

351 MENTOR

Their document was very comprehensive, including the date of birth, home address and habits of all twenty-one targets. On the back, it was also appended with their detailed criminal records. Needless to say, those were all scum of the cultivation community, who committed innumerable murders and robberies.

Actually, Shi Xuejin's original instruction was not to kill everybody, but was "Bring them back alive. If you are met with any form of resistance, kill them on the spot".

If he had said that killing was permissible if they resisted, then how to define the extent of resistance? How much could they resist before they were allowed to kill them?

But Shi Xuejin's instruction was clear, as long as the target even attempted to resist, they may kill them.

In fact, the number of accessories was even more appalling. Those on the list were only the ones who deserved to die.

They were all clear that at that time, the Class A aptitude geniuses were at the peak of Class D at most. If they did not use their full force when fighting these malicious enemies, they themselves might be killed as well.

After reading through the document, Lu Shu handed it to his group mates. Almost every group was discussing among themselves and making a plan.

Now, each clenched their fists and set their jaw, all eager for a fight. Many had never been to a remain or caught a thief before. Thus, when suddenly thrown into such matters, they were all overwhelmed with nervousness with a tinge of excitement for

the anticipation of recognition. The reality was, even the geniuses also needed tangible achievements so as to be qualified for greater power.

Honestly, this time, was still an accelerated approach. If one wanted to further his own cultivation techniques, he would still have to make more military contributions with no shortcuts available.

"In my opinion, we can act like customers and sneak in to have a general idea of the situation in the black market. If possible, we will take them down one by one. What do you think?"

"I agree. Although according to the document, most of them were Class E's with very few Class D's, they have too many people. It's a good idea to take them one by one..."

"Don't be afraid! Just do it! It's our duty to destroy the criminals' swollen arrogance!" they heard someone whispering softly.

The entire group froze, looking at one another in confusion. Did you say that? Nope. Did he say that? Nah...

The discussion halted. Astounded, everyone in the group turned to see Lu Shu standing behind the group leader. After a few seconds of hesitation, they asked, "Why don't you go and discuss with your own group?"

Lu Shu grinned without even raising his head, his eyes glued to the document in their leader's hands, "I'm your mentor... Don't push! I'm leaving!"

Cheng Qiuqiao was at a complete loss, "Is he always so... lively?"

"I suppose so..." a look of sadness appeared on Chen Zuan's face.

At this moment, however, Lu Shu was pondering over something. After looking through every group's documents, he realized that their destinations were all close together, concentrated in the central area.

He recorded all information gathered in his phone, so as to have a clearer picture of the locations of those covert black markets, and also to... This time, they were going in the name of law enforcement and their enemies were wicked black market operators. Lu Shu noticed that they had committed many crimes of robbery, so...

With no other intentions, Lu Shu was simply curious about what they had stolen... Curiosity was no big deal, right?

The geniuses were relatively naive. No one suspected Lu Shu's objective of looking at their documents. After all, different groups had different missions, who would expect that someone would be so free as to pay attention to others' missions?

To them, there was no guarantee that they could even complete their own task, so why bother about others?

Unlike them, Lu Shu was resolved to become a helpful, forward-thinking youth! Sometimes it was necessary to improve his ideological awareness!

Now, everyone's mission objective was carved in Lu Shu's mind. As he was walking to his group, he typed down everything in his phone, just in case his memory might be worn off in the long term.

Even his remarkable memory could not warrant that the information would stay in his

brain forever, and Lu Shu was always a meticulous person.

According to his memory, their own destination was at the boundary between Shanzhou and Yuzhou, which was actually located in the Tongguan County of Shanzhou.

Meanwhile, the other groups were concentrated in Shanzhou, Jinzhou and Yuzhou. Despite the relative proximity, each state itself was geographically large. After careful consideration, it seemed that he did not have many options available after all.

Still deep in his thought, Chen Zuan interrupted, "Brother Shu, could you be our mentor too?"

"Pointless!" Lu Shu gave them a grumpy look.

At first, Chen Zuan and Cheng Qiuqiao had expected Lu Shu to give some opinions on the group, seeing him busying around and how he was treated differently by the veterans. But in the end, why was he particularly cold to his own group mates?

However, they would not think so if they knew what was actually on Lu Shu's mind.

In fact, Lu Shu had noticed that his group was the strongest among all. They had Cao Qingci and himself, while their rivals only consisted of two mid-Class D's and other insignificant ones of Class F and E. Their victory was apparently certain.

According to the information given, their enemies used guns and hunting rifles, which was the only thing to be cautious of.

Had he overestimated the local Practitioners in the gray area? Lu Shu wondered.

In their team, Cao Qingci was sitting at the side without a single word throughout, but occasionally she would cast a calm look at Lu Shu. On the other hand, Chen Zuan and Cheng Qiuqiao soon became familiar with each other, and the remaining three Daoyuan Class students who were from different states were strangers among themselves as well.

The group allocation seemed completely illogical too, as if the two most powerful students, Lu Shu and Cao Qingci, were purposely put together. Since Chen Zuan was brought in by Lu Shu, it was only sensible for him to follow Lu Shu, and the rest were not that important.

Just now, Lu Shu had also noticed that the two strong students from Qingzhou who were both at the peak of Class D were separated into two groups for the purpose of fairness. So why was his group an anomaly?

It was an obvious fact that his group was the strongest! Nie Ting and Shi Xuejin were clearly aware of that too.

Lu Shu and Cao Qingci had never even had a conversation before. Suddenly, he turned to Cao Qingci, "There may be something wrong with our mission. Be careful."

Composed, Cao Qingci nodded, "Okay."

352 FREE STEWED NOODLES

Initially, Lu Shu thought that they would be transported to the air by plane or other advanced tools and be released like skydivers, but the Heavenly Network did not do so...

Eating melon seeds in the lower deck of a tourist coach, Lu Shu sighed, "So stingy!"

Chen Zuan was indignant, "Agreed! Never have I slept on such a hard seat before!"

As he was complaining, Chen Zuan suddenly turned to the person beside him, "Hello? Yes you! Can you please put your shoes back on? Did you blow up the toilet or something? The smell of your feet is so strong! I'm still eating seeds right here!"

Then, the middle-aged man reluctantly put on his shoes...

At that moment, a spoiled brat ran towards Chen Zuan and stared into his eyes. Before Chen Zuan figured out what he wanted, the brat spat on his melon seeds and ran away...

"My goodness! Don't try to stop me!" Chen Zuan exploded at once, "Where are the kid's parents? Huh? I demand an explanation!"

Lu Shu shot him a glance, "No one is stopping you."

He cast a glimpse at Cao Qingci, who was resting quietly on the upper deck, and was impressed by her ability to fall asleep in such an unfavorable environment.

At that moment, Chen Zuan sat down as well. As a Practitioner, he really could not give up his dignity to pick a fight with ordinary people. Seeing that Cheng Qiuqiao was having a video call, Chen Zuan leaned in, "Why? Talking to your girlfriend?"

However, on his screen, it was Cheng Qiuqiao's mum and a short-legged Welsh corgi in her arms. Cheng Qiuqiao grinned, "Dodo, come and say hi to your brother Chen Zuan!"

Chen Zuan's face darkened, "Thought you were talking to your girlfriend. You talked for so long."

Cheng Qiuqiao still did not notice what he was talking about. Raising his head, he smiled, "Isn't my dog cute?"

Chen Zuan asked, "Are you dating?"

"Huh?" shocked at the abrupt turn, Cheng Qiuqiao replied, "Nope. Now I'm purely focused on my cultivation and studies. Relationships can wait until after graduation."

Chen Zuan was frustrated at Cheng Qiuqiao's failure to get his point, "If you can't even catch your prey in the zoo, how can you hunt outside? In my opinion, I suggest you keep a girlfriend, not a dog."

