The Legendary Hero 21 - 30

Chapter 21: The Old Man Who

Plays Chess

Now that Han Xiao had escaped from the Germinal Organization,

he no

longer had access to the resources that he would need to become stronger.

Joining the Six Nations would solve this problem.

Han Xiao already had a plan in mind.

In Galaxy, there was known to be a secret encounter hidden in the Western

Capital.

Han Xiao arrived at the gates of a workshop concealed inside an inconspicuous alley. The workshop was nameless, but it had a spanner for a

logo.

The secret encounter will be mine in this life!

There was a chess table set up at the entrance of the workshop.

Two elderly

men were currently engaged in a game.

Their appearances were in stark contrast to one another. The shorter elderly

man was bearded and had long, unkempt hair, while the taller old man was

prim and proper. Both of them were staring at the chess board intently.

Han Xiao noticed that the tall old man had a missing arm.

Both of them paid little heed to Han Xiao as he stepped into the workshop.

Han Xiao took a look at the chess board. They seemed to be playing playing an intense game of Go.

Suddenly, Han Xiao realized that it was not Go at all! It was Five in a Row!

What the hell are you guys looking so serious for? The latest_epi_sodes are on_the website.

A woman appeared from within the workshop. "Do you need something

repaired?"

She had a fair complexion, rosy cheeks, and was around 1.65m tall. Her

hair was clipped behind with a black pin, and she was wearing a black vest

on top of denim shorts. Although Han Xiao wouldn't go so far as to call her

a stunning beauty, she did have an extremely pleasant-looking face. She

was very much the proverbial girl-next-door who had gentle eyes and a

warm smile. She seemed to be in her mid-twenties—Han Xiao's personal

preference.

Women at twenty can be compared to peaches—good to look at but not yet

ripe.

Women at thirty, on the other hand, are like ripe grapes.

Of course, these things are always a matter of taste.

As for women at forty...

Huh, what about fifty?

Fifty-year-old women cannot be described as fruits anymore!

They are

potatoes!

"May I know if this place needs an apprentice?" Han Xiao asked.

For some reason, the woman was overjoyed to hear his words.

She hastily

grabbed Han Xiao's eblow and pulled him in, as though afraid that he would change his mind.

"Come in, quickly! You might catch a cold."

Han Xiao looked up at the blazing sun and wondered, Is catching a cold the

dialect here for heat stroke?

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The workshop was largely coloured in black and white, and there

was a

second floor.

The first floor was the working area, and it was a fairly spacious area. There

were a number of vehicle platforms and workbenches equipped with

various tools and machinery. Han Xiao could tell from the

blemishes on the

workbenches that they were relatively old. There was also quite a number

of metal shelves lined up against the wall that were stacked with all sorts of

metals and spare parts.

"My name is Lu Qian. I'm the boss here. You can call me Sister Qian,"

introduced the woman.

"Sister Qian," Han Xiao greeted. He then inquired, "I wish to take up

apprenticeship here. Are there any requirements?"

"Tell me your situation," replied Lu Qian. Her first impression of Han Xiao

was quite favorable. She particularly liked the dead look in his eyes—they

made Han Xiao look like he was a bum.

He will probably be content with a low wage, she thought to herself.

"I come from afar. My name is Han Xiao. I'm 21 years old, and I have some

basic Hero skills. You can call me Technician Han."

Technician Han? A puzzled look appeared on Lu Qian's face.

"From afar... meaning you're not a student of the Western Capital School?"

The Western Capital School was an elite school that only a select few could

enroll in. It followed a special syllabus based on the knowledge given to

Aquamarine by the galactic civilization. There, students were taught

Pugilist and Hero knowledge. Many of its graduates went on to become important figures in Stardragon.

However, as less than 1 in 10,000 people possessed superpowers, having

guidance did not make it easier to awaken them.

"I've only learnt some basic Hero theory," Han Xiao replied humbly.

The source of this_chapter;

"That's a pity..." bemoaned Lu Qian.

"Sorry, I didn't mean it that way," she hastily added.

