hour, before heaving a sigh of relief, and bit into a biscuit as she sat beside Yue Zhong.

Mu Xiangling looked at Yue Zhong, as she maintained her serious tone and said: “As long as you can treat my mum’s illness, and leave her with 30-tonnes ration tickets! I will be yours! I know that the 30 tonnes amount is not little, as you can easily get a woman outside with just a 100-jin ration ticket. However, I’m pretty, and young, as well as a virgin! I’m great with household chores, and am athletic. Such a great bargain for 30-tonnes rations!! As long as you can buy me, I will listen to you only! Even if you wanted to kill me, I’d have no complaints! Will this do?”

Yue Zhong looked at Mu Xiangling who had been promoting herself non-stop: “30 tonnes of rations is not an issue! However, I’m not a doctor, and I have no confidence of healing her entirely. Furthermore, you have not told me what’s wrong with her.”

30 tonnes of food wasn’t something difficult for Yue Zhong to obtain. As long as he went to the 2nd Street of Xinyang and exchanged some System equipment, he could easily get the 30 tonnes. However, the main thing was that he wasn’t a doctor, and he had no confidence of healing Mu Xiangling’s mother.

It did not seem to be an external injury for Mu Xiangling’s mother, and hence, the Life-Saving Grass which was effective for external wounds would not help her.

Mu Xiangling’s eyes turned red, as tears started to drip on the ground. She thought back to the events that had happened at the start of the apocalypse, and started crying: “I heard the doctor saying that Mum’s illness is due to a problem with her immunity. She could not defend against the various bugs and bacteria in the air, and hence, she had become like that. It’s all because of me!! Mum had passed everything good to me to eat, and she didn’t eat anything, that must be the reason for the problems in her immunity! It’s all my fault! My fault!!”

Yue Zhong frowned, and assessed the situation silently to himself: “Problems with immunity? Then items that enhance or strengthen the body should be able to correct the immunity problem, probably?”

In Yue Zhong’s possessions, there were currently 2 incredible treasures that can greatly enhance a person’s constitution. One was the Snake Birth Fruit juice, that could directly cause a person to become an Evolver, and the other was the ‘Ou Ming Ver 1’, made from the blood essence, brain cells, and the rare Mutant Plants. These 2 were equally precious, and Yue Zhong would usually only gift those subordinates who pledge steadfast loyalty to him.

Yue Zhong was also human, and he hesitated a while, seeing that the solution to the problem was expending either of his precious items on a woman he had just seen for the first time. Other than that, there was the crucial point, which was, it was just Yue Zhong’s assessment. If any of those 2 items were to have no effect on the poor woman, then not only would he lose 2 valuable liquids, but even Mu Xiangling would not be his. It was truly a gamble.

Mu Xiangling was intelligent and perceptive, she could feel Yue Zhong’s hesitation, as she pounced into his arms and cried pitifully while begging: “Yue Zhong-gege!! Please, please save my mum! You must have a way right? You’re so strong, you definitely must have a way right?!”

“I do have something! It can allow an ordinary person to instantly become an Evolver! This treasure may heal your mum, and can transform her into an Evolver. Or it could have no effect, and your mum might

not even be able to withstand the effects of it and die. I'm not a doctor, and I have no means of ascertaining if this thing of mine is able to help your mum. The decision to use it lies on you!"

Yue Zhong flipped his hand, and a vial of the Snake Birth Fruit juice appeared in his hands. He looked at Mu Xiangling and said indifferently: "Little brat! I'm not a philanthropist, this is after all a precious resource that can Evolve a person. You know how valuable this is. It's value exceeds even a thousand tonnes of rations. The moment you decide to use this, regardless of the result, you are mine. As for your mum, if she does survive this, she is to become my subordinate and fight for me! If you don't agree, I won't force you! You can go find other people to buy you!"

"Evolver!!" Mu Xiangling heard this, and the words shook her heart. She had heard from accounts of other people, that Evolvers were the favored children of Heaven, and their combat power was way over ordinary Enhancers. The moment a single Evolver appeared, many factions would clamor to curry favor and provide resources, just to raise a single Evolver.

Of the 900,000 people in Guilin City, the naturally awakened Evolvers were less than a hundred, each and every single one of them were famous experts. Even Mu Xiangling who belonged to the lowest caste of society had heard of their miracles. Ordinary people wished to become Enhancers, while Enhancers wished to become Evolvers.

A naturally awaked Evolver happened at the odds of 1:10,000. Of course, some places had more, while other places had less. The more humans there were, the chances of an Evolver happening is more likely.

The moment Mu Xiangling heard that her mother could become an Evolver, she became excited. However, she held herself in check, and thought carefully. The medicine in Yue Zhong's hand had no guarantee of saving her mother, and she became conflicted again.

Mu Xiangling looked at the Snake Birth Fruit juice in Yue Zhong's hands, and hesitated a moment, before gritting her teeth and reaching out with her palm: "I'm yours!"

Mu Xiangling took the vial of Snake Birth Fruit juice and opened it up, as she stuck out her small pink tongue to taste the liquid.

The moment that little drop of Snake Birth Fruit Juice entered her body, it transformed into a hot wave of energy and circulated within her body.

"Congratulation! You have gained an enhancement of 1 point in Spirit."

A System notification suddenly resounded within Mu Xiangling's mind.

"This is a true treasure!! He did not lie to me!!" Mu Xiangling finally let go of the concerns in her heart, and poured the contents of the glass vial into her mother's mouth.

As the Snake Birth Fruit juice entered the body of Mu Xiangling's mother, it began its tyrannical body-changing transformation, rapidly altering every single part of her body. She started to ooze huge amounts of perspiration, foul blood, impurities, and an unbearable stench started to emit from her. At the same time, her swollen face was flushed red, as she opened her mouth to gasp for air.

"What's going on?" Mu Xiangling was horrified at her mother's condition, and grabbed Yue Zhong's hands, as she stared at Yue Zhong furiously. Her mother, who was most important to her, had suddenly

entered into a life-threatening condition, and she was enraged, to the point that she forgot Yue Zhong was an existence that she could not possibly stand up to.

