

# I! Cleaner 641

## Chapter 641: A Man Near Death

[Through malicious threats and insidious persuasion, you successfully manipulated Andre, the third prince of the Crolock Kingdom, completing the overthrow of a national-level organization. Your silver-level badge "Usurper" has met the conditions for advancement.

However, since you chose not to seize power in the Crolock Kingdom and instead opted for its complete destruction, aside from normally advancing to a gold-level badge "Unjust Pretender", an additional hidden optional path "Slaughter King Black Hand" will be added.]

[After much consideration, you chose the hidden path, advancing your silver-level badge "Usurper" to a gold-level hidden badge "Slaughter King Black Hand"]

[Slaughter King Black Hand: A mysterious figure with the goal of destroying major kingdoms, a hidden mastermind in the shadows, passionate about stirring upheaval across the world, seemingly harboring some enormous ambition.]

[Equipped Effect: When you ambush an enemy target with "royal family" status and are not discovered by the target or any witnesses, your attack will have a 100% fatal effect.

During illegal activities, efficiency and concealment will be greatly improved;

The possibility of being exposed when plotting a conspiracy will be greatly reduced;

The likelihood of being discovered when deliberately hiding your identity will be greatly reduced;

When proactively hidden behind the scenes, it will be very difficult to find conclusive evidence proving you participated.]

[Advanced Path: After completely overthrowing all existing human kingdoms, this badge will automatically advance to the exotic-colored hidden badge "Grand Curtain King (Iron Black)"]

[Hidden Trait (no need to wear): Although you are cautious, detailed, and cunning, your concealment is extremely perfect, yet those inherently suspicious and extremely vigilant conspiracy theorists can still sniff out the dark aura hidden within you.]

"..."

This badge... seems to be of little use, it might even lead to unwarranted suspicion, but in some special circumstances, it might come in handy. All in all... it's just passable?

"Good! Good! Good!!!"

Just as Leon was inspecting his newly acquired badge, looking at the distant palace melted into molten iron, and the Crolock Kingdom burned to ashes by "Sunset", the 'White Snake' parasitic in Prince Andre's soul couldn't help but laugh in rage.

After shouting "good" three times, unable to protect the Crolock Kingdom nor extinguish the royal bloodline, the mission completely failed. The White Snake didn't say another word, directly severing from Andre's soul.

With its departure, the three-colored blood bead on Andre Prince's brow shattered loudly, and the snake scale patterns entwined on his soul vanished without a trace. Subsequently, not far off, the unconscious Feiliya moaned, her dark raven feathers quickly receding, revealing her originally fair and delicate skin.

Phew... It's finally over...

After checking the status of the fallen siblings of the ruined kingdom, confirming they've escaped the control of the blood oath, Leon let out a long breath, then squatted beside the fallen Prince Andre, announcing:

"The White Snake has left already, you two managed to escape the Slaughter King's retribution... What do you plan to do from now on?"

"Our matters aren't urgent."

Looking at the Crolock Kingdom he personally destroyed in front of him, Prince Andre remained silent for a while before asking:

"And the 1.3 million citizens..."

"I'll contact the Clean-up Bureau to resolve it."

Leon responded earnestly:

"Roughly five or six hours later, the Director of Scorpio will wake up. By then, I'll have him contact the Clean-up Bureau to procure necessities like food and water. These resources might not be abundant, but no one will starve or freeze to death.

As for the memory of these 1.3 million people, it'll likely be collectively altered by the [Can of Fantasy], making it appear you predicted natural disasters like earthquakes, tsunamis, or volcanic changes, then notified all citizens for a collective pre-emptive evacuation."

"Regarding their future, I, as Prince of Lutung, will represent the Kingdom to accept their joining. If things get really tough, the Scorpio Branch still owes me a huge favor, so they might help persuade the Kingdom of Orleson to accept a small portion.

Although costs might be high short-term, for our two kingdoms with nearly a hundred million in population, accommodating 1.3 million from Crolock Kingdom is manageable."

Manageable? Are you sure?

Upon hearing Leon's words, Prince Andre, fatigued and lying on the ground, couldn't help but roll his eyes.

Among Crolock Kingdom's 1.3 million citizens, there are over 20,000 scholars, more than 60,000 elite soldiers, and countless skilled craftsmen and technicians in various fields.

Even the homeless, who've always drained the kingdom's finances, received at least three to five years of basic education. A little training would turn them into quite competent labor forces.

