

Inevitability 971

Chapter 971 Past Events

“The awakening of The World spells The Fool's return...”

Jenna had seen this sentence in the materials provided by the Major Arcana card holders. It was considered the most important revelation made by Mr. Fool before he fell into slumber, concealing the direction to awaken him.

The Fool—Sequence 0 of the Seer pathway—was said to have authority over fate!

Jenna looked at Madam Justice without asking questions, waiting for her to continue.

Madam Justice pointed to the sofa area. “Let's sit down and talk.”

After they each chose a sofa, Madam Justice began speaking in a gentle voice, “After our initial intelligence gathering in the dream city, we discovered a problem:

“There was no dream manifestation corresponding to Gehrman Sparrow.

“Among Mr. Fool's avatars, Klein Moretti's dream manifestation was merged with Zhou Mingrui. This can be seen from Zhou Mingrui's brother being called Benson Zhou and his sister Zhou Sasa, corresponding to Klein Moretti's real-life brother Benson and sister Melissa.

“Other manifestations, like the private detective and the wandering magician, could be found in the dream city, but they were scattered among multiple people. They either used half of their names or only exhibited corresponding characteristics.”

Hearing this, Jenna nodded slightly.

These had all been mentioned in the materials, and their team had also secretly observed the corresponding manifestations, planning to make deeper contact with them in turn.

Madam Justice smiled with a sigh.

“We've confirmed those dream manifestations, and there were no issues or anything we could exploit.

“But Gehrman Sparrow, as one of Mr. Fool's two most important manifestations and The World mentioned in that revelation, had no corresponding manifestation in the dream city.

“At the time, this raised strong suspicions and made us a bit excited.

“It's not a problem if there are issues; it's a problem if everything is normal.

“After discussion, we decided to try to create the character of Gehrman Sparrow in the dream city. Only with Gehrman Sparrow could we talk about awakening The World.”

Jenna listened with both surprise and excitement.

This approach was something they hadn't thought of before.

Of course, this was mainly because they had just finished observing important characters and were still experimenting with the results of different levels of contact with different characters. They hadn't yet compiled the intelligence or sought ways to awaken Mr. Fool.

Lumian had made some associations from the phrase “The awakening of The World spells The Fool's return,” which was why he had Jenna apply for a job at Hall Film Company to observe the actor playing Gehrman Sparrow more closely.

What they hadn't realized was that filming “The Great Pirate 3” not only included the idea of stimulating Zhou Mingrui and awakening his memories, but also aimed to create the dream manifestation of Gehrman Sparrow out of thin air!

Madam Justice continued, “Our first attempt was to use my Dreamweaver ability and Hall Group's resources to directly create Gehrman Sparrow's dream manifestation and give him real identity proof and past experiences. The result was, well, I got kicked out of the dream.

“I got my gold coin from Madam Reinette, and later returned it to Her. She had already been kicked out three times before I entered the dream city.

“Being kicked out of the dream didn't discourage me. I even felt excited, believing this might truly be a meaningful direction. Otherwise, the Celestial Worthy wouldn't have turned His gaze to this place far from Zhou Mingrui.

“We started our second attempt, with Madam Magician using her identity as a, um, bestselling novelist to write ‘The Great Pirate 3’.”

“Was ‘The Great Pirate 3’ also deliberately written by you guys?” Jenna asked thoughtfully.

Madam Justice smiled in a way that made Jenna's eyes light up.

“Haven't you watched ‘The Great Pirate 1’ and ‘The Great Pirate 2’? They tell stories about pirates, but the character Gehrman Sparrow doesn't appear. In other words, before Madam Magician personally wrote ‘The Great Pirate 3’, the dream manifestation of Gehrman Sparrow didn't exist even in the story.

“The completion and publication of ‘The Great Pirate 3’ also resulted in Madam Magician being kicked out of the dream.

“We felt we were on the right track, so I used Hall Film Company to purchase the film and television rights for ‘The Great Pirate 3’ and began preparations for filming.”

It's great to have money... Jenna couldn't help but sigh.

For their small team, forget about filming a movie about Gehrman Sparrow, they couldn't even afford to buy the rights to 'The Great Pirate 3' without winning the lottery who knows how many times.