Yue Zhong replied: "Not to worry! One day, after taking in the contents of that, she will run a fever for a day. If she can resist, then her body will regain its health, and she would become an Evolver. You stay here and look after her! I will station someone to guard the place! White Bones, come out!"**

There was suddenly a distortion in space, as a hole appeared, and White Bones walked out of that hole and proceeded to stand quietly in the middle of the house and stare coldly at Mu Xiangling.

Mu Xiangling's mind churned as she saw through Yue Zhong's intentions: "You don't have to do this! Since I've agreed to be your doll, I definitely will not renege on my promise! Of course, you can watch over me, that is your choice, Master!!"

Yue Zhong replied: "Alright! Just stay here and look after your mother! I'm leaving! Tomorrow this time, I'll come for you guys!"

Mu Xiangling did not turn to look at him, as she focused only on caring for her mother, and replied: "En!"

Yue Zhong left the dilapidated slums in huge strides, and went back towards the direction of the 2nd Street of Xinyang again. There was a huge exchange of System items after all, and he had plenty of equipment gained from the bodies of his enemies, and he could perhaps use this chance to exchange them for a few skillbooks or appropriate equipment.

The countless scattered eyes for the Green Bamboo Gang noticed Yue Zhong, and one of them hurried to a teahouse nearby.

Pretty soon, a large group gathered under the banner of the Green Bamboo Gang followed the lead of a huge man, who was roughly 1.7m tall, dressed in a black cloak, and a huge sword hung at his waist. There was a scar on his otherwise handsome face, and his eyes shone with an intelligent light. He was roughly 19, 20, and he walked to block Yue Zhong's path.

The small hooligan from Green Bamboo Gang pointed at Yue Zhong and said loudly: "It's him!! Court Leader Hu, it's him!!!"

"It's you!!" The young man saw Yue Zhong, and was taken aback, before his eyes lit up in delight.

Chapter 397 – A Reunion of Brothers

Yue Zhong looked at that Court Leader Hu and chuckled: "Who would have thought that we would meet like this! Little Leopard!!"

The Court Leader Hu guffawed, as his pupils shrunk, and a strong fighting intent billowed out of him, and he pulled out his huge sword from his waist, and shot towards Yue Zhong like a meteor: "Haha!! It truly is amazing!! Take my strike!!"

Yue Zhong instantly pulled out his Crocodile Tooth Saw Blade and raised it to meet Court Leader Hu's strike, his 6x Strength exploded out, and the clash between the 2 weapons resulted in a huge grating noise.

Yue Zhong was sent one step back, while Court Leader Hu took 2 steps, it was obvious that in a contest of Strength, Yue Zhong had won.

“Hahaha! You truly have become even more powerful!! However, with just this little bit of ability, you’re not my match!” Court Leader Hu laughed and stepped forwards, the blade in his hand suddenly exploded with twice the speed, and his strike had a wind force that struck towards Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong’s pupils retracted, and his 11x Agility exploded out. The Crocodile Tooth Saw Blade in his hand turned into a quick flash, meeting the strikes from Court Leader Hu, blow for blow.

In just a few moments, a hundred blows had been exchanged between the 2, and sparks continuously flew from the clash.

“So powerful!!” The surrounding Enhancers that had come to watch were all shocked in their hearts. Most of them were close-combat specialists, and not even 10 of them could withstand any one strike from either Yue Zhong or Court Leader Hu.

After over a hundred exchanges, both parties drew back, and smiled at each other, before sheathing their weapons.

Green Scorpion saw that things were taking an unpleasant turn, and hurried to Court Leader Hu and pleaded: “Court Leader Hu!! He’s an enemy of our Green Bamboo Gang!! 10 over brothers have been crippled by him!! You must seek redress for us!!”

Court Leader Hu’s facial expression immediately froze, and he lashed out with a furious kick, sending Green Scorpion flying back 7 to 8 metres: “Redress your mum!! He’s my big brother! You dare offend my big brother!! If he didn’t chop off your arms, I would have been the one to do it!! Scram to one side filth!”

“Hu Yi! You dare act against us just for an outsider. Do you still want to be a court leader? Go chop him apart now and I’ll ignore whatever happened today!” At this time, a normal looking young man with shifty eyes stepped forwards, a dozen Green Bamboo members moved forward behind him as he barked at Hu Yi.

Green Scorpion hurriedly crawled to the feet of the newcomer and cried: “Court Leader Sheng!! Hu Yi not only protected the outsider, he also lashed out at us from the Green Bamboo!! We seek Court Leader Sheng to help us clean up the murk of the Gang!!”

Hu Yi looked at Sheng Kexi and barked: “Sheng Kexi! This daddy doesn’t need your guidance in my matters! You’re still lacking if you want to strip me of my authority!! Na, you know what? Why don’t we settle it here! Whomever kills whomever will not need to bear responsibility! Do you dare? Little bastard!!”

Sheng Kexi was enraged as he led his men away: “Hu Yi! Bastard! Don’t think just because the Leader values you, you can do however you like! You better watch out. Today’s matters, I won’t let it go just like that. Let’s go!!”

Hu Yi spat at Sheng Kexi: “Pei! Little bastard! If it wasn’t for your big bad daddy, based on your abilities, how could you become a Court Leader!” He then turned to Yue Zhong and laughed: “Brother, let us go have a drink!”

Yue Zhong chuckled lightly: "I don't drink!"

"Then a fruit juice should be fine right! Come on! My treat!!" Hu Yi laughed out and pulled Yue Zhong towards a lavish looking nightclub.

Currently, it was still daytime, but those nightclubs would still be operating, their neon lights flickering without stop, and on the dance floors, there were dozens of hot babes and dashing young men wearing revealing clothes as they gyrated provocatively.

A roughly 30-year-old lady pimp with a lingering charm and heavy make-up walked towards Hu Yi and teased: "Boss Hu! You actually came to grace us with your presence! This is an honour. Who is this?"

Hu Yi looked at the lady pimp warily and said: "This is my big bro!! Go find some pretty and clean young girls and fetch them over. Don't bring some used goods to spoil this daddy's mood, otherwise I might just slash you!"