Once you bring them back, the First Princess, who recently usurped power in your kingdom, will likely wake up smiling from a dream, then Ning Ke would sell the palace to fund costs, accepting all these "burdens" heartily without sharing a single hair with the Orleson Kingdom.

"Forget it, as long as you have a plan."

Considering Leon had rescued Feiliya and slapped him awake, Prince Andre remained silent, opting to suppress his urge to retort, closed his eyes, and said:

"I'd appreciate if you treat them kindly since it's our royal family... I am the one who let them down.

Also, after what happened to Feiliya, I am certain the Clean-up Bureau will rigorously protect her, but I still hope you give her some freedom, don't let her become a caged green bird."

"I'll suggest to the Bureau to ensure Feiliya's safety without restricting her freedom."

In Prince Andre's "final words" hinting some nuances, Leon nodded in agreement and somewhat surprised, asked:

"Andre, don't you plan to live with her?"

The machine for creating the physical body you used, I had it stolen by Senior Alger earlier. Although your soul is severely injured, weakened by seventy to eighty percent, it was once True God level, with a solid foundation strong enough. Repairing the body should allow you to live for several more decades."

"I choose not to live."

Prince Andre glanced at the unconscious green-eyed girl, filled with lingering affection, then pulled his collar aside to show Leon the snake scales on his neck.

"When the White Snake left, it meddled with my soul, subjecting it to constant pain that will slowly disintegrate.

If I enter the Realm of the Dead now, relying on my soul's intensity and obduracy, I might reach the City of Regret. But if I wait decades, allowing my soul to weaken further, I fear I may never reach it."

"Do you still plan to reach the City of Regret?"

"Yes."

Prince Andre nodded, his expression somewhat forlorn as he said:

"However, if the White Snake didn't lie, and their people are indeed in the Realm of the Dead, then I may not make it to the City of Regret."

"That's hard to say..."

Leon hesitated for a moment before offering:

"If you're truly ready to die, determined to go and apologize, then I might actually have a way to get you there."

Chapter 642: Reputation

???

After hearing Leon's words, Prince Andre couldn't help but be stunned, his emerald eyes full of doubt.

After all, when it came to going on a "suicide mission," Leon had already tricked him once. Before pulling his soul out, Leon was full of talk about "connections," "having many acquaintances," and "don't worry."

But once Prince Andre gave up resisting, those promises immediately changed to "don't say you know me," "just say I killed you," "tell others we are sworn enemies,"—it's obvious which of these two statements is more trustworthy.

And in the Underworld, where Leon had enemies everywhere to the point where even mentioning his name could get someone implicated, he claimed to be confident that in spite of the White Serpent's revenge, he could still get him to the City of Regret? Seriously, this isn't a joke?

"Relax, I'm not teasing you this time."

Feeling a bit awkward under Andre's doubtful gaze, Leon coughed slightly and explained:

"Besides, in the Underworld, I do have quite a lot of connections and acquaintances—just that my acquaintances might not be the kind you understand... forget about it, I won't go into that.

In any case, if you're absolutely determined to make it to the City of Regret no matter the cost, then I do have a way—might even help you slip through... so don't move just yet."

Under Prince Andre's shocked gaze, Leon's "reddish" soul quickly detached from his body, and he began to rub his hands on his body, smearing those yet-to-dry bloodstains.

"You... uh... what are you doing?!"

"Don't move, although this thing may be a bit dirty, it'll ensure you pass through the Gate of the Deceased."

After dipping his hands in the endlessly liquid blood of the Three-Headed Canine Deity and smearing it over Prince Andre, turning him into a "little red person," Leon nodded in satisfaction and explained to the bewildered Andre:

"Once you reach the entrance of the Underworld, if the reaper guarding the Gate of the Deceased wants to take advantage of your weakened state to consume you, just tell it you were sent by a guy named Leon.

If it dares to eat even a strand of your hair, once I'm done with my business, I will find time to sneak into the Underworld and devour it alive, along with its kin and descendants, and every moving thing in its domain. I will eat one for each one there is."

???

"Umm... are you sure this method will work?"

"Rest assured, the reapers, most of them have seen me... uh... have seen me dining, and all you need is to say what I've taught you, it'll work for sure!"

"..."

So, what exactly do you look like when you're dining? Enough to frighten those emissaries of the Death Dominators?

"Moreover, aside from the gatekeeping reaper, the biggest trouble for you would probably be the corporeal doe among the Overlords of the Dead Realm."