Meanwhile, the train arrived at the next station. Lu Shu stood up and glanced at him, "True. You didn't keep a dog. But how about your girl?"

Chen Zuan was quiet for a total of ten seconds, "Ouch."

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +199."

But everyone missed the faint smile on Cao Qingci's face.

Lu Shu gave a pat on the little fatty's shoulder, "I'll go for a walk. If I don't make it back in time, you wait for me at Tongguan."

Everyone else was stunned. Why would your walk take that long?

In that instant, no one knew what Lu Shu was going to do!

Lu Shu only knew the three of them in the team, especially He Xie, the girl with heavy makeup and a branded backpack. Her appearance was hard to forget. Every time Lu Shu saw her, he had the temptation to ask her about her master Xuan Zang and her junior fellow apprentices Zhu Ba-jie and Sha Wujing. Making herself look like a monkey, what for?

However, Lu Shu did not expect that at the current stage, all the black markets were hidden in the countryside of remote counties.

It seemed that they were not bold enough to enter cities.

But what Lu Shu was not aware was that many illegal dealers were frightened to death in the cities, as they could always be easily found.

Lu Shu had shared similar feelings before, for instance, when he was watched by surveillance cameras on the entire street... After that incident, Lu Shu would consciously avoid those cameras when he was on the move and walked out of his opponents sight.

Lu Shu slowly walked behind and followed Wang Li's team, who looked like ordinary university student tourists. Upon exit from the train station, the seven people settled down in a small inn. When Lu Shu was just about to catch up with them, he was stopped by a middle-aged woman, "Young man, do you want some rest?"

Lu Shu was unimpressed with her insincerity. The last one who stopped him proposed a folk dance, but this one clearly lacked a competitive edge.

Then, the woman continued, "It's very comfortable. 50 yuan only, with one bowl of free stewed noodles..."

Lu Shu was shocked. That was her trump card?

The key point was, they had package services now? But the service packaged was so practical, free stewed noodles? In fact, it was Lu Shu who was ignorant of the local culture. It was a common but useful technique used near train stations for attracting workers. In any case, everyone needed food, and in addition to the highly-priced noodles, they could also...

Sensing that Lu Shu was hesitant, the woman went on with her persuasion, "It's nutritious! With quail eggs!"

"Well," Lu Shu cleared his throat, "I really don't need it. Thank you. But... my friends need it!"

Of course, Lu Shu could not let Wang Li's group find out what he was doing. At first, he was worried that the geniuses might head to their destination immediately, but it seemed that they took a more cautious approach.

Lu Shu was still figuring out a way to hold Wang Li back and now, it seemed there was an easy way. But as for whether it would work, you would never know unless you gave it a try.

Then, he passed 300 yuan to the woman and pulled her aside for a long word.

The woman's face lit up, "No problem at all! Rest assured that I have other sisters too. My stewed noodles are as wonderful too. We will definitely serve them well!"

After that, Lu Shu walked away with his spears on his back. His spears were contained within a black leather bag, given to him by his friendly comrades-in-arms in the Heavenly Network. From the outside though, people might be able to tell that there was nothing normal inside, no one could be certain that it was actually a weapon.

Usually, there were very few surveillance cameras in the counties, and even fewer in poorer areas like Gongyi.

Now, Lu Shu had to have a chat with those in charge of the black market before Wang Li's team took action.

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On the other side, someone was knocking on his door when Wang Li was unpacking his luggage. Out of curiosity, he asked, "Who's that?"

"Room service!"

Wang Li found it strange. An inn of such a small size had room services? Innocently, he wondered whether it could be room cleaning or something along those lines.

Once he opened the door, a middle-aged woman came in with a bowl of stewed noodles in her hands...

"You must be hungry, young man! Come and have some stewed noodles!"

Wang Li was indeed hungry. Unsure about what was happening, he placed the bowl

on his table and was about to eat, still surprised that the inn actually provided noodles for free. When he raised his head, he realized the woman had no intention to leave. Thus, he asked curiously, "Anything else I can help you?"

"It's okay! Eat faster. After you finish the noodles, I'll start my work!" the woman grinned.

Wang Li nodded, thinking maybe she meant to return the bowl. However, at that moment, he heard his teammate shouting from next door, "What are you doing, woman? I'm not that kind of person! Ah!"

Then, it was followed by the loud voice of a woman, "Do you still intend on running after you eat my noodles?"

353 SHURA

Gongyi was heavily industrialized and had always played a pivotal role in the Luo Cheng Industrial Corridor. Afterwards, due to its rapid economic development, it became independent from Luo Cheng's administration and fell under the direct jurisdiction of Yuzhou.

With a black mask on his face and two spears on his back, Lu Shu walked into a huge yard, which was piled up with car wheels and rusted car frames, that resembled a labyrinth. The twisty narrow path between the walls of abandoned cars seemed to lead to nowhere.

The black market was far more deserted than Lu Shu had expected. In his imagination, it was a place where people traded herb pills...

It could only be attributed to the fact that most Practitioners and Metahumans were concentrated in the Heavenly Network, with very few loafing about outside.

It was not that the rats in the gray areas were too weak, but that the Heavenly Network was too special, incomparable both locally and abroad.

Everything yet to happen was already in Nie Ting and Shi Xuejin's vision.

For reasons unknown, Lu Shu vaguely sensed the weight of duty on his shoulder, as a Major in the Heavenly Network, at the dawn of a time of turmoil.

Lu Shu smiled and then shook the thought away. Seeing him walking inside, the three people at the door who were playing cards stood up, "Which faction?"

Lu Shu hesitated, "I'm not from any faction, but I have fifteen magical stones."

The three brightened up, "Go in."

A rich one!

However, instead of taking the narrow path, Lu Shu leaped onto the highest point of the heap for a bird eye's view. His breach of the rules shocked everyone in and out of the yard.

Those people had been used to posturing. Thus, all past customers had to walk through the maze-like paths. Not all newcomers would be robbed anyway, as they still needed some form of publicity.

Looking up at Lu Shu, the three doorkeepers were indignant, "Come down! Do you not understand the rules!? What on Earth are you doing here?"

In other times, he would have to hide, but at that moment, it was completely

unnecessary. Lu Shu clearly understood that everyone on the target list had their hands stained with the blood of other Practitioners. They clearly deserved to die.

Moreover, different from other groups targets, those in this black market were ganging up with foreign organizations to transfer their stolen goods overseas through a businessman in the south.

It was equivalent to those tomb raiders in the past who sold the national treasures found, to other countries.

Just three days ago, after getting drunk, this group of people wanted to carry off a young girl from the streets, but were fortunately stopped by a local policeman on patrol duty. Even as Practitioners and Metahumans, they had no guts to defy the security force of the country.

There was neither surveillance nor the Heavenly Network.

Hence, Lu Shu did not plan to waste his time with these dregs of the community, and neither did he intend on a secret attack.

In other words, none of them would be spared their lives.

To put it bluntly, keeping his trump card a secret everyday felt like his hands and feet had been chained up. Why was Lu Shu so ecstatic after reading through the mission information? It was because he no longer had to restrain himself in front of these people!

Perched on top, Lu Shu grinned, "Take all your good stuff out for a look!"

On the floor, a man with a long scar which seemed jarring on his arm sneered, "Why should we listen to you? They are in the room. Do you have the guts to take them?"

Lu Shu frowned, "Why are you so unfriendly? Is there anything wrong with taking a look in advance at my goods?"

"From Feng Hao's distress, +199!"

"From Ren Hengqi's distress, +177!"

"From..."

Never had they expected that this fellow would be so shameless. Who the hell was he?!

One whispered, "Could it be he's from the Heavenly Network?"

"Not likely. The Heavenly Network uses swords, but look at the weapons on his back, they look like spears..."

To those rats in the gray areas, there was a pretty easy way to differentiate the Heavenly Network fighters from the rest. Their standard sword was unmistakably recognizable.