"Yes!! Yes!!" The lady pimp was frightened and hurriedly retreated.

The moment the lady pimp left the room, there was only Yue Zhong and Hu Yi left.

Yue Zhong glanced at Hu Yi and spoke slowly: "Little Leopard, you've changed a lot!"

All those years back, Hu Yi was a coward who had been following Yue Zhong, now he had become part of the underground, and was even a person of power. His mannerism, his speech, all held thick traces of his underground links, calling out 'this daddy' here and there, even going as far as to threaten others.

Hu Yi looked at Yue Zhong and chuckled: "Bro! If we are to continue living in this world, how can we not change. Aren't you the same Bro?"

Yue Zhong turned silent for a long while, as he sighed and nodded: "It's true! I've changed plenty!"

In just a short year, Yue Zhong had morphed from a simple university student into a decisive killing machine with a heart of stone that showed no mercy to his enemies. His change could be considered the biggest of all.

Hu Yi's eyes sparkled as he reminisced: "I'm always thinking about the past, and the years that we good brothers spent together. Although now when we look back, our actions seemed childish and flippant, even rebellious! But, it was the happiest moments of my life!"

Back then, Yue Zhong, Chi Yang, Hu Yi and a few others had banded together as they fought others, played truant, confessed to girls, and done a whole bunch of stuff to impress those very same girls. They had even fought for them before. In the eyes of the teachers and their parents, other than Chi Yang whose grades were considered decent, amongst the top 20 of the school, the rest of them were just barely scraping by.

Only when they reached their secondary 3 days*, due to a personal matter and Yue Zhong having suffered a blow, did he finally focus on his studies and managed to get into university.

After their final examinations, due to the different paths in life, these band of brothers were forcefully separated, and they could only get together again during their holidays.

Yue Zhong's eyes glazed over with a slight longing for the past as well, as he asked Hu Yi: "Huang Ziming, Chen Li, Xie Manzhi, Lin Zixian, did you manage to discover their whereabouts?"

A hint of anguish appeared in Hu Yi's eyes, as he muttered: "Huang Ziming's dead!! I saw him turn into a zombie during the onset of the apocalypse. Chen Li is in Yanjing, Xie Manzhi is in Shanghai and Li Zixian is in Nanjing, as to their current situation, I'm unsure. As for their family members, I've searched around in Guilin City, only Uncle Chen is still alive, but he's already gone mad!!"

In this apocalyptic world, other than the top government officials or military officers, ordinary citizens led very hard lives. After all, the army, armed patrol and police officers were the first line of defence for the various human settlements.

Actually, it wasn't all that surprising. Even for Yue Zhong's establishments, in times of crisis, his troops would attend to him and his subordinates first. Since time immemorial, there was not a single case where there was a deviant in terms of practices. That was why, even up to today, there would be a countless struggle for riches and power, because with riches and power, there would be privileges.

Yue Zhong hesitated before asking the tough question: "What about Chi Yang's parents?"

Chi Yang was not only Yue Zhong's closest buddy, but also the second-in-command that he trusted fully, and he hoped that there were good news for him.

Hu Yi hesitated himself before replying slowly: "I've searched the entire Guilin City! There is no news about his parents, I'm afraid they might already be dead!"

In the nearby vicinity, only Guilin City had some form of stability. If there was no news in Guilin City, then the chances of getting any news in the surrounding villages would be even lesser, almost zero.

Yue Zhong became sombre, the fact that he could reunite with his parents, was a huge blessing in itself. He could not possibly hope to find out the whereabouts of Chi Yang's parents as well.

At this time, the lady pimp came back into the private room, as she revealed a teasing smile at Hu Yi: "Boss Hu, these are some new goods we just recently obtained. They are definitely untouched, take a look, who would suit your tastes?"

6 ladies who were on the skinny side and had sallow faces, stood beside the lady pimp. There was nothing too attractive about them.

Hu Yi laughed: "Bro, you choose first!!"

Yue Zhong eyed the 6 of them and declined: "There's no need!"

Hu Yi glanced at the 6 women, and grinned, before waving his hands in a boss-like manner towards the lady pimp: "Right! They're all subpar! Comparable to those cronies you have outside. You're all dismissed! Don't ruin the mood for us!"

"Yes! Boss!!" The lady pimp replied, and hurriedly led the 6 women away from here.

"There's not a single good lady here! While there are a few good-looking ones, they've all been toyed with countless times already! I know you don't like those, so I didn't call them over." Hu Yi explained to Yue Zhong, as he looked towards the dance floor, and grinned at Yue Zhong: "Bro! Wanna head over

there and have some fun? Those chicks are not bad, they're hot and can really dance!! Whoever catches your eye, just let me know. This is my turf, as long as I say the word, they would definitely abide by your wishes!"

Yue Zhong glanced at the dance floor, before furrowing his brows, and looked at Hu Yi and became stern: "Little Leopard, is fooling about with women all you can think about nowadays? If you continue to be like this, how are you different from those underground hooligans and scum?"

Hu Yi glanced at Yue Zhong and laughed bitterly: "Brother! Your words are truly unpleasant! Am I not a hooligan, a scum of the street already?"

Chapter 398 – Gao Minghao

Yue Zhong became silent again, before sighing lightly.

Hu Yi had joined the Green Bamboo Gang, and was conferred the Court Leader status, from a moral standpoint, he could be considered as a huge hooligan, a degenerate.

Yue Zhong looked at Hu Yi and said: "Give me the details about the strength of the Green Bamboo Gang!"

Hu Yi became alarmed, as he looked at Yue Zhong, and asked slowly: "Bro, what are you thinking of doing?"

Yue Zhong's pupils shrunk and he stared fixedly at Hu Yi: "I want to destroy Green Bamboo Gang! Are you going to help me, or going against me?"

Yue Zhong had been best friends with Hu Yi, Chi Yang and the rest, but the human heart was susceptible to change. He was not sure how much of a bond still existed between this best friend from those years ago and him.