Without addressing Prince Andre's confusion, Leon continued:

"That doe is the holder of the [Lake of Hidden Garb], the [Corpse Soil Black Forest], and the Baigu Palace, also a member of your Slaughter King Association. As a traitor to the Slaughter King Association, when you go there, it certainly won't let you pass and will kill your soul at the locations it holds."

"The Overlords of the Underworld... how powerful are they?"

"The difference in levels among the Overlords of the Underworld is quite large."

Leon pondered for a moment and then replied:

"There are many special locations in the Underworld, like the City of Regret, the Nest of Crows of Death Report, and Baigu Palace. Those True Gods of the Netherworld who can control these special locations are called the Underworld Dominators. Among them, the weakest are equivalent to the Three-Headed Canine Deity who used to guard the Gate of the Deceased, True God—lowest level;

And the strongest among them are about the level of the Pillar God, almost impossible to kill when alongside their controlled special locations. The corporeal doe alone controls three special locations, making it the most formidable among the 'non-Pillar God' level ones."

So... the cream of the True God crop?

Upon hearing this, Prince Andre couldn't help but give a bitter smile, a trace of barely detectable despair flashing in his eyes.

At his strongest, with the aid of the world's fragments, he barely crossed the threshold of a True God. Now, with his soul decomposed by seventy to eighty percent, he probably can't even handle a Second-level Cleaner, let alone meddle in the affairs of top-tier True Gods.

"Don't worry, you shouldn't need to confront it directly."

After signing his name in dog blood on Prince Andre's chest, Leon let go of his overcoat, and began a vigorous scribbling on the moon-white midcoat, then opened the midcoat, smearing the deep blue innerwear with dog blood.

Feeling uncomfortable from Leon's strange actions, Prince Andre managed not to dodge but still inquired with difficulty:

"What are you doing?"



"Leaving a message."

While doodling with his hand, Leon instructed without lifting his head:

"When you reach the corporeal doe's territory, if it gives you trouble, open your overcoat to show it the midcoat, telling it that if it kills you, the director of the Virgin Branch will immediately get drunk again, and like last time, will vent his drunken trouble on it.

If any other Overlords of the Dead Realm come by following your scent and intend to cause you trouble, just follow my original advice, tell them you're killed by me, and we have a deep-seated enmity, if that makes no difference, show them your underwear."

"..."

If denied entry, show others my underwear? Sounds... truly perverted...

Nodding awkwardly, Prince Andre curiously asked:

"What did you write on my inner... underwear?"

"Just a little threat."

Leon chuckled and said:

"If they don't let you pass, I'll off myself before the Canine Deity resurrects, taking its place to guard the Underworld gate and gorge on whatever's in its domain on a daily basis."

"Ah?"

"It's just a last resort, not guaranteed to work, so unless it's critical, try to avoid stripping."

After buttoning up the blood-lettered clothes on Andre, Leon pulled him up and then, amidst a fog full of deathly aura, gave him a strong shove towards the distance where the Gate of the Deceased stood.

"Go on! Safe journey!"

"Wait! Why do you... whoa!"

As Andre started to question again, Leon pushed him off balance, and when he steadied himself, he found himself standing outside the opened Gate of the Deceased, lined up with a group of wailing deceased souls.

And outside the tall, blood-stained gates, an extraordinarily large fish tank stood, with several hideous fishes possessing huge eyes growing out of their mouths and mouths where their eyes should be. They soaked in the murky water, nagging truculently through the tank:

"Move along! Don't dawdle!"

"Yes, yes!"

"Annoying! So many reapers, why are we on duty!"

"Yeah, yeah!"

"Say, we wouldn't run into that feeding maniac like that stupid horse did, would we?"

"Shut up, shut up!"

"Uh... wait! Seems like a powerful soul is coming!"

"So fragrant, so fragrant!"

Here it comes!

Under the piercing gaze of dozens of singular eyes growing out of mouths, feeling the immense pressure, the extremely weakened Prince Andre felt a chilling sensation run down his spine, silently praying in his heart that Leon's method would work.

However, before he could speak and relay Leon's "threat," the monstrous fishes who recognized the blood on his body all screamed, broke out of the tank with a crash, and fled rolling and scrambling away while sprinting with two fish fins like humans.

"Run! The Food God is hungry again!!!"

"Help, help!"

#### Chapter 643: Meeting Time

"Ladies and gentlemen, the matter of the Crolock Kingdom has reached the point of no return."