Of course, they would not know about Lu Shu's spears, which were a special reward from the Network itself.

At that moment, the only thought in Feng Hao and the rest's mind was that the kid perching high up was so unruly and impetuous!

Suddenly, Lu Shu opened his hand, and over ten magical stones of the size of a thumb were shimmering in the sunlight on his palm.

Feng Hao was shocked at once, "So many magical stones! Did you rob some Heavenly Network fighter? We can't take this kind of thing on."

Lu Shu was amused at the twist in their attitudes. Generally speaking, they bullied the weak and feared the strong.

"Rest assured. I have shown my sincerity. So, let me see yours," Lu Shu smiled.

But, instead of any impressive weapons, Feng Hao took out a sack of cash...

Could it be they had already sold all their stolen goods overseas?

Lu Shu frowned, "Only cash?"

"Then what else do you want?" they asked in reply.

"Show me everything. Let me see if there's anything I can use..." Lu Shu grinned.

But Feng Hao shook his head, "That's all."

"Show me all my goods! Hurry!" Lu Shu became impatient, suspecting that all stolen goods were hidden in the room at the back.

Feng Hao was exasperated, what do you mean by YOUR goods?

But before they could react, Lu Shu had taken out his phone and opened his digital memorandum, smiling, "Forget it. Without further ado, I'll now make a roll call. Report when your name is called."

Those below exchanged confused a look, roll call? He thought he was a teacher?

"Take your weapons! Kill him!" Feng Hao immediately turned to the room to get their stolen weapons.

As soon as he turned, Lu Shu laughed, "I'll take it as you are trying to resist."

At that instant, Lu Shu had already taken out his head-twisting gourd from his Seal of Lands, hanging it at his waist level and calling the names, "Feng Hao!"

With a crisp sound, Feng Hao's head suddenly turned one-hundred and eighty degrees to face Lu Shu, his neck completely broken like a fried dough twist.

Lu Shu continued, "You are suspected of intentional homicide and treason."

"Ren Hengqi!"

"Ka!"

Frightened, Ren Hengqi tried to get his weapons and avenge his comrade. But before he could do so, his neck was also twisted one-hundred and eighty degrees to his back, unable to die in peace!

"You are suspected of intentional homicide and treason."

The rest were almost petrified by terror. Lu Shu's measure was really way too horrifying.

But no one could explain what was going on. The young man was like a judge, announcing the names of the dead, and none could ever escape.

Earlier on he said that he was doing a roll call. What special power was roll call?

The two most powerful people in the entire black market were already dead. If Class D's could not even resist, how could Class F's and E's survive?

The young man standing high up suddenly became unfathomable. He had not even used his weapon!

All of a sudden, the abandoned yard turned into an inferno, everyone's consciousness had been engulfed by terror. It was not that they had never seen bloodshed, but no one had ever treated killing so lightly and easily!

The sunlight was sweltering, but it felt icy on the black market men's skin.

The head-twisting gourd was not only capable of making a person turn his head, but could also kill.

"Song Yinhan!"

"Ka!"

"Guo Wei!"

"Ka!"

For those who had their backs facing Lu Shu and trying to escape, their necks were twisted with no exception.

However, some people were too scared to run. They knelt down and pleaded for mercy. Suddenly, they realized that when their names were called, they did not get killed!

It was slowly registered that only those who had their backs facing the young man would die! Despite the irresistible force acting on their head, instead of being killed, they would only be compelled to look at the man on top.

"Hahaha, we can kill him! As long as we are facing him!" one person released a wild roar. At that moment, they were all eroded by horror. Honestly speaking, they could no longer make discerning choices, but could only boost their own courage.

Since they could never escape, all they could do was fight back!

After finishing his roll call, Lu Shu put his phone back in his pocket and gazed at the remaining few coming towards him. Suddenly, Corpseudog and Concealed Arrow swooshed out of his celestial map at the same time and delightfully began reaping lives.

"Class C! Flying daggers!" seized with terror, a person shouted at once. In a split second, something pierced through his chest. Until then, he still could not understand why a Class C expert from the Heavenly Network would appear here.

Those who thought they would survive simply by facing Lu Shu had already jumped

out of their skin at the sight of flying daggers. It was a clear indication of a Class C. Furthermore, they had never heard of anyone in Class C who was able to wield two flying daggers concurrently!

Lu Shu jumped off from the rusted car tower and sauntered over to the bodies. Looking around, it was probably the inevitable sight of life and death on the journey of cultivation.

Sometimes he would wonder what was on Nie Ting's mind after he had killed someone, or Chen Baili's. But he had never figured it out.

In his imagination, he might feel faint-hearted after taking someone's life. In this world, there never existed any real devils, except for the timidness hidden in people's hearts.

However, since a long time ago, he was no longer the weak teenage boy who could only keep his sister alive by selling steamed eggs.

Gazing at the bright sunlight, Lu Shu wondered, would he regret his path in the future?

354 HARVES

Ever since he got the purple golden gourd, Lu Shu had only been using it as a pranking tool. Before this, he never had the will, nor the reason to kill, rendering its new function unexplored.

But the situation now was different. Facing him were all people who deserved to die. The use of the head-twisting gourd was that all those who got their name called would turn their head to Lu Shu instantly. Of course, if they were facing each other, no harm would be done. But if the person had their backs facing Lu Shu, the head-twisting gourd would become a dreadful weapon.

Moreover, its accuracy was extremely scary. As long as the person's Class was below Lu Shu's his chances of survival were zero.

As of now, Lu Shu had never been able to see the effect of using it on someone of the same level as him. After he just bought it, he let Lu Xiaoyu try it on himself, and it turned out that he could resist turning his head. But he was one Class higher than Lu Xiaoyu at that time.

Then he thought, it was a hotly discussed topic among the students on how to skip lessons without getting caught, for example by asking someone to answer for them during the roll call...

If he were to become a professor one day, haha, those who did not look at him in class...

Of course, he would never put it into action. If not, what should he do if a group of his students died in the internet cafe during his lesson time?

Lu Shu recovered the sack of cash into his Seal of Lands first, since it was not the right time for counting money yet. Then, he searched the room for magical weapons with his infallible sensitivity to energy waves.

Soon, he discovered eight magical stones, but they were of little use to Lu Shu. At first, he wanted to sell them to the black market, but now since the market had been destroyed, he had no buyers anyway...

There was another black market at Tongguan, except it was to be a place that would be destroyed as well...

It seemed that he had to keep the twenty-three magical stones with him for the moment. It was such a weird feeling that you had goods but could not sell them, Lu Shu thought sadly.

There were very few Spirit Qi waves left, except for a weapon similar to the standard of an iron ax from the Beimang remains. Lu Shu had expected to find some mysterious yet powerful weapons here, but he seemed to have overestimated their assets.

Suddenly, Lu Shu was stunned for a moment by the last item, which was a delicate, flying dagger-looking object of the size of an index finger. However, there was something black stuck to its surface, covering its original appearance.

But as soon as Lu Shu took it with his hand, his purple golden gourd suddenly started trembling, and the small-sized flying dagger, as if being attracted, flew directly into the gourd!

Then, the gourd displayed something that Lu Shu had never seen before, it was slowly drawing Spirit Qi from the surroundings! Shortly after, a flame was sparked off inside the gourd and burned the dagger.

And unexpectedly, the mysterious black matter on it started to melt...

Lu Shu tried to manipulate the dagger but to no avail. Even when he wanted to use the head-twisting gourd, the gourd refused to respond.

Lu Shu was shocked for a few minutes, it was getting strange. Could it be the flying dagger and the gourd were supposed to be a pair? And then they were separated?

A myth suddenly popped up in his mind, but he could not be sure either...

The truth was, the unreliable impression that he had of the head-twisting gourd was unable to twist back at that moment...