Madam Justice reminisced. "I personally served as the producer and personally selected the actor to play Gehrman Sparrow.

"Then, I discovered An Xiaotian. He was an actor and a star. It was such a coincidence, as if Mr. Fool had secretly set it up, waiting for us to trigger it.

"An Xiaotian's backstory in the dream was that he was an orphan, raised by his older sister. He dropped out after high school and entered the entertainment industry.

"His sister fell seriously ill and is currently in a vegetative state. To maintain hope for his sister's awakening, he worked hard to become a big star and earned quite a bit of money.

"I extended an invitation to him, offering a salary he couldn't refuse.

"At the time, I was actually a bit uneasy, wondering if having An Xiaotian play Gehrman Sparrow would cause any problems. You know, An Xiaotian corresponds to Antigonus in reality, who was The Half-Fool in the Fourth Epoch and hasn't perished yet. If we merged His spiritual imprint with the movie image of Gehrman Sparrow, it could potentially affect Mr. Fool's self-awareness or benefit Antigonus and that Celestial Worthy.

"To ensure there were no issues, we contacted Antigonus through the Church of Evernight Goddess. He told us we could try."

"Does Antigonus have close ties with the Church of Evernight Goddess? Can He be trusted?" Jenna asked instinctively.

Madam Justice's smile became somewhat complex.

"Being captured and imprisoned is also a kind of connection, I suppose...

"However, after the Goddess provided a revelation and promised Antigonus one thing, He began working for the Church of Evernight Goddess. His words are quite credible now.

"That's why I ultimately decided to invite An Xiaotian to play Gehrman Sparrow.

"On the day of the shoot, An Xiaotian had a very serious car accident and also became a vegetable."

Also... both he and his sister became vegetables... Jenna found it tragic.

“At the same time, that also caused me to be kicked out of the dream for the second time,” Madam Justice said in a self-mocking tone. “Afterwards, I faced significant restrictions. By the time I entered the dream for the third time, Holly had already chosen the actor to play Gehrman Sparrow. The silver lining was that she decided to personally fund and establish a foundation to fully cover the medical expenses for An Xiaotian and his sister.”

Jenna vaguely felt that Madam Justice was praising her own dream manifestation—Holly—for being a decent person, living up to her ideal image, but she didn't dare to say it too clearly.

Madam Justice skipped over this topic and said directly, “I couldn't find anyone more suitable to play Gehrman Sparrow, and the medicine provided by Mr. Moon couldn't wake up An Xiaotian. I had no choice but to let Jia Yu give it a try. Unfortunately, after Jia Yu finished filming, he couldn't merge with the manifestation of Gehrman Sparrow, and the movie didn't make Zhou Mingrui remember anything. It only created some character imitators of Gehrman Sparrow.

“Perhaps when An Xiaotian had the car accident, the goal that ‘The Great Pirate 3’ was meant to achieve was destined to fail.

“During the filming of ‘The Great Pirate 3’, I actually noticed that people were gradually forgetting An Xiaotian, no longer remembering this person, only able to recall related events.

“I wasn't affected, but I also gave myself psychological suggestions not to forget An Xiaotian.

“When I was in the dream city, I indeed remembered, until I was kicked out for the third time...”

Feels like you were somewhat Fooled... Jenna thought for a few seconds and said, “There might still be very useful secrets hidden in relation to An Xiaotian, which is why the Celestial Worthy would Fool everyone and make them forget about him.”

“That's our guess too.” Madam Justice nodded.

Jenna then said, “An Xiaotian in his vegetative state seems to want to warn Lumian to be careful of someone. Could you please contact Antigonus again to see if He has dreamed anything in reality or knows something?”

“That's our duty,” Madam Justice looked around and said, “Don't rush back. Wait for the feedback from the Church of Evernight Goddess. It might come very soon, and you can take this opportunity to deepen your psychological recognition of reality, to avoid confusing reality and dreams in the end.”

“Alright,” Jenna politely nodded, stood up, and walked towards the garden at the back of the villa.

She wanted to take a walk there.

3 am.