As Prince Andre, the traitor of the Slaughter King Association, embarked on his final journey in confusion, the previously furious White Snake had already gathered all the official members of the Slaughter King Association. After briefly recounting his observations, he spoke, his voice slightly cold:

"Our plans over the years have been completely destroyed by that Level 3 Cleaner. Not only did he save the defected Black Owl and Xue Xiao, but he also completely destroyed one of the Thirteen Kingdoms, the Crolock Kingdom.

Including the previous incident at the 'Iron Palace', this marks the second time he has disrupted our plans. In my opinion, we have previously underestimated Leon Laine. His danger level should be immediately elevated."

"I think so too."

As soon as White Snake finished speaking, Dongya, sitting to his left, nodded in agreement and somewhat reluctantly said:

"This Leon Laine is indeed peculiar. The Scorpio Branch sent almost all its Cleaners who were nearly annihilated, and with the director under control, I seriously don't understand how he managed to turn the tables."

"Indeed..."

Sitting opposite Dongya, the slender "Black Cat" sighed and nodded:

"The previous 'Iron Palace' incident can be attributed to our lack of preparation, acting hastily with many loopholes, which he exploited. There was nothing we could do."

But in the case of the Crolock Kingdom, ninety-nine percent of the royal family members were already dead. The remaining two were our unofficial members, each burdened with three extremely targeted Blood Oaths. It seemed impossible to lose.

Moreover, even in such an already secure situation, to be safe, we paid a huge price to forcibly send White Snake's power down, helping Black Owl control the Scorpio Bureau Chief.

Yet even after doing so, we still couldn't sever the royal bloodline. Even the deceased Cleaners, he pulled back from the Realm of the Dead, and the Crolock Kingdom was destroyed in one fell swoop... This man is truly outrageous."

"Indeed, this man is really..."

"We must elevate the importance we place on him!"

"I think so too, this man is too peculiar."

"Since none of you oppose, let's decide on this matter."

With unanimous agreement from the members of the Slaughter King Association, White Snake at the head made the decision:

"From now, the importance placed on Leon Laine, the Level 3 Cleaner of the Virgin Branch, will be elevated two levels, treated as a Director of the Twelve Zodiac Branch Offices, and all intelligence on him should be gathered comprehensively. Always watch for any unusual movements.

Moreover, in all future plans, if there is potential for direct contact with him, actions are absolutely not allowed without authorization. A meeting must be convened immediately, all official members notified, and decisions made after deliberation!"

"Agreed!"

"This is how it should be."

"No objections."

"So, the first resolution of today's meeting is unanimously passed."

After making the decision, White Snake turned his head to look at Black Cat on his right, warmly inquiring:

"How are the affairs in the Witch Kingdom that you are in charge of? Is the situation still stable?"

"To be honest, it's not looking very optimistic."

Upon hearing the question, Black Cat sighed helplessly, and answered:

"The situation in the Mifalla Kingdom is relatively stable. The Grand Witch King will die of old age shortly, but the Pisces Branch has been very active lately, not only strengthening the guards of the Grand Witch Court but also holding dozens of large-scale rituals.

If I am not mistaken, the people from the Pisces Branch have likely realized that the Grand Witch King's daughter is a decoy we arranged and are probably using these soul rituals to search for the real princess of the Witch Kingdom."

"And what about you? Is your progress going smoothly?"

White Snake frowned, his expression slightly displeased as he pressed on:

"Your Ball of Yarn Society has been expanding in the Mifalla Kingdom for many years, searching extensively for so long, yet you still haven't found that missing princess?"

"That's different."

Black Cat shook her head:

"The Pisces Branch can search openly, but to avoid attracting the attention of the Clean-up Bureau, I can only act secretly. How can my efficiency compare to that of the Pisces Branch?

What I can confirm now is that the real princess of the Witch Kingdom is still alive and did not die in that attack years ago but instead found a way to hide to avoid being targeted by us again."

I see...

After listening to Black Cat, White Snake couldn't help but sigh.

"So, you have no good news either, is that right?"

"Actually, there is some good news."

After pondering for a moment, Black Cat replied somewhat unsurely:

"Some of the people we sent to attack her years ago were from the Pisces Branch, so she doesn't trust the Clean-up Bureau. Over the years, she has never contacted anyone from the Bureau and has been avoiding the Pisces Branch's search at all costs.

Moreover, as she is indeed a talented witch with abilities near the level of a small division director in the Clean-up Bureau, the larger the commotion the Pisces Branch makes to find her, the deeper she will hide. Although we cannot find her, neither can the Pisces Branch."