"It's fine."

"Anyway, I still need to test you. I do need a helper, but you will have to

meet my criteria first."

Lu Qian went to fetch a faulty household appliance back to test Han Xiao.

Before Han Xiao could begin, the shorter old man at the chess board

suddenly spoke. "Kid, why did you come here?"

Lu Qian frowned in puzzlement. Wasn't it just to find work?
Han Xiao looked at the old man and replied, "I'm just looking for a job."

For some reason, his reply upset the old man, and he flipped the chessboard.

"I am the owner of this shop. Pass my test, and I will allow you to stay."

"Oi, Old Man Lu, you're being a sore loser again," erupted the tall old man.

"I have something important to do," stated Old Man Lu matter-of-factly.

"Shameless," replied the tall old man exasperatedly.

You can_find the rest of this_content on the platform.

Chapter 22: Prosthetic Limb

Stardragon Strategic Defense Division, also known as Division 13. Han Xiao's mind was racing.

Old Man Lu was none other than the key character in the secret questline,

and Han Xiao had come here to meet him.

However, what Han Xiao had not expected was running into the tall old

man here. This old man was an important figure in Stardragon, and Han

Xiao knew that there was no point in trying to hide his identity from him.

Han Xiao's original plan had been to gain Division 13's trust before

revealing himself. He intended to do so by feeding them with anonymous

intel on the Germinal Organization. However, that was no longer possible.

To have to reveal himself to Division 13 so soon had certainly not

been a

part of Han Xiao's calculations, but Han Xiao was not rigid in his thinking.

Since remaining hidden was no longer an option, he might as well reveal

himself and demonstrate his value to them. Like they say, the enemy of an

enemy is a friend; Han Xiao and Stardragon shared common ground.

Fortunately, he was now in the city; if he had been exposed before entering,

it would have put himself in an unfavorable position to negotiate.

Furthermore, the unexpected turn of events might prove to be a good thing

instead. The tall old man was extremely influential, so gaining his trust

would give him quite the head start.

"What test?" he asked Old Man Lu in response.

Old Man Lu looked around as he tried to come up with something. Suddenly, his eyes lit up. Pointing towards the tall old man's missing arm,

he said, "Make him a prosthetic limb. If it satisfies him, you pass."

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"Why drag me into this?" The tall old man was confused, but he quickly

understood Old Man Lu's intentions from his subtle winks.

"Grandpa, you're too much! What if you scare him away? Every day, all

you do is drink, play chess, and go for strolls. When was the last time you

actually bothered to help out with the business? Can't I even get

a helper?"

Lu Qian was disgruntled, but her words fell on deaf ears. Old Man Lu

ignored her as he looked at Han Xiao for a reply.

For some reason though, Han Xiao seemed amused.

"Are you sure you want me to make a prosthetic arm that satisfies him?" he

asked to clarify.

"If you're scared then leave!"

"I accept," Han Xiao happily agreed to the task.

He still had the [Bionic Arm] blueprints that sat gathering dust in his

inventory! Not only was Old Man Lu's request too simple for Han Xiao, it

even presented him with the opportunity to curry favor with the tall old

man! For some reason, everything seemed to be going well for Han Xiao, as

though someone was looking out for him.

"You only have three hours; I don't have the time to wait an entire day," Old

Man Lu snorted.

"Grandpa!" Lu Qian exclaimed in protest.

Creating a bionic limb was not a straightforward task.

Measurements first

had to be taken, followed by designing, and lastly crafting.

Designing alone

would take hours, and while using a workbench would speed up much of

the crafting process, that would still take another two hours! It was

completely unfair!

You can_find the rest of this_content on the platform.

However, Han Xiao, was not flustered at all. He whipped out a measuring

tape and asked the tall old man politely, "Senior, may I?"

The tall old man removed his outerwear without fuss. He observed Han

Xiao thoughtfully as his measurements were taken. To remain calm and

confident despite being pressed so was praiseworthy, he thought.

But why would the Germinal Organization lay a million dollar bounty on

him?