Never mind, wait until the black matter was burned away, Lu Shu thought as he threw the gourd back into his Seal of Lands. Instantly, he realized a problem, how could the gourd absorb natural Spirit Qi in his Seal of Lands? It was a completely isolated environment.

However, at that moment, Lu Shu suddenly sensed his internal celestial powers being slowly siphoned into the gourd, as his Seal of Lands was held within him.

He was shocked for a moment, hey Seal of Lands, could you do something about it? Why would you just let it draw my celestial powers like this?

With another glance using his magical instincts, he saw that stars were sparkling in the flames inside the gourd.

Forget it, the rate of absorption was not even as fast as his self-recovery.

The fight was easily won and there were rich rewards, Lu Shu was very satisfied. With regard to surrendering his spoils... Well, impossible.

Did the great man not say? We are from the general public, and back to the general public. What are we supposed to do? To return the resources taken by bandits from the public back to the public!

That was right. Lu Shu was the people. Because of his childhood in the orphanage, he had never joined the Young Pioneers nor the Communist Youth League. On his document application form, he could only fill in "General Public" as his political affiliation.

Who could say he was not a member of the general public?

Thus, Lu Shu had no qualms about privatizing his spoils. Everyone had rules to follow!

Due to the terrifying incident, Lu Shu had accumulated more than 20,000 distress points during the killing. Indeed, he had killed too fast...

...

With great difficulty, Wang Li's team managed to get rid of those middle-aged women. Until the end, Wang Li did not dare to eat the bowl of stewed noodles.

Actually, they could have rejected them with brute force, but it would not have been nice to beat those who came to serve you with stewed noodles.

In fact, at that time Lu Shu had paid 300 yuan, which was buy six get one free. Even the two girls were not spared.

When the woman brought two bowls of noodles to He Xie and Liu Xueruo's room, she also hesitated for a while. How come it was two girls? It does not matter... Girls it is then... What circumstances were unfamiliar to those women?

When they finally broke free and hurried to their target location, they agreed to

investigate the situation first. Hence, two boys would go in first with one magical stone, while the rest would wait outside until further notice.

Not long after the two had entered, they called, "Come in! Quick!"

The place reeked of blood, and bodies with twisted necks were sprawled all over the floor. They had never seen something so creepy before!

The geniuses could not help but vomit at the disgusting scene in front of them. After a while, they finally got back on their feet again and looked at one another at a loss, "How did they die?! It doesn't look like an internal conflict!"

They checked against their mission information and it appeared none of the seventeen targets had survived.

And the key point was, someone had obviously killed all seventeen of them on the spot instead of one by one.

355 MISSING PERSONS POSTER

Wang Li searched the room for any clues, but was immediately stunned by the graffiti on the walls. It seemed that the person wanted to carve a batman symbol at first, but somehow it was canceled. Then he seemed unsatisfied with his next work, and canceled it again.

Thus, about five to six symbols were carved and canceled, almost occupying the entire wall. It appeared that the person was determined to leave his mark, but was not happy with any of his drafts.

In the end, Wang Li found an intact symbol in the corner, it was a standard circle with two words inside, "General Public".

Wang Li: "???"

Wang Li was confused, who the hell was "General Public"? Also, could you please start carving after you have decided what you wanted? I can understand your batman and superman symbols, but what's with your Laoganma Chili in Oil and Wang Shouyi Condiment logos? Was it to show off your drawing skills?

Actually Lu Shu did self-learn sketching before, and had planned to make a living by helping others draw portraits, if selling eggs did not work out.

Wang Li's group mates were equally shocked at the sight, "So is our mission considered complete or not?"

"Why don't we just say we did it by ourselves?"

"Then what if the Heavenly Kings ask us about the magical weapons in the black market? Taken by the public?"

"Isn't it true that it's taken by the 'General Public'? We are telling the truth..."

The seven of them were dumbstruck and wondered who was that damned person who stole their business. They had expected the mission to be challenging and that dangerous situations might arise, but never could they have predicted this.

...

Instead of rushing to Tongguan directly, the "General Public" Lu Shu returned to Luo Cheng first.

At that time, Lu Xiaoyu had long since accumulated enough anger points in Lu Shu's twenty days of running away from home, and it seemed she was about to throw out some high-powered skills anytime.

Indeed, Lu Xiaoyu used "running away from home" to describe Lu Shu's progress report in the Capital...

In any case, Gongyi was only half an hour away from Luo Cheng. Thus, Lu Shu deemed it as totally justifiable to prioritize his trip home. Earlier in Gongyi, he did not notice any signs of him being tracked, and in fact, Nie Ting had already left the Capital on the seventeenth day of their training.

Nie Ting had multiple roles to play. In addition to being the person in charge of the Heavenly Network and the Capital Daoyuan Class, he would also be the bodyguard to significant figures when they were overseas for visits.

He messaged Xiaoyu but did not receive a reply, it was only followed by a spate of increases in distress points in the background.

Judging from the rapid growth in the distress points alone, Lu Shu could already foresee himself having a hard time today...

At that moment, one had to act poor. Hence, Lu Shu bombarded Lu Xiaoyu with complaints about the toughness of the training and the danger of the fight just now. As for whether it was indeed that tough or dangerous, he himself was the only one that needed to know.

"Just now..."

Finally, Lu Xiaoyu replied, "Have you eaten?"

Lu Shu's face lit up, "Not yet. I'm reaching soon. What do we have at home?"

"A cute little girl who was abandoned at home."

Lu Shu, "???"

Was that the way to reply? Fine, I admit you are cute, okay...

Then, Lu Shu managed to buy some food before he went back, as going home without bringing anything did not seem like a nice thing to do.

But once he reached the gate of Xingshu Road yard, he suddenly saw a sheet of A4 print pasted on the pole. A closer inspection revealed, "Missing Person, Lu Shu, 17 years old, with weird-looking blue hair. His personal trait is being very mean. Currently, he has abandoned his cute little sister at home and run away. If anyone sees him, please tell him that he no longer needs to come home if he's still not home tomorrow!"

Lu Shu froze at once. How come there was a missing persons poster? After twenty plus days of progress report at the Capital, why had he become a missing person? Obviously it was for himself to see...

Moreover, others would offer rewards for those with clues, but why did it become a farewell message for him!?

Lu Shu shot another look at the date, fine, it was yesterday... Below it there were traces of torn paper, it seemed she would replace it everyday. Each day, she would say

he was no longer needed if he was not home the next day, but she still extended the deadline over and over again.

Luckily, Lu Shu's hair had already turned black completely. He quickly removed the poster and hurried home.

As soon as he opened the door, he saw Lu Xiaoyu sat by the table, with a cold expression on her face. A bowl of egg soup noodles with tomatoes was steaming on the table. Lu Xiaoyu's voice was frosty, "Eat."

Lu Shu smiled. In spite of her anger, she still cooked noodles for him. No wonder she used to pester Auntie Liu with requests to teach her cooking. It was for a day like this, when he was back home, she could prepare a bowl of noodles with soup instead of cup noodles.

Little Fury had hidden in some secret corner because it was not a suitable occasion for him to be present. It was not that it might disturb their sibling reunion, but more of the fear that it might accidentally get hurt. Its little brother had already notified it when Lu Shu reached the yard gate.

Lu Shu placed the plastic bag in his hands onto the table, "A new phone for you. Didn't you always complain about the screen of your old phone..." In the past, both of their phones were cheap and of low quality. They were good enough for daily use, but were not up to standard for games and movies.

Lu Xiaoyu mused for two minutes and asked calmly, "Where's my TV box?"

Lu Shu occupied himself with eating noodles, "Maybe Little Fury stole it?"

"Nice try."

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +999!"

However, she did not continue the topic. Instead, she spoke in a calm manner, "If you were still not home by tomorrow, I was really going to go to the Capital to find you. Don't ever leave me alone at home for so long again. I'm scared of the darkness when I'm home alone."