"That's not exactly good news."

Upon hearing this, White Snake frowned and reminded:

"Even if the Clean-up Bureau cannot find her whereabouts, as long as she continues to live, she can maintain the strength of Watcher's Palace. Only by killing her can our plans be truly successful!"

"Don't worry, there will be an opportunity."

Facing White Snake's reminder, the woman with the Black Cat mask paused in silence, then responded calmly:

"Someone from my Ball of Yarn Society recently received an audience with the Grand Witch King, who is now a hundred and thirty-eight years old and considerably weaker than in previous years. It seems she will die of old age in another year or two at most.

And at this time, as the Grand Witch King's only daughter, the hidden princess, regardless of her patience, will definitely find a way to return to see her mother for the last time. As long as my people continue waiting in the Grand Witch Court, there will definitely be a chance to catch her trail!"

"Alright, as long as you have confidence."

Somewhat satisfied with Black Cat's answer, White Snake nodded slightly, then glanced at the empty seat opposite Black Cat, which bore a Flower Fox mask, and proceeded to ask:

"Flower Fox...What about the Aquarius Director? How is his preparation going? Does anyone know?"

"His progress...should be fine?"

Upon White Snake's inquiry, Dongya opposite Black Cat hesitated for a moment, then replied with some uncertainty:

"After Leon left on the dirigible, he immediately returned to the Royal Capital and prepared a lot of things, supposedly targeting the woman from the Virgin Branch. According to the Aquarius Director, he has found a way to deal with the Virgin Branch, just waiting for Leon to return."

Chapter 644: If I Go on a Mission with Leon Again, I'm a Dog!

Just waiting for that Leon to return?

After listening to Dongya's account, the eyebrows behind the White Snake mask furrowed slightly, then he inquisitively asked:

"Did Aquarius tell you, specifically, what he plans to do?"

"I asked, but he wouldn't tell me."

With a look of helplessness, Dongya replied:

"He only told me that the woman from the Virgo Branch, although she has almost no weaknesses, her most important defensive abnormal object was ultimately crafted together by Aquarius and Taurus."



And as one of the creators of that set of defensive abnormal objects, although Aquarius didn't leave any apparent backdoor, there is still a way to slightly circumvent that set of defensive abnormal objects."

"..."

According to the information provided by Aquarius, to deal with that red-haired woman, one must first resolve her defensive abnormal object, so overall, what he said equates to saying nothing.

Pondering over the possible actions of the Aquarius Director, but no matter how much he thought, he was still clueless, the White Snake had to continue asking with furrowed brows:

"Did he ever tell you why he's been fixated on the Virgo Branch? Shouldn't his ultimate goal be to replace the Director of Taurus and successfully ascend to the Watcher's Palace? What's the use of always targeting that woman from the Virgo Branch?"

"That he did mention."

After thinking for a moment, Dongya replied:

"He means that even if no one from the twelve Zodiac Branch Offices goes, when Taurus ascends to the palace, there will be at least three directors protecting him, and there's definitely no chance of succeeding through direct confrontation, so another method must be considered."

"And this 'other method,' did he still not tell you a word about, and we still only know that he intends to target the Virgo Branch, right?"

"Hmm..."

"..."

If nothing can be found out, then let it be. After all, the Aquarius Director is not aligned with us, and his goals differ entirely from those of the Slaughter King Association. He can do as he pleases, as long as he remains opposed to the Clean-up Bureau.

"Dongya."

Just as the White Snake shook his head helplessly, the Black Cat, who had been listening, suddenly called out and then asked:

"Previously, you told us that Aquarius mentioned he had already found a way to deal with the Virgo Branch and was just waiting for Leon to return... What exactly does this mean?"

"Ah?"

Startled by the question, Dongya asked, somewhat perplexed:

"Is there something wrong with this statement?"

"No, there is indeed something intriguing about this statement."

After Black Cat's inquiry, the White Snake on the main seat seemed to realize something and began to speak thoughtfully:

"From the literal meaning, it suggests he, who holds a grudge against Leon, is waiting for Leon to return to the Royal Capital to capture him and the entire Virgo Branch in one fell swoop. However, upon further consideration, another possibility emerges...

Perhaps Leon himself is a part of his plan to deal with the Virgo Branch. Only when Leon returns to the Royal Capital can his plan be implemented!"

...

"ACHOO!!!"