Hu Yi looked at Yue Zhong in a grieved manner and said: "Bro! The leader of Green Bamboo Gang Gao Minghao is my benefactor!! I can't betray him!! If you really want to destroy the Green Bamboo Gang, I can only choose not to help either sides! And, don't tell me what you're about to do! Even if you succeed, all I ask is for you to spare Gao Minghao's life!!"

Hu Yi had exchanged blows with Yue Zhong, and could tell Yue Zhong's prowess. He had known Yue Zhong for so many years, and knew that underneath that calm and collected exterior, there was a bloodthirsty nature. Back then, there were a few seniors who had spoken out of line and made Chen Li cry, Yue Zhong had then snuck into the hostel that very night, and used his fists to pummel the head of that senior, causing him to be hospitalized and required 3 stitches. If it wasn't for Chen Li's dad and his connections, Yue Zhong could have been expelled for his violent behavior then.

Yue Zhong looked at Hu Yi, and assured him with a smile: "Fine! I'll promise you that! If I do exterminate the Green Bamboo Gang, I will leave Gao Minghao alone!"

Yue Zhong knew that Hu Yi was extremely loyal, and when they had fought in group fights in the past, while he was trembling for fear, without a word from Yue Zhong, Hu Yi had never ran away on his own before.

Gratitude must be repaid, and vengeance must be carried out! This was the sort of man that Yue Zhong befriended and valued! He would naturally not make things difficult for this brother of his.

Hu Yi heaved a sigh of relief and offered: “Bro!! It’s not like the enmity is beyond salvageable! Why not let me mediate between both sides?”

On one side, there was his brother for life, on the other, was the boss that had trusted him and given him a new lease of life after the apocalypse. Hu Yi wasn’t willing to let these 2 come to a clash.

Yue Zhong looked at Hu Yi and replied with a proposition of his own: “En! That’s fine! On account that it’s you, I’m willing to take a step back. Oh yea, Little Leopard, you wanna come over to my side and help me? I have a base at Hunan, with over 100,000 survivors and a regiment of troops. If you come over now and earn some merits, I can give you a good position.”

Although Hu Yi had picked up the bad habits of the underground, he was still someone Yue Zhong could trust. If he came over, as long as he performed, Yue Zhong would reward him accordingly.

Hu Yi became excited: “100,000 survivors!! Amazing!! You never disappoint Brother! But, I’m currently still indebted to Gao Minghao, and can’t go over there in the short term. Once I’ve performed enough, I will definitely join you!!”

Yue Zhong did not press the matter further, and directly gave him a Snake Birth Fruit juice and ‘Ou Ming Ver 1’, saying: “Suit yourself! The one of the left can help a person become an Evolver! However, when you consume it, you will be incapacitated for a day. Find a quiet place to drink it, keep the location secret. Or get someone to keep watch over you. The one on the right can help evolve any skill of an Enhancer above Level 30 into a 2nd Order Skill. Drinking it also causes an entire day’s worth of discomfort. You handle it yourself!”

Hu Yi received the 2 precious medicine and laughed, directly consuming the Snake Birth Fruit juice: “Thanks Bro!! Hehheh! I knew Bro would not neglect me! Haha! With these 2 babies, I’m invincible!! Haha! Bro, I’d have to trouble you to protect me!”

The moment the contents entered his abdomen, it transformed into a hot surge of energy and circulated within Hu Yi’s body, causing him to pass out and burn with a fever.

Yue Zhong looked at the unconscious Hu Yi and laughed bitterly, before hoisting him up onto his back and left the nightclub.

Yue Zhong carried Hu Yi back to his own place, and when Ning Li saw it, she frowned: “Yue Zhong, isn’t that Hu Yi? He’s a member of that Green Bamboo Gang. They are not decent people, don’t follow suit.”

Yue Ming had just arrived home as well, he glanced at the unconscious Hu Yi and said solemnly: “Lay him in the room first then we’ll talk.”

Yue Zhong then proceeded to drop Hu Yi in his room, before coming out to the living room and sat down.

Yue Ming spoke seriously: “There’s sense in your mum’s words, but they’re not entirely correct! You and Hu Yi can be considered to be childhood friends. However, under no circumstances should you join that underground group. Joining those groups will ruin your future!!”

Yue Ming had a very traditional mindset, and viewed those gangs with contempt, and would definitely not allow his own child to join those places.

Yue Zhong nodded: "En! I got it!"

Yue Zhong was not planning on joining the triads, in fact, if they weren't smart enough to get the hint, he didn't mind exterminating them.

Early the next morning, Yue Zhong had just stepped out of his home.

A suave-looking young man of about 27, 28, dressed entirely in white, sporting a short hairdo, and eyes filled with intellect, walked up to Yue Zhong. He smiled and said: "How do you do Yue Zhong! I'm Gao Minghao!"

Yue Zhong returned the greeting as he looked at the handsome man, his eyes narrowing: "Hey! Yue Zhong here!"

Gao Minghao gestured to one side and asked: "Is it ok if I have a moment of your time?"

Yue Zhong nodded and followed Gao Minghao towards a small stall and they sat down.

Gao Minghao eyed Yue Zhong, as he smiled with a vibrant charm: "Yesterday's matters. I need to give an answer to my men!"

Yue Zhong's eyes flashed, and he replied indifferently, "So are you here to kill me?"

In this world, human life was cheap. Someone could lose his life over the simplest bun. Not to mention for the sake of resolving a conflict.

Gao Minghao smiled: "You and Hu Yi are good friends! He is my most trusted subordinate. I don't want to make things difficult for him. But, at the same time, I need to seek some redress for my men. Why not join us? As long as you perform some merit, I'll handle Green Scorpion and the rest."

Yue Zhong glanced at Gao Minghao and directly declined: "No way! I will not join the Green Bamboo Gang!!"

Gao Minghao frowned a little, "En! Things might be a little difficult then!" However, he soon smiled and said: "Oh right, our Green Bamboo Gang just discovered a Type 3 Mutant Beast! We're preparing to go deal with it, Yue Zhong, if you're willing to lend us a hand, all the matters will be considered solved. Also, you won't be working for free, we'll offer the necessary compensation. How about it?"