Her words shot a pang in Lu Shu's heart. After all, Lu Xiaoyu was only a ten-year-old girl... Wait a minute, she did not seem scared at all when watching "The Grudge" last time?

When they watched horror movies together, Lu Shu had always been squeezing his eyes, as though he would miss those horrifying scenes like that.

But Lu Xiaoyu was different. It seemed that she had born without the fear of darkness or ghosts...

Tricks! Those were all tricks!

At that moment, something suddenly struck Lu Shu's mind, "Did you manage to materialize the Class B spirit?"

356 ANTHONY MATERIALIZED

Lu Shu did not take it to heart the time frame of the materialization of the spirit Anthony, since Lu Xiaoyu had estimated it to be one month, it was so long ago that Lu Shu had almost forgotten about it.

However, the truth was Anthony had materialized as early as eight days before, ten

days ahead of the projected time, because Lu Xiaoyu had also unlocked her third nebula.

But Lu Shu was totally unaware of this, as the sulking Lu Xiaoyu did not even reply to his messages in the past few days...

At that moment, the second black hole had emerged out of the second nebula on Lu Xiaoyu's map, meaning she was now fully capable of materializing two spirits. Also in her second nebula rested a pig Xiaoyu captured from the butchery last time. Her first pig was spoiled by Lu Shu before she even had enough of it!

Lu Shu gazed at the Anthony conjured up right before him, still a black spirit with the outlines vaguely contoured in Anthony's appearance. It brought Lu Shu an immense sense of pressure by simply standing there quietly.

It was the unharmed Class B Anthony...

Lu Shu was certain that he was no match for Anthony had the latter not been severely injured by Chen Baili. If he had not been injured, it was possible that he could easily entrap his Corpsedog and Concealed Arrow with ordinary mud.

Currently, bracelets concentrated with Deep Sea White Sand were hanging tightly on Anthony's wrists. Of course, a spirit did not have to care about its injuries, and all it needed to do was transform all the Deep Sea White Sand into his attack.

Lu Shu was studying it with all seriousness. After Lu Xiaoyu carried the empty bowls to the kitchen, Lu Shu decisively fished out the only Ambilight Soul Pearl left on his map and slid it into Anthony's mouth.

The spirit itself had no consciousness. When the Soul Pearl was near, it opened its mouth to swallow the Pearl.

The Soul Pearl had been with Lu Shu all this time since he sacrificed the eight spies for power enhancement last time. But Lu Xiaoyu insisted that the spirit would surely laugh foolishly after eating the Pearl, hence she never allowed him to feed it to the spirits...

Lu Shu was unconvinced. Apparently nothing produced by the celestial map was useless!

Then, he could only watch helplessly as Anthony suddenly started giggling...

"Lu Shu! You are dead!" Lu Xiaoyu got heated the second she saw Anthony laughing like a silly person.

"It shouldn't be like this. Now with Concealed Arrow, shouldn't he be angry?" Lu Shu was struggling to explain as Lu Xiaoyu hung on him trying to hit him...

Then he suddenly realized, right, he killed the spy with Corpseudog back then. Corpseudog was in charge of happiness, then of course it would giggle...

Then he pondered again, the next time he met a spirit, he must kill it with Concealed Arrow to obtain its Soul Pearl, and see what would happen when Anthony swallowed that one.

But... It was a big question whether Lu Xiaoyu would allow it!

"Something's not right. Has its power improved? Or is there any additional stuff like

skills?" Lu Shu was confused. The last time when he fed the spirit a Pearl, the Class D beginner was suddenly leveled up to mid Class D.

Lu Xiaoyu replied coldly, "Slight improvement. But it's too insignificant compared to its existing power."

That made sense now. Although it was a Class C Soul Pearl, its energy was negligible to the potent Class B Anthony.

Lu Xiaoyu continued, "Actually there are some additional unusual pieces of 'body tricks' in its fighting nature. But they are incomplete and seem rather useless."

Lu Shu suddenly saw the light that some abilities and experience could be transferred down through the Pearl. But usually Anthony only relied on his supernatural powers, which rendered body tricks futile.

Lu Shu did not regret it anyway, as Anthony itself was already his greatest gain. More time and practice was needed with regard to the Soul Pearls.

He checked his digital memorandum, "What's your biggest control range?"

"One hundred kilometers," Lu Xiaoyu replied.

Lu Shu was shocked by the vast improvement. It was only five kilometers last time. He didn't know that unlocking another nebula would bring about such a giant jump in power. Examining his map, to Lu Shu's surprise, Lu Xiaoyu could really reach Mianchi County if she was stationed in Luo Cheng.

Lu Shu babbled on, "You can let Anthony travel there via the earth. I've sent you its

location via GPS. So you'll only need to steal things like cash, magical stones and their stock. It would be better to not be seen."

Techniques like transport via soils were just awesome, perfectly out of sight of any surveillance. Moreover, given Anthony's outstanding Class B abilities, robbing a black market would certainly be a piece of cake.

Other people would be laughing their head off with a Class B spirit in their hands.

But Lu Shu had other plans, and his attention was subconsciously drawn to the black market, "It'd be better to take action at night. After all, it's black from its head to toe, easy to hide. If it really encounters any resistance from the market side, just kill whoever is in its way. I have seen their information and everyone has blood on their hands."

However, after a long talk, Lu Xiaoyu shot Lu Shu a frosty stare, "You hid my TV box and turned my spirit into an idiot, yet now you are asking me to help you rob?"

With a flash of wit, Lu Shu quickly replied, "How is it helping me rob? What's mine is also yours, isn't it?"

Only until then, Lu Xiaoyu's knitted brows relaxed, "Is that true?"

"Absolutely!"

"Still, I won't ever forget your crime of hiding my TV box."

Lu Shu was speechless.

Mianchi was seventy-four kilometers away from Luo Cheng. Lu Shu might still have enough time as the group of geniuses should have just arrived.

The thought of those fierce-looking bandits in the black market legitimized Lu Shu's plan to steal all their weapons away with Anthony. In that way, the geniuses safety would be secured.

He was such a nice person with a great heart for the community!

Maybe the Heavenly Network should present him with a silk banner. It did not matter what they wrote on it, "bring people back to life" would do too.

Lu Xiaoyu unwrapped her new phone with joy in her heart when Lu Shu suddenly said, "Can you give me your old phone?" That time when they were buying second hand phones, Lu Shu got Lu Xiaoyu a better one than his own.

"Take it. The password is my birthday," when Lu Xiaoyu was sent to the orphanage, her name and birthday were written on a slip of paper tucked in her swaddling clothes.

Lu Shu immediately put down her phone as if nothing had happened, "I can wait until I come back."

Lu Xiaoyu raised her brow, "You forgot my birthday?"

"Hahaha, how's that possible?!" Lu Shu laughed politely, trying to hide his embarrassment.

"You are a dead duck!"

"From Lu Xiaoyu's distress, +999!"

"I didn't forget! Really," Lu Shu tried his luck at keying in the password, "Haha, see? It's correct."

False alarm. Just now he really could not recall it. He did not even remember his own birthday. To him, there was no point in celebrating a birthday for orphans like them. They said the day of birth was also the day of torture for one's mother, which made it necessary to remember it by heart.

But... she had abandoned them like an unwanted burden. If so, what was the purpose of birthdays? Lu Shu would rather erase them all from his memory.

357 WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?

It took about one hour by train ride to get to Mianchi from Luo Cheng via Lianhuo Railway, but under the earth Anthony was much faster than cars.

The entire underground was his designated path, smooth without any red lights.

Anthony only needed around twenty minutes to cover the distance of an one-hour car ride. But Lu Xiaoyu did not instruct him to steal anything at first. After successfully locating the black market, Anthony lurked deep underground, awaiting further orders.

She was following Lu Shu's words, which had only two lines. Do nothing except stealing, and only take action at night. Hence, Lu Xiaoyu had to wait until nightfall.