After letting out a massive sneeze, Leon, whose nose had been inexplicably itchy, rubbed his nose and couldn't help but quietly complain:

"Hasn't the expected time passed already? Why hasn't Director Edward woken up yet?"

"Sorry to keep you waiting."

Hearing Leon's complaint, a green-eyed girl kneeling beside the Scorpio Director turned back and said apologetically:

"The Director's soul suffered a severe injury and has been greatly disturbed, so it will likely take a while longer for his soul to fully awaken."

"Mona is right."

At this moment, another green-eyed young man nodded and quickly ripened two sunflowers, taking the seeds from them and eagerly handed them to Leon.

"If you're bored from waiting, you can snack on some sunflower seeds... Don't worry, this kind of black sunflower is a specialty of our Kingdom of Orleson, delicious even when eaten raw without roasting."

"Ah, thank you, Ruben senior."

Unexpectedly overheard, Leon felt a bit embarrassed, smiled a little, thanked him, and accepted the shiny black seeds, explaining with slight embarrassment:

"I'm really not complaining about Director Edward; it's just that the 1.3 million citizens of the Crolock Kingdom are still waiting for arrangement, and the only abnormal object that can contact the headquarters is in Director Edward's hands, so I'm a bit anxious, sorry."

"No problem, no problem, we understand."

Falthe faced with Leon, who managed to pull him back from death's door in the Realm of the Dead, almost single-handedly turned around a mission that seemed utterly doomed, and even preserved the machine from Zone 1, helping him get a new body, Ruben's attitude couldn't have been better.

Seemingly worried that Leon might get thirsty from the seeds, Ruben once again activated his abnormal object, ripening a peculiar shrub, picked the coconut-like fruit, cracked it open, and handed the juicy flesh to Leon, chuckling:

"As for the issue of these 1.3 million people, you really don't need to worry too much. Before you spat out your soul, by leveraging a foundation of sixty Leon Value points, we managed to hastily ripen over fifty acres of banana trees and coconut groves, enough for them to feast for at least a week.

Plus, Frankie has already taken some people to fish at the harbor. His skill in this area is quite reliable, so even if Director Edward were to fall into a long slumber, those 1.3 million people will be fine."

"Is senior Frankie really that capable?"

After hearing Ruben's reassurance, Leon curiously asked:

"Can he fish enough to feed thirty thousand people? Are there even that many fish around here?"

"No, no, you've misunderstood."

The green-eyed young man waved his hand and explained with a chuckle:

"It's my job to make sure these people are fed. Ruben's responsibility is to get some other essential supplies over, like warm clothes for the cold, medicines, tents for shelter from the wind and rain, that sort of thing."

"Huh? You can fish those up too?"

"He can fish up anything except fish."

"..."

Well, this sounds exactly like something a fishing enthusiast would do...

"Haha, Frankie's ability is always extremely useful in times like this."

Seeing Leon's speechless expression, Ruben explained with a grin:

"In our Kingdom of Orleson's warehouse, there's a small pond that's his, an abnormal object. Thanks to the effects of that 'Unreasonable Pond,' as long as the Contamination Value isn't exhausted, he can take any supplies from the kingdom's warehouse."

I see...

Nodding in understanding, Leon was just about to ask more questions when he heard a joyous shout from behind.

"Director? Quick, come! Director Edward has woken up!"

He's finally awake!

Hearing the call from the female Cleaner, Mona, Leon and his companion, who were having a casual chat, looked delighted, hurriedly put away their sunflower seeds, and quickly rushed over.

After the initial disorientation, the Scorpio Director's eyes immediately regained their sharpness, gazing at the happy green-eyed girl beside him, then hesitantly asked:

"Feiliya... are you Mona? How did you end up like this?"

"Yes, yes! I'm Mona!"

Seeing Director Edward recognize her immediately, Mona the Cleaner nodded excitedly, then explained:

"Our original bodies were destroyed, and we didn't have the time to cultivate them again. We had to use the old parameters from the machines and slightly adjust them to resemble the Crolock royal family, so we look different now."

After explaining the reason for her appearance change, Mona continued excitedly:

"Director! You're finally awake! A lot happened after you passed out, even the Slaughter King Association's people showed up.

Luckily, Sir Leon was there. He defeated Prince Andre, protected the bloodline of the Crolock royal family, persuaded him to betray the Slaughter King Association, and sent him to the Realm of the Dead... In short, we completed our mission!"

The mission... is it complete?