"Type 3 Mutant Beast! The Green Bamboo Gang actually dares to face a Type 3 Mutant Beast?! Their guts are sure something!" When he heard this news, Yue Zhong was shaken, and he took a careful look at Gao Minghao, his pupils shrinking.

A Type 2 Mutant Beast was fearsome enough, and the hides of Type 2 Mutant Beasts were enough to withstand even the rounds from 25mm cannons. As strong as Yue Zhong is, he had no confidence that he could deal with a Type 3 all by himself.

Yue Zhong thought carefully before agreeing: "Sure! I'm in! But, I want a share of the blood essence, the Beast meat, brain matter and nuclei from the Type 3 Mutant Beast."

Gao Minghao shook his head and rejected: "The blood essence is ours. Other than that, the hide, bones, blood and meat are ours as well. However, if you contribute more strength, then we can share the hide, bones, blood and meat with you."

"Great!" Yue Zhong immediately agreed with the suggestion. He had seen a number of Type 2 Mutant Beasts already, but as for a Type 3, he had only seen one once, and it had teleported him to Vietnam. He did want to hunt a Type 3 with these people.

"It's a deal then! 4 days later, I'll send someone to notify you." Gao Minghao chuckled, and stood up to leave.

Yue Zhong thought silently to himself: "Seems like I need to reconsider my plans for the Green Bamboo Gang."

After a while, Yue Zhong managed to find his back to Mu Xiangling's place.

At this time, on the bed, there was a beautiful housewife of about 27, 28 who was lying, her hair black and lush, her skin shining with a lustre, and her features exquisite.

In front of that housewife, Mu Xiangling was gripping her hand tightly not letting go.

"Mr Yue Zhong, you're here! How're you, I'm Xin Jiarou, I'm Xiangling's mother!" The housewife saw Yue Zhong and struggled to get up, as she looked straight at Yue Zhong, her eyes showing a resolute gaze: "I've heard everything between you and Xiangling yesterday. Please let Xiangling go!! She's still young!"

Yue Zhong's pupils shrunk, and his tone became incredibly cold: "You guys are trying to renege on the deal!"

At that instant, 2 sharp Bone Blades extended out from White Bones' body, and in an instant, the blades appeared at the necks of the mother-daughter pair. With a single order from Yue Zhong, it would immediately decapitate the 2 of them!

Yue Zhong stared coldly at Xin Jiarou, saying: "Miss Xin Jiarou! I gave your daughter the choice yesterday. At that point, she had the option to decline. Now, you guys have used my evolving medicine, and want to back out. I'm sorry then, even if it's a waste, you guys will have to die! You wasted my damn medicine!"

Chapter 399 – Level 5 Skill Divine Speed!

*Ulamog: please note that henceforth the Type 2 Skills will be Second Order Skills

If Yue Zhong was to just toss his precious Snake Birth Fruit Juice that could easily Evolve a person outside, it would cause a mayhem. Such an important resource was used up, and now, Yue Zhong was about to gain nothing from its expenditure, his anger naturally hit the roof.

Mu Xiangling cried out shrilly, as she ignored the incredibly sharp bone blade, while staring fixedly at Yue Zhong and pleaded: "No!! Don't harm my mum!! Yue Zhong-gege! Don't hurt my mum!! I didn't

renege on the promise!! I'm not going back on my word!! I will be your doll, just please!! Don't hurt my mum!!"

Xin Jiarou looked at Yue Zhong with a clear expression, and she did not panic in the face of danger, instead, she spoke clearly: "Mr. Yue Zhong, I'm not saying that we will go back on our word. My meaning is, I'm willing to replace Xiangling to be your toy. Whatever your command, I will not disobey. It's just that Xiangling is currently still too young, I implore you to be patient for a few more years, let her grow up, before becoming of service to you."

Yue Zhong looked back at her, seeing that she was resolute and clear about her decision. He waved his hands, and White Bones retracted its sharp bone blades.

Yue Zhong then directly asked Xin Jiarou: "I had initially agreed to help her because she was intelligent, and filial. She would become a capable person in the future. Your worries are unfounded as I have no shortage of women. You should be an Evolver now, tell me your attributes and awakened abilities!"

Xin Jiarou heaved a sigh of relief inwardly, although she had portrayed a calm exterior, she was truly terrified in her heart. After Evolving, her senses had become more acute, and she could tell that Yue Zhong was genuinely about to kill them earlier. This man in front of her was obviously resolute and decisive, even ruthless, if he had to be.

"I'm an Agility-based Evolver! Strength: 8, Agility: 25, Vitality: 9, Stamina: 8, Spirit: 11, Endurance: 10. I have awoken the 2nd Order Level 5 Skill: Divine Speed!"

"2nd Order Level 5 Skill: Divine Speed! The Skill is a mutation of the 2nd Order Level 4 High Speed Movement Skill. Activation requires 20 Stamina, increasing Agility by 120 points. Upon activation, Stamina would decrease by 5 points every second. Enhancing this skill requires 3 skill points!"

When Yue Zhong heard this, his face couldn't help but change, and a hint of excitement appeared in his eyes: "What! 2nd Order Level 5 Skill?!"

When most ordinary people administer the Snake Birth Fruit Juice, they would awaken an ability. Most of the time, it was a Level 3 or Level 2 Skill. Xin Jiarou was the only person Yue Zhong had encountered, who had actually awoken a 2nd Order Level 5 Skill.

"Why? Could it be because of that illness?" Yue Zhong was wondering about the possibilities as he celebrated inwardly. This sort of miraculous mutation, it could either be Xin Jiarou was a true genius, or that the illness she was suffering from had a beneficial effect when interacting with the Snake Birth Fruit Juice.

Regardless of the truth, Xin Jiarou had become an abnormally strong expert. Once she had enough Stamina to use this overpowered ability, her speed would easily overtake Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong stared at Xin Jiarou and spoke solemnly: "Very good! Xin Jiarou, from now on, you're my subordinate! From today, you will have to fight for me, with your life! Are you willing?"

Xin Jiarou immediately got down from the bed, as she got down on one knee, announcing her loyalty: "Master, from today onwards, Xin Jiarou is your slave! Whatever your orders, I will definitely carry them out without bargain or complain."