When Franca saw Jian Na, who had fallen asleep at some point, suddenly wake up, she understood that the real Jenna had returned.

Jenna lowered her voice and recounted in detail what Madam Justice had said to Franca. Finally, she said, "Antigonus said He can sense Mr. Fool's dream, but He hasn't entered it and doesn't want to, so He doesn't know what the vegetative An Xiaotian wants to warn Lumian about."

"Is it possible to ask Antigonus to come in once, using the vegetative An Xiaotian? That way, He might know what An Xiaotian wants to warn about," Franca said thoughtfully.

Jenna shook her head. "After An Xiaotian became a vegetable, Antigonus can't come in even if He wants to."

"Do we need to find a way to treat An Xiaotian?" Franca mused to herself, "If we cure him and wake him up, there's no need for Antigonus to come in..."

"But how to treat him? Medicine doesn't seem to work..."

After a pause, Franca and Jenna simultaneously thought of a possibility: Great Mother!

And Lumian was now disguised as the Great Mother's Child of God.

Chapter 972 Demoness's Method

"Treat An Xiaotian by finding a bestowed of the Great Mother through Lumian?" Franca's thoughts began to wander, gradually becoming more far-fetched. "If that doesn't work, then have An Xiaotian conceive a child, with the child replacing the father, becoming the father, and help that child grow rapidly, one day surpassing others' ten years..."

Jenna remained silent for a few seconds before saying, "With everyone suppressed at Sequence 7, the Great Mother's bestowed probably can't make embryos form quickly or children grow rapidly. They're even hoping to rely on the Child of God's godhood to make Li Keji go through the pregnancy and childbirth process in one month.

"Moreover, if the Great Mother takes the opportunity to corrupt An Xiaotian or his child, symbolically speaking, the severity of the problem might not be less than the Celestial Worthy awakening."

Franca sighed and replied, "Indeed, but there's no other way. If we could wake An Xiaotian up and reshoot 'The Great Pirate 3', it might have unexpected effects."

Jenna tersely acknowledged. "Madam Justice said that ever since An Xiaotian became a vegetable and 'The Great Pirate 3' changed its lead actor, the filming became normal. She suspects that from that moment on, the true goal this movie was meant to achieve was destined to fail.

“Unfortunately, at present, there's no hope of An Xiaotian waking up, and we can't find anyone more suitable to play Gehrman Sparrow.”

Franca opened her mouth, showing a thoughtful expression. “Actually, there's a better candidate, someone more suitable than An Xiaotian to play Gehrman Sparrow.”

“Who?” Jenna asked in surprise.

The Major Arcana card holders hadn't discovered such a person?

Franca's eyes curved slightly as she smiled. “Zhou Mingrui.”

“...” Jenna felt a bit stupid.

Is that even allowed?

What would you call this? Having Zhou Mingrui play Zhou Mingrui, letting Zhou Mingrui awaken Zhou Mingrui!

Franca said seriously, “If Zhou Mingrui plays Gehrman Sparrow, he could relive the life he's forgotten during the filming process. He might actually remember something and eventually immerse himself in the role, becoming one with the character. Wouldn't that be equivalent to The World awakening?”

At this point, Franca smacked her lips. “But the difficulty is too high. We don't have the money to reshoot ‘The Great Pirate 3’, nor can we convince Hall Film Company. If they were to shoot anything, it would be ‘The Great Pirate 4’, not Gehrman Sparrow's maritime adventure story.

“Even if you became a top star in the entertainment industry and actively proposed reshooting this movie, and even if someone invested, convincing Zhou Mingrui to film would be extremely difficult. Not to mention his personal willingness, I estimate that as soon as the invitation is extended, the relevant person would be kicked out of the dream. Whoever dares to discuss this matter would be kicked out.”

“This can be considered as an alternative plan for future awakening actions...” Jenna felt a headache coming on as she thought about the troubles Franca mentioned.

Franca nodded thoughtfully. “Correspondingly, Zhou Mingrui's memories don't seem to be erased. As long as he knows about being asked to film ‘The Great Pirate 3’ and is interested and willing to try, the Celestial Worthy probably can't directly prevent it. For this, we can sacrifice multiple members' chances to enter the dream multiple times...”