After listening to Mona's excited announcement, and seeing Leon and, presumably, Ruben approaching with their green eyes, the tense Scorpio Director let out a long breath of relief, then wobbly stood up.

"Thank you."

After pushing away Mona's hand that tried to help him, the Scorpio Director, whose soul still couldn't perfectly control his body, looked at Leon who, though energetic, couldn't hide his fatigue. With a complex expression, he whispered:

"It's thanks to you this time. Without you, not only would the mission have failed, but Mona and the others and I might not have survived... I owe you one."

"No need for such courtesy."

Leon replied with a smile upon hearing this.

"I was also part of this investigation mission, there's no owing or not. This was just my duty."

"It's not about duty; you not only completed the mission but also saved our lives, and that's why I owe you!"

Persisting with his stance, the Scorpio Director slowly steadied himself, then bit his lip with a serious expression and asked:

"Where is Princess Feiliya now? And Frankie, Nicole, and Alger? Did something happen to them..."

"Don't worry, they're all fine."

Understanding the Scorpio Director's worries, Leon explained:

"Princess Feiliya is reassuring the citizens of the Crolock Kingdom, with Nicole and Alger protecting her to prevent any further incident during this time. And Elder Frankie just took some people to go fishing, expecting to return from the harbor after gathering supplies for 1.3 million people."

Phew... they're all alive, that's good...

Hearing that everyone was alright, the tense expression of the Scorpio Director softened immediately, relieved he hadn't rejected the Sagittarius Director's proposal, instead insisting on bringing Leon over.

But upon hearing about Frankie's whereabouts and what he intended to do, an indescribable sense of immense terror, accompanied by a chilling sensation, shot up from his tailbone, prompting him to stammer:

"Wh... Why so many supplies? And... didn't you complete the mission and save the Crolock royal family?"

"Well..."

After a worried glance at the Scorpio Director's raging soul, Leon couldn't help but chuckle awkwardly, then replied somewhat hesitantly:

"I managed to save the royal family, but... uh... the Crolock Kingdom is gone."

"..."

"..."

"..."

"Director! Director, are you okay? Don't lie down, Director!"

#### Chapter 645: Might as Well Be Dead

The headquarters of the Clean-up Bureau, inside a small conference room named Between the Sun and Shade.

"Everyone, the Sagittarius Director and I have gathered you here today because there are several very important matters that need to be communicated to you promptly."

The main seat was vacant, and Mr. Taurus, sitting in the second seat, looked around at the eighty or more phantom images summoned below with a complex expression and announced:

"Firstly, after the investigation by the Scorpio Branch, it has been confirmed that the Gemini Branch located in the Kingdom of Crolock has been completely destroyed. Nearly half of the members were



either killed or imprisoned, and the rest were subjected to soul-level enslavement. Only the original Level 1 Cleaner, Nicole Korolman, managed to escape unscathed."

"??!!!"

Although everyone knew that in the self-sealed state of the headquarters, urgently summoning long-distance meetings with division leaders from all branches must indicate something major had occurred, the explosiveness of this news still caught everyone by surprise.

Faced with such shocking news, although the division heads of all sizes couldn't whisper to each other due to their actual bodies not being present, looks of shock were still flying around, and some even secretly started private chats.

"Everyone, please keep quiet!"

After clapping his hands forcefully, cutting off all the 'private chats' among the division leaders, Mr. Taurus said with a less-than-pleased expression:

"You can discuss this matter among yourselves later. Right now, we need to deliberate on what to do about the vacancy of the Gemini Branch!"

What should be done about the vacant Gemini Branch?

Upon hearing Mr. Taurus's words, a slightly hunched phantom figure in the Yellow Road Zodiac Twelve Division's seats coughed twice before raising a hand and saying:

"Mr. Taurus, Boris, the division head of the Furnace Branch, broke through 60 Leon Value twenty years ago. He can be directly promoted to take the responsibility of rebuilding the Gemini Branch."

Upon hearing the words of the hunched phantom figure, the phantom images suddenly realized the solution, and they each raised their hands in succession and recommended:

"Mr. Taurus, I recommend Anduin from the Sagittarius Branch!"

"I also recommend Boris from the Furnace Branch!"

"Mr. Taurus! The Compass Branch self-recommends!"

"Silence!"

Clapping his hands again, interrupting the various phantoms' recommendations, Mr. Taurus couldn't help but glance toward the Virgin Branch's seats, then said:

"The situation is a bit complicated this time; simply choosing someone to replace won't work.