Xin Jiarou wished to use her own loyalty and diligence to protect her precious daughter.

Mu Xiangling panicked, and hugged Xin Jiarou as she pleaded with Yue Zhong: “Mama!! Don’t be like this!! Yue Zhong-gege, on account of our previous transaction, my mum will only be your subordinate!! I’m your doll and toy. My mum is not your slave at all!!”

Xin Jiarou’s brows creased, as her face fell and she reprimanded: “Xiangling! Be obedient! Otherwise, I’ll get angry!”

When Mu Xiangling was lectured by Xin Jiarou like this, she became obedient. She had always been respectful, fearful yet loving of her mother. She had ignored all threats to herself and wasn’t afraid of someone as strong as Yue Zhong, but the moment Xin Jiarou’s temper switched, Mu Xiangling would become like a docile kitten.

Yue Zhong looked at Xin Jiarou and reassured her: “Xin Jiarou, there’s no need for this. Your ability and potential is high, so I hope to mould you into a powerful general under my command in the future!! As long as you work hard and stay loyal to me, I will not harm you nor Xiangling.”

Xin Jiarou’s latent potential was truly strong, and once she grew, her speed would become the best amongst the top warriors under Yue Zhong’s command. Yue Zhong also hoped for this strong Evolver to continue fighting for him with her heart, instead of being antagonistic.

Xin Jiarou was still gentle, yet firm: “Yes, Master!!”

Yue Zhong saw the Xin Jiarou was set on being like this, and decide not to press the issue, instead taking out a bunch of mostly basic Agility-based System equipment. Yue Zhong gifted them to her, saying: “These are all God & Devil equipment. You are to wear them and take them off as little as possible.”

Equipment was always of utmost import*1 to a warrior, and a good set of equipment could boost the combat ability of any otherwise mediocre warrior. If Yue Zhong was to remove everything he wore on his person, his combat ability would decrease by more than half.

“Thank you Master for your gifts!” Xin Jiarou received the equipment graciously and immediately wore them. After equipping the gear she could feel herself becoming exponentially stronger than before.

Mu Xiangling saw her mother putting on those equipment, and ran up to Yue Zhong rather enviously. She used her huge eyes to look at Yue Zhong, while hugging one of his arms and pouting: “Biased!! Yue Zhong-gege you’re biased! How can you give only Mum the good stuff? Where’s mine?!”

Every single piece of equipment was traded in tonnes on the market. Mu Xiangling was like a scrooge whose eyes lit up at the sight of these equipment, and wanted them for herself as well.

*2

Yue Zhong pinched her tiny nose and chuckled: “You’re also not going to be on the frontlines, what would you do with them?”

Mu Xiangling slapped his hands away, and crunched up her face: “Don’t pinch my nose! I’ll become ugly if you do that!!”

Mu Xiangling was intelligent, and could tell that after his anger had subsided, Yue Zhong was actually very easy-going and warm, and dared to tease and openly laugh together with him.

Xin Jiarou looked at her only daughter lovingly. Her daughter was her pride and joy, and was her sole raison d'être now.*3 She would do whatever it takes for Mu Xiangling.

Yue Zhong eyed the room and said: "This place is not suitable for living. Follow me." Although this room was kept clean by the little girl, and was simple, Yue Zhong wanted to gather his subordinates together, in case they were ambushed by enemies. Xin Jiarou and her daughter had to leave here.

They were quick to catch on, and hurriedly packed up their simple belongings. Taking one last longing look at their home, they then followed Yue Zhong to leave.

Yue Zhong brought Xin Jiarou and Mu Xiangling, as he followed some markings towards a small road and finally came to an apartment.

"Boss!!" Within the room, the 30+ experts that Yue Zhong had brought from Tianxin District stood up and greeted him.

Yue Zhong had agreed that upon entry into Guilin City, they were to call him 'Boss'.

"They're all experts!!" Xin Jiarou looked at the 30 something total warriors, and could feel the intense aura and fighting intent emitting from them. After becoming an Evolver, Xin Jiarou had become much more perceptive. Mu Xiangling looked at the warrior and piped in sweetly: "Fellow big brothers!! Hi!! I'm Mu Xiangling!"

Bai Xiaosheng looked at the pretty Mu Xiangling with her ponytail and his eyes widened in shock: "Boss!! Where did you get such a high-quality loli! Don't tell me you really are...."

Yue Zhong shot Bai Xiaosheng a withering look, and Bai Xiaosheng trembled, the word 'lolicon' dying in his throat.

He was not an idiot, and did not want to infuriate Yue Zhong over this little matter.

Ning Yuxin stood to one side, as she gazed at the mother-daughter pair quietly, her eyes gleaming with a complicated light.

The rest of the warriors looked at them curiously, before directing their gazes back to Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong gathered everyone, before asking directly: "We've already entered Guilin City, as for the next step, I would like to hear everybody's opinions."

Ying Kaishan immediately piped up: "Boss, It's not looking too good. There are too many people here, and Du Shanxiong's forces are everywhere sadly. Setting our forces side by side, we pale too much in comparison."

Guilin City was considered huge, and in terms of fighting experience and combat power, they were more than the forces of Bei Mingyang back in Tianxin District. Even the Heaven Sect would have been wiped out facing Du Shanxiong's army. Yue Zhong had only brought 30-plus of them here, even if everyone of them were experts, they could not possibly swallow the entire Guilin City through their own efforts.

Shang Lun was quiet, before speaking slowly: “Although our experts are top fighters, there are almost 900,000 people in Guilin City, and there are countless experts hidden here! If we were to make any strange movements, we would be quelled immediately!”

Hearing Shang Lun’s words, everyone turned sombre. Guilin City was like a huge beast, and this little group of experts were at most ants to the experts of Guilin City.

Previously, the reason why Yue Zhong could take 30+ experts to swallow Heaven Sect was because he had waited for the opportunity when Heaven Sect and the other power had clashed. Otherwise, facing Heaven Sect by himself would also have been almost impossible. Guilin City possessed a force more than 10 times stronger than the Heaven Sect, wanting to easily take it over was simply out of the question.