At this point, Franca suddenly smiled. “What do you call this? It's called ‘For the sake of saving the world, please debut Mr. Fool!’”

“The Celestial Worthy might not be able to directly prevent it, but subsequently, there might be incidents like the director having a car accident, the film crew experiencing a fire, or the female lead's reputation collapsing, preventing ‘The Great Pirate 3’ from even entering the filming process,” Jenna calmly reminded.

Franca sighed. “I know, this is just proposing an idea. We'll see if it's feasible later.”

The next afternoon, in the administrative department of the Tech Building.

Franca was busy making charts when she suddenly saw Luo Shan, who had just been called to the HR department, return with a dejected and confused expression.

“What's wrong?” Franca stopped typing.

Luo Shan spoke as if in a dream. “They want to fire me.

“HR said that Mr. Huang passed by earlier, saw me slacking off, and got very angry. He plans to fire me directly...

“I-I haven't even finished paying off my mortgage...”

What kind of reason is this? There are at least seventeen or eighteen people in the administrative department who slack off more than Luo Shan, why fire only her? Franca's first reaction was to help Luo Shan seek justice.

Her second reaction was: Dammit, is this Mr. Huang's purge of Zhou Mingrui's friends?

Has the mirrored Roselle completed initial control over Mr. Huang?

Has Zaratulstra targeted Luo Shan because of her previous warning to Zhou Mingrui?

If Luo Shan doesn't commute with me, the Mirror Substitution won't be able to work, unless Jenna follows her all the time, but Jenna might soon receive a contract from Hall Film Company...

This way, Luo Shan would be in danger...

Before Franca could comfort Luo Shan and think of a countermeasure, she heard her phone vibrate.

She picked it up and saw it was a friend request on WeChat.

The requester was: “Bernadette.”

Queen Mystic has arrived? Talk about a stroke of luck! Franca quickly accepted the request, then said to Luo Shan, “Don't worry, there aren't many people working in the administrative department anyway. When Mr. Ed comes, you can plead your case to him, and he should be able to persuade Mr. Huang.

“If that doesn't work, try to negotiate for higher severance pay.”

And I will seek justice for you from Miss Huang!

“Mm-hmm.” Luo Shan walked back to her desk, dejectedly waiting for Mr. Ed to appear.

Meanwhile, Franca received a message from Bernadette: “Come to Room 101 on the 8th floor.”

8th floor? That doesn't belong to any of the Intis Group companies... However, according to Lumian's interpretation, the companies on those floors symbolize the erosion and influence of different secret organizations and evil god cults on Intis, including Queen Mystic's Element Dawn... Franca stood up, didn't say anything to Deputy Director Zhang Qing, and used going to the bathroom as an excuse to leave the administrative department and take the elevator down to the 8th floor.

Half of the 8th floor belonged to Dawn Children's Publishing Company. The receptionist didn't even glance at Franca, allowing her to enter.

Franca found that the facial recognition access control wasn't activated, and no employees came out along the way, allowing her to easily reach Room 101.

Bernie Huang, wearing a spaghetti strap top with fringes at the hem and long jeans, sat in the sofa area, exuding a youthful aura.

This is the college student version of Queen Mystic... Franca walked over, greeted her, and sat down.

“What happened?” Bernie Huang's demeanor and posture were different from that of a college student.

Franca recounted how Mr. Huang seemed to be able to sense the gaze from within the mirror, how the mirrored Roselle in the real world appeared to be missing, and how Zaratulstra had been spending several hours with Mr. Huang every day recently.

Finally, she mentioned the trouble Luo Shan had encountered.

Bernie Huang listened quietly, then nodded gently.

“Regarding my father, I will observe and probe. This will take some time, maybe a few days, maybe a week or two.

“As for Luo Shan's problem, you'll have to solve it yourselves. If I intervene on Luo Shan's behalf, it could easily expose my connection with you.

“If you can resolve Luo Shan's trouble, at least prevent her from entering the handover process for a week, I'll give you a reward.”

Isn't this our business? Why are you still paying me as a reward? It's me asking for your help, not you asking for mine... Franca instantly recalled the Star Dream Provisions Store incident and roughly understood that Queen Mystic was finding reasons and excuses to give money to her and the others.