The Mianchi black market was a refuse treatment plant. Despite its smell, it was rather favored by its customers due to its concealed position.

But outsiders rarely went deep inside, as the interior had been re-designed into a maze with underground tunnels.

The plant gradually quietened down after the onset of night, and only a dozen people were still playing cards in the innermost factory room, the most secret corner. Under usual conditions, no unauthorized personnel were allowed to enter there, except introduced black market customers.

Of course, the private place also made it easier to deal with their victims.

In the beginning, the establishment of the black market was by pure coincidence as the young director of the refuse treatment plant had awakened to his power. With prior experience in usury and over twenty fellows working for him, the director decided to let go of his past wrongdoings and started operating the plant.

To tell the truth, this bunch of people were generally blessed with good aptitudes, and out of the twenty, two were actually awakened. At that time, the director got a wicked idea. With capital in his pocket, coupled with market demand for magical stones, they wanted to buy some stones and resell them at higher figures.

There was indeed a seller on the Golden Foundation. However, their meeting at the treatment plant ended in a disagreement over the price, and the seller was killed during the conflict.

Therefore, the two magical stones fell into their hands, and were sold at 130 thousand yuan each.

The ease of making so much money aroused the director's interest.

Human greed was limitless. After the first time, it became hard to stop. Moreover, their minds were already distorted by their past experience in usury.

Compelled by immense profits, they started their black-hearted business. They would not kill all their customers anyway, so as to sustain their operation of the black market.

But in the case of fat cats, they would not stop until they robbed them all.

The profits, however, were like a magnet to other Metahumans in the gray areas, coming to work for the director as his fighters.

After dinner time, they started playing mahjong, with empty beer bottles rolling on the floor. Now, all of them had some money to spare, hence they were more generous with their bets. It was because the director did not keep most of the profits to himself, which meant his followers had reaped some sort of harvest as well.

For them, money came too easily, so it flowed out of their pockets equally easily too.

As the saying goes, if money is not earned lawfully, it eventually goes back to the public.

But the third industry in the region indeed flourished thanks to them. Now, women in the service sectors loved to accept their business...

One person lit up his cigarette as he was playing mahjong, "I heard that something's up in Gongyi. Do you know?"

"Yeah. All of them got killed and everything is gone."

"We'll be safe, won't we?"

"What can happen to us? Who can find such a covert hiding place? In the past, only those brought in by three introducers were allowed to come in here. But they are different. They let their guard down. No black market can operate like that."

The young director sneered, "It's called karma. I heard they even carried off girls from the streets. Good-for-nothings. What about us? We make money secretly. Those things won't find us. Also, we have so many brothers, who are we afraid of if it's not the Heavenly Network? Wanna try their luck? Ask my sword first!"

His pride came from his weapon, a standard sword of the Heavenly Network that he got by chance. At first, he was not bold enough to accept it, but the sheer power of the sword made it hard to resist.

His ego seemed bigger with that sword by his side.

Hearing the director's words, everyone burst into laughter, "Continue with the mahjong! I've got a date with Xiaoliu later."

"You can die along side women, haha!"

"What do you understand! It's called free love!"

The laugh grew louder.

At that moment, a black shadow rose above the floor besides them, giggling...

Bloody hell, it was creepy. Although over half of them were Metahumans and even those who were not had already gotten used to strange happenings, it was such an

erie sight to see a silhouette coming out from the ground...

Trembling, they motioned everyone to look at it, and all sound drained from the place.

But the black shadow only shot them a glance and started searching the well-lit room as though no one was around.

"Did it not see us?" someone muttered.

"Such arrogance?!" everyone was in shock. There were so many people sitting here, do you not see us or do you think we cannot see you?! You have made yourself comfortable, haven't you?!

Of course, Lu Xiaoyu could see them through Anthony. But Lu Shu had only instructed her to wait until nightfall and steal! Nothing else!

The director could not help but ask, "Hey, bro. What are you looking for? Do you need a hand?"

Anthony suddenly turned to them, his Deep Sea White Sand bracelets decomposed into a hovering line of words besides his hands, "Where are your magical stones and weapons?"

The words were a bit small, but the director's guts were not. He knew well that it might be an earth-type Metahuman, but judging from their utter numerical superiority and the inherent weakness of the element earth, they were clearly more advantaged.

Upon a closer look, the man found it irritatingly hilarious. Then, studying Anthony more carefully, he was stunned again, "What are you giggling for? Did you get some

bull shit?!"

Giggling?! Lu Xiaoyu was still in a fit of anger and the word successfully provoked her again! How would it have happened had it not been Lu Shu?!

358 WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING WILDLY FOR?

Unable to vent her anger after Lu Shu left, Lu Xiaoyu's temper was ignited again by the word "giggling"!

Indignant. Very indignant!

At first, the director's courage was boosted by the numerical superiority of his team. It was normal for an earth-type Metahuman to be able to transport through soil, and their chances of victory seemed obvious despite their rival's rare ability of transforming into a black fog. After all, they had more people, which meant more power!

The director himself had encountered quite a number of Metahumans. Although most of those outside the Heavenly Network might not be weaker than him, very few were actually stronger.

Thus, he had developed a sense of pragmatism, they would be fine unless the Heavenly Network were there and if they really came, it would be an inescapable siege anyway. Else, why would they call themselves the Heavenly Network, such an awe-inspiring name...

However, as the saying goes, you'll never know how good you are till you try. Now, their feet were tightly tied to the floor by the layer of fine sand, and their struggle was rendered futile by the strong grip.

Apparently, their enemy was at least a Class C!

But the question was, you as a Class C still came to steal our magical stones and weapons? Are you shameless?

The director immediately signaled to his men on the sly, take out the gun under the mahjong table!

One bullet would surely blow up the shadow's face, while the rest would waste no time subduing him.

Until then, they did not dare to think that they were facing a Class B. It was not due to their lack of imagination though, Class B's were as rare as national treasures these days. Who would expect a Class B master to go on a magical stones hunt? It simply did not make any sense!

As soon as the gun was taken out, a blanket of sand suddenly swept the person off his feet, throwing him on the iron door with a loud bang. Instantly, both the gun and the door fell apart, with the man lying in anguish on the floor.

Lu Xiaoyu's anger peaked at the sudden drama. She rearranged the Deep Sea White Sand into another line of words. "I want all of you to laugh!"

The atmosphere was spooky. A shadowy expert who could not stop giggling for no reason was asking you to laugh together with him...

Recognizing the enemy's overwhelming power, the wise director immediately cooperated, "Hahahaha!"

Other people's reaction was not as fast, but laughing foolishly alone was embarrassing too, "Hahaha, all of you, you jolly well laugh, hahahah!"

Everyone present quickly started giggling until their cheeks went sore, but it seemed the shadow had no intention to let them stop...

Only then was Lu Xiaoyu slightly placated, and she began controlling Anthony to search the entire factory room.

Anthony reached out his hand, but the director protectively shielded the sword with his arms, "Hahaha, please don't take this. Give me a way to live, hahaha."

It was meaningless though. What should be taken would be taken. After a while, Anthony still could not find any cash or valuables. In the end, he discovered a big safety box under an oilcloth in the corner.

To unlock it, Anthony did not even need keys or passwords. Instead, he concentrated sand into sharp saws, cutting the hinges open, revealing the cash and eleven magical stones inside.

The director was on the verge of breakdown. That was all of his savings! Their power was clearly below his and the one who got hit earlier was still vomiting blood on the floor. Honestly speaking, they began to wonder if he was a Class B.

But Class B? Was he driven crazy by his poverty? The director was tearing up due to the pain in his chest and his aching feet. The sandy palms were grabbing onto them too tightly.

Having stuffed everything in the sack, Anthony turned, with a line formed in front of him, "Laugh for thirty minutes. I'll be watching you."