Yue Zhong smiled lightly: “Don’t think too much! We’re not taking it over. We can conduct business with them, or work in tandem with them to fight the zombies and Mutant Beasts. In fact, there’s no real need to go against them, as long as we can come and go whenever.”

If Yue Zhong wanted to truly take over Guilin City, he would have to activate all his forces to attack, and it would be at the cost of countless lives. However, by taking a step back, even if he didn’t attack them, Yue Zhong would still be able to gain what he wanted by dealing in transactions.

The majority of the inhabitants in Guilin City was Chinese, and the governor wasn’t a racist like Wuyan Hong. Yue Zhong could not just use all sort of methods against his fellow Chinese military men like how he did against the Vietnamese.

Hearing Yue Zhong’s words, everyone relaxed. Of course, they didn’t have to take over Guilin City. Both sides could legitimately conduct transactions to the benefit of both parties. It was just that they were used to Yue Zhong having taken over any territory he came across. This caused them to assume that Yue Zhong wanted Guilin City as well.

Bai Xiaosheng then asked casually: “Boss, What do you intend to do?”

Bai Xiaosheng did not like racking his brains, and his mind was only filled with women. Hence, although he had high talent, and was strong, he could only become a fighter, and never a leader.

Yue Zhong replied solemnly: “We need to establish some kind of solid foothold here in Guilin City. I’m intending to set up the Green Stone Triad. You guys will be the forces of our Green Stone Triad. There are numerous survivors leading harsh lives at Carp Street. Shang Lun, go get 300 people from there, to join our triad. We will cover their meals, on top of that, issue them half a jin of food everyday as payment for members.

In Guilin City, Yue Zhong’s forces could only exist as a triad for now. If he were to rapaciously*4 absorb people like a military force, they would definitely face resistance quickly.

Ying Kaishan replied with a little anxiety: “Boss!! Recruiting 300 people is a little too much, isn’t it? Our rations may not be enough!”

In this post-apocalyptic world, recruiting people was easy, as long as one covered the meals, they could easily gain male survivors. However, to maintain the combat power and morale, it was a problem of consistent rations. If a faction ran out of rations, the survivors would then leave just like that.

Ying Kaishan and the rest did not have any storage rings, and everyone of them had just brought in a 100-jin of rations. If they wanted to sustain the feeding of 300 people, this amount was too little.

Yue Zhong threw 2 Tang Replica Swords to Zheng Minghe and said: "I'll settle the issue of rations! Zheng Minghe, go sell these 2 Tang Replica Swords, they should fetch about a few dozen tonnes of food. Use that to hang on to the new members loyalty first, I'll handle what comes after."

"Yes, Boss!" Zhen Minghe caught the 2 Tang Replica Swords and nodded towards Yue Zhong.

Chapter 400 -Conflict at the Market!

With Yue Zhong's orders, Green Stone Triad quickly established itself in Guilin City. Shang Lun easily recruited 300 male survivors from Carp Street.

Zheng Minghe then began the tough training of these 300 males, and used the military ways he learned, to whip the male survivors into shape. To outsiders, however, it was announced as militarized management. Even prior to the apocalypse, there were many jobs that required the military to oversee.

After the apocalypse had set in, many factions had switched to using similar management methods, and thus, it didn't attract too much attention.

300 people was too small an amount to Guilin City that had almost 900,000 survivors. There were all sorts of factions within Guilin City, some nearing even thousands in their numbers.

Ying Kaishan, Shang Lun and Zheng Minghe were different from Bai Xiaosheng, and had decent leadership capabilities. Yue Zhong only had to busy himself for a day when setting up the Green Stone Triad, and was free after that.

"Yue Zhong-gege, let's go shopping!! Mum and I have too little clothing!"

With Mu Xiangling's constant pleading, Yue Zhong relented, and brought her, Ning Yuxin and Xin Jiarou to the luxurious shopping centre in Guilin City.

With the stabilizing of society, most of the inhabitants in Guilin City had gotten over their initial panic and fear, and there were people window shopping and walking around in the mall. However, the crowd was much smaller than before the initial fall of society.

Yue Zhong led the 3 ladies into the shopping mall, and instantly caught the attention of many people.

"So pretty!!"

"Cheh." "3 roses stuck on a pile of shit."

"Is that guy a lolicon? He must be..."

"....."

When Yue Zhong's group strolled in the mall, they attracted countless envious and jealous gazes, many men were currently hating Yue Zhong in their hearts. 3 top beauties, if any ordinary person could get the attention of any one of them, it was already a huge blessing, but this guy actually had all 3 by his side, it was like being among stars, and they hated his good fortune.

However, most of them were smart, and did not dare step up to rile trouble. In this apocalyptic world, the moment there was conflict, sometimes a life would be just casually taken. Enhancers possessed huge ability, and there were cases of killings happening because some poor chaps had the ill fortune of offending strong Enhancers. That's why, without finding out how powerful Yue Zhong truly was, no one dared to step on his toes.

"Yue Zhong-gege! Look! It's a bikini!! Will I look good if I wear it?" Mu Xiangling came to the swimwear section, and her eyes brightened, as she grabbed a bikini and broke into a smile in front of Yue Zhong.

Yue Zhong lightly knocked her forehead: "You want to wear a bikini? You're still early by 5 years!"

Xin Jiarou reached out and grabbed Mu Xiangling's little hands, pulling her out of the swimwear section: "Time to go! Xiangling, we're here to buy clothes! Not swimwear!"

They came to the underwear section, and Mu Xiangling immediately grabbed a black hollow revealing underwear and jumped in front of Yue Zhong. She opened her hands, as she pouted and blinked her eyes at Yue Zhong, speaking softly: "Hey! Yue Zhong-gege! Shall I change into this for you?"

Yue Zhong felt his heart race at the misunderstanding as he balefully stared at Mu Xiangling while threatening her sternly: "You little rascal, if you try and seduce me, I will spank your bottom!!"

Mu Xiangling laughed like a little fox and stuck close to him as she blew into his ear: "Hehe!! Yue Zhong-gege, you're getting mad!! Ah! I know, you must be agitated right! Lolicon, pervert!! If you want to hit then just hit me, I'm your toy anyway."