“Alright,” Franca agreed immediately.

After leaving Room 101, on her way back upstairs, she seriously considered how to prevent Luo Shan from being fired.

Instigate Mr. Ed to plead on her behalf? That only has a certain chance of success...

Make Mr. Huang's decision to fire Luo Shan disappear? I can't do that, but I can find a way to delay it for a few days...

Pursue both approaches simultaneously...

Franca, always capable of thinking out of the box, took out her phone and told Lumian her ideas and the potential aftermath issues.

Soon, she received a reply from The Idiot: “Plausible.”

Franca immediately deleted the chat history using the Information Shredder and then returned to the administrative department.

When Mr. Ed entered his office, she stood up and accompanied Luo Shan to plead their case, spreading mystical pathogens along the way.

Yes, she was going to spread a disease.

She chose mystical pathogens that gave people a chance to get some sick leave, something they could recover quickly upon returning home!

Mystical pathogens that caused stomach flu!

After nearly ten minutes, Franca discreetly instigated Mr. Ed, making him agree to plead on Luo Shan's behalf.

After the two left the director's office, they saw many colleagues looking pale, vomiting into nearby trash cans, while others rushed to the bathrooms on different floors.

“What's wrong?” Luo Shan asked a colleague with concern.

The male colleague, holding his stomach, said, “I don't know, everyone suddenly started vomiting and having diarrhea. Could it be food poisoning?”

Seeing this, Franca urgently called the police and dialed the emergency number for Crimson Moon Hospital.

While the administrative department staff waited for the ambulances and other department staff came to help, Franca covered her mouth and started dry heaving.

“I've been affected too...” she said to Luo Shan.

Luo Shan assessed her own physical condition. “I feel it a little, but I'm okay.”

Soon, ambulances from Crimson Moon Hospital arrived and took the affected administrative department staff to the hospital.

The entire administrative department was suddenly left with only four people, one of whom was Luo Shan.

Mr. Ed looked at Luo Shan, his expression grave, and said, “You hold down the fort for now. Don't worry about the firing.”

“Okay.” Luo Shan was both confused and bewildered.

From earlier, Lumian, as a security guard, had been running up and down, helping the administrative department staff go to Crimson Moon Hospital.

During this process, he found an opportunity to get close to Franca, and they exchanged a glance.

As agreed, Lumian spread the mystical pathogen causing stomach flu to Franca, in case she went to the hospital later and nothing was found, making her a suspect.

“How did they get food poisoning?” Old Xia looked at the departing vehicles and asked confusedly, “Everyone ate at the same cafeteria, didn't they? Did they order some unclean takeout?”

“Who knows,” Lumian said as he turned to walk back, receiving a message from Franca.

The message read: “You can go check out the administrative department. Those who can still maintain some health and continue working are likely to be Beyonders, like Luo Shan.”

Chapter 973 An Unexpected Visitor

When Lumian arrived at the administrative department, several professionals were already there collecting physical evidence for analysis, including but not limited to leftover milk tea, liquid from the water dispenser, discarded takeout containers, vomit, and swabs from computers, desks, and air conditioning vents...

After they finished, another group of specialists began a full disinfection process.

During this time, Luo Shan and the other administrative staff who were still working could only wait in the hallway.

At a glance, Lumian noticed that besides Mr. Ed and Luo Shan, only two people seemed unaffected by the mystical pathogen. Their complexion and movements appeared quite normal.

One was a male, relatively tall by Yangdu standards, standing over six feet. The other was a woman in her thirties, with a round face, slightly overweight, not particularly attractive but not ugly either.

They don't seem to be after Mr. Huang... or rather, not after Mr. Huang's body... Why would Beyonders work diligently in the Intis Group's administrative department? Lumian tried to fathom their intentions based on his own thinking.

Of course, he couldn't be certain that there weren't any Beyonders among those who went to Crimson Moon Hospital. Perhaps there was a Demoness waiting for a chance to have a taste of Mr. Huang, but upon sensing the presence and erosion of the mystical pathogen, she feigned severe symptoms and went to the hospital to avoid being discovered?