He sunk into the floor after he finished his sentence, and the grip on their feet loosened too. But the director had stopped laughing once he was gone.

Instantly, Anthony reappeared, staring into his eyes, giggling. A grain of Deep Sea White Sand immediately dug a hole through the director's foot...

The director almost fainted in shock. He was a strength-type Metahuman! How could a grain of sand penetrate his foot so easily?

Suppressing his pain, he asked, "Hahaha... Do you really have to do this? What's the point?"

"I'm teaching you to grow up," the words were rearranged, "Do you know what maturity is?"

The director made a guess, "Maturity seems rather cruel. It symbolizes the fading of youth and the decolorization of dreams..."

"Maturity is to learn to laugh when you tear up."

The director: "???"

It was smiling when you tear up! Not giggling!

Just like that, Anthony reemerged again and again, until the director was almost desperate. Are you so free? Do you wanna play mahjong together?

In the end, none of them was certain whether the shadow was really gone.

...

At that moment, the group of geniuses responsible for taking care of the place were approaching the refuse treatment plant under the disguise of the night. They had done a thorough investigation during the day. Actually, besides seven to eight Metahumans of varying abilities, there were ordinary people as well. Thus, with their Class D power and a standard sword each, they had no reason to lose the fight.

"Be careful of their guns. The information shows that they have them!"

"Let's break through in the shortest time possible. Try to subdue the Class D factory director first. Kill anyone with guns. We'll cover one another!"

The seven sneaked in gingerly. Before they were near, someone asked, "I heard them playing mahjong last night. Why are they not playing today? Did something happen?"

"Quickly, let's go," the leader accelerated his pace.

As soon as they got over the garbage pile, they saw the door swung wide open. One person accidentally kicked a ring-pull can, and the noise alerted those inside the door. In the next second, everyone saw those inside were "laughing wildly" at them through the open door...

"What the hell! Ambush!" the geniuses were white with terror.

But the director immediately figured out what was going on from their standard swords. The Heavenly Network!

When thieves meet the police, it was in their subconsciousness to run! Before the

geniuses could come up with a plan, the director ran away with his men following behind, "laughing wildly"....

The shadow was way scarier than those geniuses. Who the hell knew whether he was still around?

"What... What are they laughing for?!" they were still yet to recover from being startled.

"Are we pursuing? Could there be ambush?"

"A strategy? Laughing so wildly so that we don't dare to chase? Because they knew they couldn't win against us!"

The geniuses were pondering what kind of emotions were infused in that wild laughter.

"We don't have time! We can't let them escape! Chase them!"

The geniuses followed them, and the director's laughter came from the front, "Hahaha, split up, hahaha!"

359 A CLASS A'S VICTORY

Lu Shu went to Tongguan by train. As Anthony was on the move, Lu Shu himself would be happy to plead ignorance of the Mianchi incident.

He had thought over the matter for a long time. Actually, it would not be such a big deal even if his doings at Gongyi were exposed. Killings were permitted by Shi Xuejin, and in the worst case scenario, his spoils might be confiscated by Nie Ting.

After all, he had no money but one life!

Aware that Nie Ting was paying special attention to him, Lu Shu was certain that Nie Ting had noticed his action. If Nie Ting was resolved to track him down, he could not deny that he had left his team at Gongyi without the other members approval.

But it did not matter. In principle, he did not commit any mistakes.

As a last resort, he could confess to his possession of the head-twisting gourd. Anyway, Li Dian was imprisoned in the special cell of the Heavenly Network, and he could provide evidence.

Moreover, Li Dian was unaware that he was the old tree spirit. It would not do him any harm to admit the matter on buying the gourd.

The reason for such a plan was that he knew Hao Zhichao had got something from the black market, but the Heavenly Network never took any action against him. It seemed that the Network would not take away their people's personal belongings, including stuff from the black market.

Speaking of which, Lu Shu indeed had a bitter feud with Hao Zhichao. However, during the training, Hao Zhichao turned out to be the one who admired Lu Shu the most. After a few rounds of interaction, they slowly became friends.

Lu Shu had realized it too, that most people in the Heavenly Network were frank and straightforward. Any conflicts could be resolved by a fight.

Afterwards, Hao Zhichao still invited Lu Shu and the little fatty for a beer. For Lu Shu, another takeaway from his progress report in the Capital was the bunch of friends like Hao Zhichao. Honestly, it was a strange feeling, to have comrades-in-

arms.

Now, Lu Shu had pushed Anthony out under the daylight. His and Lu Xiaoyu's cultivation techniques could not be exposed. Actually, it felt conflicting. Since they had to keep their power in secret, they would rather use it legitimately while pleading ignorance and then trick others into thinking that Anthony was an independent expert acting on his own.

At present, he was in Tongguan while Lu Xiaoyu was in Luo Cheng, so who would relate them to a pro master that far away? Both of them had more than enough evidence to support their alibis.

As a matter of fact, Lu Xiaoyu's ability to capture one's spirit was a major taboo. Locally, many believed in rebirth while overseas, people put their faith in the eternal paradise.

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However, how could one be reborn when his spirit was caught? This meant, every life would perish after death, and an afterlife was a mere illusion.

Lu Shu and Lu Xiaoyu themselves knew very well that they would never capture a good man's spirit. But would others believe them? Thus, the secret could not be uncovered.

From then on, anything that was inappropriate for them to do by themselves would be handled by the ghosts. Lu Xiaoyu was still the animal whisperer that she used to be, and it was good enough.

Like now, Nie Ting might not care about Lu Shu's action of stealing other people's jobs, but he surely would if Lu Shu robbed.

On the train, Lu Shu was scrolling through the Golden Foundation forum when he came across a post. Newly ascended Class A sword master Li Xianyi exterminated a seventeen-people organization that trafficked in Practitioners, killing a Class B rival in the process.

As it was said, one majestic fight could inspire awe throughout the world. The only witnesses of Nie Ting's confrontation with the Class B water-type expert were the Heavenly Network and Daoyuan Class students, none of whom would post it on the forum. Thus, the old man's first fight became the world's first that involved a Class A, which would go down in the history of the cultivation realm.

As a matter of fact, the so-called organization that trafficked in Practitioners were not trading any Practitioner, the closest of whom were teenagers with a "cultivation aptitude", a favorite for many external associations. Thus, they were sold overseas as goods, brainwashed and trained into soldiers for war.

To Li Xianyi, it was an intolerable act that would undermine the foundation of human cultivation.

When Lu Shu reached Tongguan, Chen Zuan, together with everyone else, was playing cards at an inn. The inn, which cost 30 yuan per night, was indeed of low quality, without even a separate toilet. According to Cheng Qiuqiao, it was to avoid unnecessary attention. But Lu Shu thought otherwise, if a group of decent-looking students stayed in such a shabby place, how would others not notice them?

After further questioning, he came to know that Cheng Qiuqiao was a poor child. Most of his salaries were confiscated by his parents to prevent him from overspending and left him only 200 yuan as his pocket money each month. Chen Zuan almost laughed his head off, "No wonder you don't have a girlfriend. You don't even have the tool to hunt in a zoo..."

Lu Shu shot him a glance, and Chen Zuan self-consciously continued, "While I do have the tool, where's my girlfriend?"

"Very well," Lu Shu nodded.

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +667..."

Chen Zuan actually listened to Lu Shu. When Lu Shu told him to wait for his return, he really waited, regardless of other people's opinions.

In any case, he was determined to follow Lu Shu. Despite other people's title as the Class A aptitude geniuses, currently they were Class D at most. But the information had shown that those in the black market were all cruel and merciless. In Lu Shu's absence, Chen Zuan would never risk his life at those kind of places.

When Cao Qingci went to investigate alone, the clever Zuan initiated playing cards with everyone else.

After some consideration, Lu Shu decided to make plans after Cao Qingci's return. He wondered too, why he had so much trust in her, as though he never had to worry that she would screw anything up.