Yue Zhong was also helpless against this little loli, and naturally was not willing to punish her. His threat was also ineffective.

In just 2 days, the intelligent Mu Xiangling had completely understood Yue Zhong's temperament. As long as she did not touch his bottom line, regardless of how she teased, Yue Zhong would not punish her. She would then try to take things further.

Xin Jiarou saw Mu Xiangling harassing Yue Zhong and sternly called out: "Xiangling, come over here!!"

Mu Xiangling did not dare to continue, and obediently went back to her mother's side, at the same time throwing the black underwear to the side casually "Yes, Mama!"

Xin Jiarou looked at her daughter who had suddenly switched to being obedient, and was a little angry and helpless at the same time. She was truly at her wits' end with this little bag of tricks, and each time she wanted to lecture her, she would remember how attentive and mature her daughter was when taking care of her, and thus... she could not speak the words.

Xin Jiarou took up a pair of white cotton underwear and told Mu Xiangling: "Go try this on!"

Mu Xiangling immediately scrunched up her face and complained: "Mama! This type of underwear is so old-fashioned!! No one wears these nowadays. It's not nice at all!!" Xin Jiarou's eyes narrowed, and her face turned wooden.

"I'll go get changed now!" Mu Xiangling saw Xin Jiarou's expression and hurriedly dashed off after grabbing the cotton underwear.

After seeing her daughter enter the changing room, Xin Jiarou then took a set that caught her eye, and went into another changing room.

On the other side, Ning Yuxin had already chosen a set of clothes and had went to get changed as well.

The moment the 3 ladies left, Yue Zhong was left alone standing there, and he looked around with a bored expression.

“Oh, isn’t this Yue Zhong?” Right at this time, a familiar voice resounded.

Yue Zhong turned to look, and saw Gao Xiaoyun. She was wearing heavy makeup as well as a set of brand name clothes. Beside her, there was a 23 or 24-year-old man who was slightly on the shorter side, and his looks were insignificant, but his expression was one of supreme arrogance. They were walking over to Yue Zhong.

The short man whose entire face seemed to be the epitome of pride furrowed his brows, as he asked Gao Xiaoyun: “Xiaoyun! You know this person?”

Gao Xiaoyun glanced at Yue Zhong contemptuously, saying: “Zi Ning, this is the guy I was telling you about, the Yue Zhong who would not stop bugging me. I’ve told him clearly, I have someone in mind. I wanted him to call off the arrangement our parents made, but he’s pressuring my mother to force me to date him. What a lowly person!”

Liu Zi Ning stepped forward, and pointed at Yue Zhong as he threatened: “You’re Yue Zhong? Gao Xiaoyun is my woman!! You had better watch your damn self, if you keep harassing this daddy’s woman, this daddy will break your limbs!!”

Right at this moment, Ning Yuxin walked up behind Yue Zhong and slipped her hands through his arm. She was currently dressed in a pure white dress, and her simple beauty was practically radiating. She spoke coldly: “Gao Xiaoyun! Don’t try to sell yourself, Yue Zhong is MY boyfriend! Why would he harass you! Why don’t you look at yourself in the mirror! You aren’t worthy of him at all!”

“Holy shit what a beauty!!” Liu Zi Ning saw Ning Yuxin standing beside Yue Zhong and his eyes were about to pop out from their sockets. It was the first time he had encountered such a peerless beauty, and his lustful nature was snared instantly.

Gao Xiaoyun looked Ning Yuxin up and down, and saw her voluptuous figure, as well as flawless aura, and her eyes were about to spit fire from the jealousy building up. This was a woman that she could not compete with no matter how much makeup she wore, or how much she tried. Although Gao Xiaoyun was considered decent-looking, when compared with Ning Yuxin, she was practically an ugly duck, and was completely overshadowed.

When Ning Yuxin berated Gao Xiaoyun, she started trembling with anger, and grabbed Liu Zi Ning’s arms. She used her breasts to press against him, and complained: “Zi Ning!! She bullied me!! You must help me!!”

“Get lost!!” Liu Zi Ning turned to look at Gao Xiaoyun, and suddenly felt that her makeup-heavy face was extremely repulsive, and he pushed her aside irritably, before looking back at Yue Zhong with disdain. He smiled at Ning Yuxin: “I’m Liu Zi Ning, the son of Liu Xuan He who’s the leader of the Yangtze Gang. Beauty, following this useless Yue Zhong would not spell a good future for you. Come with me instead.”

Liu Zi Ning continued to boast proudly: “My Yangtze Gang has over a thousand people, and we possess numerous experts. My father Liu Xuan He himself is a level 39 Enhancer, almost nobody is his match here in Guilin City! In this city, both sides of the law would have to give my Yangtze Gang face. What is this Yue Zhong? Isn’t he just the son of some lowly government worker? I could play with his life with just lifting a single finger. Following him would bring you nothing! If you come with me, I will immediately arrange a position in the government for you! If you don’t want to work, I can take care of you, and find 20 people to serve you. Every month, you’ll gain a tonne of rations to spend, and I will love you my whole life!”

After the apocalypse, Liu Zi Ning had used this line on countless women. Although it was tactless and extremely revolting, the underlying threat was real. Many pretty girls had no choice but to follow him in order to survive in this new world.

Gao Xiaoyun saw Liu Zi Ning trying to attract Ning Yuxin over, and her face turned as pale as a sheet. At the beginning, she had followed him because he had power and money. However, now she was just tossed aside like garbage, and her heart was filled with hatred.

Yue Zhong eyed Liu Zi Ning and barked out coldly: “Scram!”

Li Zi Ning immediately flared up and stepped forward, intending to slap him viciously. “Fuck! You’re looking for death Yue Zhong!!”

Liu Zi Ning had been acting the oppressive tyrant in Guilin City, and was one of the 4 Tyrants of Guilin City. Those who offended him, were turned into corpses.

Yue Zhong’s brows creased slightly, and grabbed his incoming right hand, before his 6x Strength exploded out, immediately breaking his right hand with an audible crunching noise.