Luo Shan also noticed the reportedly handsome security guard and felt he lived up to her expectations.

After a while, Mr. Ed received a phone call.

“The problems aren't serious, and the situation has stabilized?” Mr. Ed asked happily.

Then he heard Zhang Qing on the other end say: “The test results show a mild viral infection. The doctor said they can go home after finishing their IV drips, take medication for two more days, rest a bit, and they'll be fine.

“More than a dozen people have already applied for sick leave, planning to stay home for a couple of days to recover. They're also asking if this counts as a work-related injury and if there's any compensation.”

Mr. Ed's temple twitched as he suppressed his emotions and said, "They should rest at home. We can't have them forcing themselves to work and risking more serious problems. As for whether it counts as a work-related injury, ask the legal department when you get back."

"Alright," Zhang Qing said, "But there are also more than a dozen people who say they want to come back to work, however..."

"However what?" Mr. Ed asked.

Zhang Qing replied ambiguously, "They're all the ones who like to dress up, except for Luo Fu."

Even sick beauties were beauties—Mr. Huang might feel sympathetic when he saw them.

Mr. Ed was momentarily speechless.

Is it only the new employees who are eager to work and take their jobs seriously?

Meanwhile, Lumian used the incident in the administrative department as an excuse to keep watch nearby, occasionally offering help.

This was also to guard against Luo Shan being eliminated by the Celestial Worthy's subordinates in the chaos—as a Painter, she had some ability to protect herself, but she clearly lacked experience and could easily let her guard down in crowded situations. Now, with Franca in the hospital, she couldn't rely on Mirror Substitution to escape a first strike.

After Franca returned from Crimson Moon Hospital to help Luo Shan and others deal with the backlog of work, Lumian and Old Xia went back to the security department on the thirteenth floor.

He continued to ponder how to treat An Xiaotian.

He believed that An Xiaotian becoming a vegetable was symbolic, representing the decline and disappearance of Antigonus's spiritual imprint within The Fool's Uniqueness. This couldn't be reversed through normal methods, so he had to seek a solution from the essence.

Find a way to strengthen Antigonus's spiritual imprint within The Fool's Uniqueness? But Antigonus can't enter Mr. Fool's dream now. Even if He's willing to provide the corresponding items, we'd have to corrupt Zhou Mingrui, the symbol of The Fool's Uniqueness, to achieve our goal. This would damage our image in Zhou Mingrui's mind, wasting all our previous efforts, and it's extremely dangerous.

Franca and Jenna's approach isn't wrong. Using the power of the Great Mother might awaken An Xiaotian, but it's not treatment or having An Xiaotian have a child. It's new birth, symbolically meaning that Antigonus's spiritual imprint within The Fool's Uniqueness is reborn. Whether the reborn An Xiaotian is a friend or foe is hard to say, but he would inevitably interfere with Mr. Fool's awakening...

Sequence 7 Heretic Spellmaster of the Villain pathway can perform rebirth rituals. Theoretically, Great Mother bestowed like Grimm can wake An Xiaotian, but it involves reversing symbolism. I estimate only a rebirth ritual performed by someone with godhood would be effective. In the dream city, Grimm and others believe only I, the fake Child of God, have this, while others don't. Well, there should be another place that has it, the basement of Mushu Hospital, but sending An Xiaotian there would be purely creating an enemy for ourselves...

After pondering for a long time, Lumian felt that both current approaches had significant problems. The hidden dangers and negative impacts far outweighed the gains, and it wasn't something he and his companions would choose.

He began to consider this matter from the perspective of finding loopholes.

Soon, he thought of someone: Li Keji!

Mr. Fool's subconscious understanding of Li Keji's mushrooms should come from Gehrman Sparrow's interactions with Frank Lee.

From what we've seen, he seems to think Li Keji's mushrooms are quite dangerous, with various possibilities, producing some incredible effects.

The essence of this city is a dream, and dreams are idealistic. As long as Mr. Fool truly believes Li Keji's mushrooms can achieve incredible things, Li Keji could create a mushroom to treat An Xiaotian and wake him up!

It's not the mushroom treating An Xiaotian, but Mr. Fool's subconscious being guided to reverse the symbolism.