With the "poor student" Cheng Qiuqiao present, they could not bet money during the card game. After one day of cards, the genius immediately offered his seat to Lu Shu. One could not deny Chen Zuan's awesome card skills, which made the genius so dispirited after one whole day of losing.

Since Lu Xiaoyu was absent, Chen Zuan was resolved to take revenge on Lu Shu!

In spite of his good academic performance, Lu Shu was inexperienced at cards. Hence, he lost over ten sets in a row. Succeeded at his revenge, Chen Zuan let out a presumptuous laugh, "I am the Little Gamble Lord of the Capital. No joke!"

Lu Shu cast him a frosty glimpse and went to the toilet. I, Lu Shu, am never weaker than anybody in my entire life... But he had to admit that he could not defeat Chen Zuan at cards by himself. Next time, he still needed Lu Xiaoyu.

When Lu Shu was in the toilet, Chen Zuan and the rest followed him there as well. Until then, he was still bragging about his card skills.

They stood in a row in the public toilet. The more Chen Zuan bragged, the more unhappy Lu Shu became...

At that moment, something strange happened. Although Chen Zuan did have the desire to pee, it was not coming out...

Lu Shu found out that his water-type power could control urine. As for blood, he might test it next time...

When Cheng Qiuqiao was almost done, Chen Zuan had not even started. Careful not to offend him, Cheng Qiuqiao asked, "Slow urination? Do you have kidney deficiency, Brother Zuan?"

"Bullshit! Will I get kidney deficiency? My kidneys are good!" Chen Zuan grumbled. Then, it came out, and Chen Zuan breathed a sigh of relief in his heart... A man can have deficiencies anywhere but not the kidneys!

Unconsciously, Cheng Qiuqiao shot him another glance, and exclaimed in surprise, "Brother Zuan, yours has split into five branches! You don't have kidney deficiency, because you don't have kidneys at all..."

Instantly, it further split into six branches...

Cheerfully, Lu Shu gave a pat on Chen Zuan's shoulder, "Don't call yourself the Little Gamble Lord of the Capital. Change it to the Little Shower-head of the Capital. See? You can use it as your shower-head."

Whatever fluid he looked at, it split. Wasn't it scary?

360 ECCENTRICITY

Men are proud creatures. Some people would not mind losing anything else, but not their face. A typical example was Chen Zuan.

As a youthful young man like he was, how could he bear the name of someone with no kidneys...

It was a huge insult to Chen Zuan, who was constantly boasting of his flirting skills. Thus, he was determined to save his reputation.

But the thing was, his had never split before. Chen Zuan was certain that it was a mere accident!

After returning to their room, Chen Zuan put down his cards and kept drinking water. Soon, he had the desire to pee again. Having rushed to the toilet, he realized that there were no more branches at all. Chen Zuan was ecstatic, and forced his remaining urine back!

He ran back to the room, "Stop playing and follow me! I have said that mine will not split, and now it's time to prove it. Screw that shower-head. I'm still the Little Gamble Lord of the Capital!"

Lu Shu raised his eyebrows, "Sure. Let's go and have a look."

In the toilet, Chen Zuan took off his pants, "Have a good look!"

Cheng Qiuqiao was stunned, "Brother Zuan, are we here to witness the birth of a new Guinness World Record? Ten branches?! A brand new height?!"

Chen Zuan was shocked too, and the ten branches were changing positions and speeds like a fancy fountain. A walking fountain?! It would be just perfect with a background music like Happy Birthday!

What the hell!

Thanks to Chen Zuan's vigorous efforts, his nickname had upgraded from Chen the Five Branches to Chen the Ten Branches.

Dammit!

"From Chen Zuan's distress, +999!"

Although Chen Zuan thought it was his own issue, Lu Shu had realized it since long ago that he would get distress points as long as he himself was the cause of the negative emotions.

It had never occurred to Chen Zuan that someone would use his magical abilities to do that!

Lu Shu wondered what would be on Chen Zuan's mind, if one day he finally found out about Lu Shu's water-type power and linked it to this day.

In the recent two days, Lu Shu had made a fortune in distress points. Despite the significant contributions from the little fatty, it was not even close to that from the factory director and others. Currently, he was already halfway towards igniting the third star...

Cao Qingci had finally come back late at night. When everyone was waiting for the information she gathered, she sat alone on her chair, deep in thought, without muttering a single word.

Lu Shu was curious, "How? What did you find?"

The group was operating in an agricultural wholesale market as their hiding place. In fact, their business was flourishing and they could make a sum solely by collecting rental fees from stall owners.

But they wanted more. Now, their power was quickly building up through unscrupulous means.

It was very strange. No matter how rich their market was, it was not possible for them to use everything they took. Could it be they were hatching a conspiracy?

But how would they put their evil plan into place, with a Heavenly Network on top which comprised seven Heavenly Kings, including two Class A masters...

The local climate was against them, as though newbies were directly thrown into top-level game settings... If it were a game, players would certainly launch complaints against the customer service center but this was not. In fact, the customer service was their most challenging boss character...

Cao Qingci cast Lu Shu a peaceful glimpse, "Very concealed. Didn't find anything."

A reticent girl, Lu Shu thought, I was actually hoping you would tell us more...

But Cao Qingci's words reminded Lu Shu that those markets he visited before were both easy to find with lousy hiding methods. At the very least, it was obvious that those in the abandoned car factory were not well-intentioned individuals.

It was a different case here. They were smarter and blended their trading in an agricultural market so that one could hardly distinguish the foes from the innocent.

Earlier on Lu Shu had already noticed the strangeness in their mission. It was not due to the nature of their task, which was rather normal compared to other groups, but the ability of their team. It simply did not make sense for the Heavenly Network to purposely form a strong team for no reason.

"Let's go take a look too tomorrow. There should be a lot of people there if it's an agricultural market. Thus, it's more inconspicuous for us to conduct our investigations separately," someone suggested.

Chen Zuan was more at ease after Lu Shu's return, and eager to divert the others attention from his embarrassing branches, "Yes! Let's go there tomorrow night!"

Everyone turned to him with an astonished look. Lu Shu laughed, "Will there be people at night at an agricultural market? Why? You wanna pick leaves for our dinner?"

Chen Zuan had never been to an agricultural market before. Ashamed, he asked, "Then what time do you suggest?"

Lu Shu deliberated, "Noon."

"Why noon?"

"Because sooner or later something bad will happen," Lu Shu answered confidently.

Chen Zuan, "???"

Cheng Qiuqiao: "???"

His ability to distort meanings was admirable!

...

On the next noon, the team scattered themselves in the market, conducting their own investigations. Four were loitering outside while three were inside for field reconnaissance. Indeed, the market did not appear any different from an ordinary one. But Lu Shu had confirmed against the document that the owner of the seafood wholesale stall in the southwest corner was a member of the black market, a Class E.

Some market managers were also identified.

But there was a problem, some were missing.

The material showed that there were twenty-one in total, but only sixteen were spotted in the market. What about the rest?

In order to avoid unnecessary attention, field investigators Lu Shu, Chen Zuan and

Cheng Qiuqiao bought something inside. Lu Shu took a bag of buns for the group, Chen Zuan had a roasted chicken in his hands, while Cheng Qiuqiao had a stick of coriander...

It was said that Cheng Qiuqiao only had 30 plus yuan left in his pocket for the month. Hence, he was on budget...

"Now, we need to confirm the whereabouts of the remaining five," Lu Shu proposed, "Otherwise, they may run away. In that case, even if we kill those sixteen people in the market, we still fail our mission."

Everyone agreed. It was possible that the five might be the prime culprits. If they still remained at large, not only would their task be unsuccessful, it would also become a stain on their records.

Lu Shu guarded outside the market until almost midnight, but none of them came out. Confused, he sneaked in, but only to realize that the market was completely empty!

Weird. It was the only exit. So where did the sixteen of them go?