Although most of the Cleaners from the Gemini Branch were saved, many of them participated in the rebellion initiated by the Aquarius Director, committing numerous violations that need to be thoroughly investigated and held accountable.

Moreover, it's not just the Gemini Branch that had problems; the third prince of the Kingdom of Crolock, Andre, also colluded with the Aquarius Director, killing most royal family members... Forget it, Edward!"

After calling out to the Scorpio Bureau Director, Mr. Taurus raised his hand to support his forehead, speaking with a look of exasperation:

"You're the lead in this investigation mission; you talk about the Kingdom of Crolock's situation."

"Alright..."

Upon responding, the phantom of the Scorpio Bureau Director stood up, hesitated slightly, then frankly stated:

"Everyone, the Kingdom of Crolock is no more."

"??!!!"

A thunderous revelation from the Scorpio Bureau Director caused all the phantom figures present to tremble simultaneously. Across from him, the red-haired director unconsciously widened his eyes, feeling a sudden surge of extreme foreboding.

"Mr. Edward?"

After a long silence, the most initially recommended replacement figure, the hunched phantom figure, broke the silence first, exclaiming in shock:

"Can you explain more clearly? What exactly happened to the Kingdom of Crolock?"

"The Kingdom of Crolock... has been utterly destroyed."

The Scorpio Bureau Director slightly bowed his head and said:

"Although 1.3 million citizens remain, over 99% of the land has been completely incinerated. Virtually all royal family members are dead, and the only surviving princess has no intention of claiming the throne, surrendering on behalf of the Crolock royal family. The Kingdom of Crolock is truly gone."

"This..."

Even with some psychological preparation, upon hearing the outcome of the Crolock Kingdom, everyone present couldn't help but draw in a sharp breath, with the initially speaking hunched figure with a face full of disbelief pursuing further:

"Mr. Edward! Could you please explain how, with your presence, the Kingdom of Crolock still ended up utterly destroyed?"

"..."

Because I got careless and was ambushed, almost dying and then being forcibly controlled, where I ended up fighting our surviving Cleaners. I was barely rescued and passed out, and when I woke up, the Kingdom of Crolock was gone. Not only did I not help at all, but also added to the chaos...

If explained like this, I might as well have directly died in the Kingdom of Crolock!

Just then, the Scorpio Bureau Director's clothes were tugged, and a phantom figure appeared from behind him.

"Division leaders, Mr. Edward is still recovering from his injuries, so I'll explain the rest."

Having bowed slightly to the leaders, Leon, brought in by the Scorpio Director, said:

"I am also part of this investigation squad. This task was extremely dangerous because we faced formidable opponents not only in the Slaughter King Association targeting various royal families but also in the royal family members themselves who should've been protected.

Mr. Edward detected anomalies beforehand and deliberately split the team into two units. I was responsible for protecting the already rescued Princess Feiliya and was fortunately left with the Level 1 Cleaner Alger, while he led a team in continued perilous reconnaissance.

In the face of an ambush, he initially resisted control by the opposing side, buying time for Alger and me, and sharply noticed issues with the controlling methods, cleverly escaping enemy restraints through our mutual understanding.

Ultimately, upon discovering tampering with his soul, he bravely risked soul damage, decisively becoming devoured by me to provide the crucial force allowing Alger and me to escape the crisis, leading to a successful turnaround..."

Those capable of reaching a branch position usually possess a reasonable level of intelligence. Therefore, upon hearing Leon's complete narration of the investigation mission, dozens of phantom division leaders exchanged glances, each seeing comprehension on the others' faces.

So... Rashly seeking achievements, caught in an ambush, tragically controlled, knocked out until the end?

No matter how hard this newcomer tried to defend, in this investigation task, Edward was undoubtedly the hindrance, while the person who truly bore the brunt of the responsibilities probably was this newcomer he brought along.

"I see..."

After giving the newly emerged Leon a glance, then looking back at Edward, aware that a similar scenario might put them in Edward's shoes, the hunched phantom figure chose not to press further but decided to save face for Edward, nodding and stating:

"Then Edward can't be blamed. This enemy was indeed particularly tricky, and to ensure the Watcher's Palace remains unaffected, burning down the Kingdom of Crolock was unavoidable... Edward."

Calling out to Edward, the hunched phantom figure inspected Leon, whose face wasn't clearly visible behind the Scorpio Director, expressing some curiosity:

"The speaker earlier, he's a Cleaner from your Scorpio Branch, right? It seems he made significant contributions this time; can you introduce him to us?"