Of course, that awakening would inevitably be distorted, abnormal, and horrifying, but if An Xiaotian could use this to say everything he wants to warn me, it would be acceptable... The more Lumian thought about it, the more he felt that using Li Keji might be useful.

He planned to find an opportunity to talk with Li Keji through the door of the hospital room.

The original of this biology teacher was really a Doctor!

Jenna, who was observing other incarnations corresponding to Mr. Fool, received a call from Hall Film Company, asking her to head over to the talent department tomorrow to sign a manager contract.

Phew... I have a job now too. Jenna breathed a sigh of relief.

She even looked forward to filming movies and TV dramas but felt that the matter of awakening Mr. Fool wouldn't drag on that long, not until she joined a production.

At the same time, she felt that Hall Film Company was managed quite well. She had thought some interviewer would call in advance, hinting that she needed to do something to have a chance at a good contract.

She was prepared to use Charm to make the relevant personnel lose themselves, but nothing happened.

This was different from some things she had seen and heard at the Théâtre de l'Ancienne Cage à Pigeons.

As expected of a film company founded by Madam Justice... Jenna felt relieved.

After dark.

Lumian, who knew the target's schedule, took advantage of Zaratulstra's absence from the hotel to cross over from the mirror world and retrieve the surveillance content stored in the pinhole cameras and listening devices.

After midnight, he returned to the rented apartment in Xinhong District and used his phone to play back Zaratulstra's activities in the hotel room.

This wasn't to spy on what Zaratulstra was plotting or planning to accomplish—though that would be a bonus. Lumian's main purpose was to observe Zaratulstra's behavior when alone, to find out how many marionettes he could currently maintain, how often he summoned Historical Void images, how long these images would dissipate on their own, and other such information.

This was preparation for an upcoming surprise attack and encirclement to kill Zaratulstra.

Although Zaratulstra was also suppressed to Sequence 7, he still had an Angel's rank. Many of his abilities' effects and ranges were somewhat different from a true Sequence 7.

Take the number of marionettes, for example. A normal Marionettist who had just advanced to Sequence 5 could only control one marionette. If restricted to Sequence 7 level, theoretically, they wouldn't be able to control marionettes at all, only using marionettization for killing. But this ability might qualitatively change at Sequence 4 and Sequence 2, reducing spirituality consumption and lowering control difficulty. After that, even if the ability was suppressed to Sequence 7, it would still essentially exist, just with less pronounced effects.

In other words, Zaratulstra could still control marionettes, but the number was very limited—perhaps two, perhaps only one. Lumian now needed to confirm these details.

Without grasping the relevant intelligence, if they directly launched a surprise attack and tried to encircle and kill Zaratulstra, given their superior numbers, they might have some hope of defeating or forcing him to retreat. But achieving their predetermined goal would be almost impossible. The Seer pathway was known for its strong survival abilities!

Lumian stared intently at the phone screen, not missing any detail.

For now, he was skipping through, selecting only scenes with human activity.

When the surveillance video reached 11 pm last night, Lumian saw Zaratulstra, dressed in a black robe, walk to the door and open it.

Someone entered from outside.

The person wore sunglasses even at night, dressed in a black T-shirt and dark jeans that wouldn't attract attention, about six feet tall.

Who could it be? Lumian's focus intensified.

After entering the room, the person looked left and right, then removed the sunglasses perched on their nose, revealing a face quite familiar to Lumian.

He had seen videos of this person being interviewed and participating in certain activities online.

It was Jia Yu, the actor who played Gehrman Sparrow!

He doesn't look too much like Zhou Mingrui, which shouldn't be a problem, so why is he visiting Zaratulstra late at night? What have we missed? Lumian's pupils dilated as he watched more intently.

He was grateful for the technology that provided him with assistance, but also worried that Zaratulstra might have already discovered the presence of the pinhole cameras and listening devices, deliberately staging this scene.

Jia Yu sat down in the sofa area and talked with Zaratulstra for nearly fifteen minutes, then stood up and left.

Lumian quickly stopped playing the surveillance video, deciding to first listen to whether the listening device had recorded any dialog during that time period.