Yes, the tall old man indeed recognized Han Xiao. The Germinal Organization's issuing of a bounty had caused a huge commotion in the

underworld and this resulted in Han Xiao's face becoming well known.

Such news did not escape his ears.

'Looks like there's some corrupt guards again,' he concluded from Han

Xiao's presence here in the city.

'Why did Han Xiao come to the Western Capital?

Does he pose a threat to Stardragon?

These were the questions on the tall old man's mind. He decided to continue

observing Han Xiao for now.

While Old Man Lu did not know anything about the infamous Zero, he had

his reason for wanting to chase Han Xiao away. A seasoned veteran

himself, he was able to sense that Han Xiao had killed before. He simply

wanted to avoid trouble where he could.

"Looks like Old Lu is leaving it to me," thought the tall old man as the pair

exchanged glances.

As soon as Han Xiao finished taking measurements, Lu Qian offered him

her help.

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"Tell me your concept. We can draw up the plans together to save time."

"No need, I already have the perfect design," declined Han Xiao unexpectedly.

"Only two minutes?"

Lu Qian's eyes were wide with disbelief.

"Your bragging might even reach the moon!"

Old Man Lu burst out in laughter. To come up with a complete blueprint in

just two minutes was an impossible task even for him, what more a kid like

Han Xiao?

Han Xiao passed a list of the materials and tools he needed to Lu Qian, who

swiftly went to fetch everything. However, she did not hold much hope for

Han Xiao as the test was simply absurd and unfair.

Han Xiao started to use the pressing machine to shape metals into shapes

and parts. He planned to use an aluminum alloy as the core material of the

arm as aluminum alloys were light, yet sturdy, but also easy to shape.

Having parts like screws, rivets, and chains readily provided saved him a lot of time.

[Basic Machinery Affinity] gave Han Xiao keen intuition for the composition of machines. For a second, it seemed to him like the

parts

themselves came to life, as though they were excited at the prospect of

being assembled into a machine. A Hero's affinity and skills with machines was extremely important. Each level in [Basic

Machinery

Affinity] improved production quantity as well as crafting speed by 1%.

A top-class bionic limb could be operated simply by thought, and would be

functionally indiscernible from a real limb. The prosthetic arm of the

Winter Soldier was a strengthened version of such a limb.

However, the

installation of such a prosthetic would require surgery, as well as the

'Control' talents of [Basic Electromagnetism] and [Nerve Integration].

With cybernetics, it was possible to replace any part of the body, except the

brain, with machines to turn a person into a cyborg that relies not on

physical stamina and bio-energy, but modular upgrades and replacements

instead. Although a cyborg wouldn't need to eat or drink to survive, and

could live much longer than a normal human, the loss of one's human

senses would gradually make a cyborg susceptible to manipulation and

eventually cause them to lose their sense of self. While this could

prevented by implementing thought programming and logic parameters to

immunize one against external influences, they would then lose their

freedom of thought instead. More advanced civilizations used this method

to produce cannon fodder.

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A voice-controlled prosthetic could also be made with the 'Control' talent,

[Basic Acoustics]. Heros were a multi-layered class that was able to

utilize all sorts of knowledge to create different versions of tools for the

same purpose.

Presently, though, Han Xiao was not that far advanced as a Hero, and

his concept was very simple; he was using the Lightweight Heroal Arm as a model for his prosthetic. He planned to incorporate its dynamics

and chains into his prosthetic for realistic movement. Unlike the Lightweight Heroal Arm, however, it would run on clean batteries

instead of smoke-causing fuel.

Old Man Lu watched Han Xiao as he enjoyed a bottle of beer. He couldn't

wait to see him make a fool of himself.

Chapter 23: You Set Me Up!

As Han Xiao began to weld and assemble the parts he created, the prosthetic arm began to take shape. The others were surprised by the fact

that Han Xiao did not create any excess parts. He had been thoroughly

efficient from the start, which proved that he had actually planned

everything out.

"My god, he won't actually succeed, will he?" muttered Old Man Lu,

causing Lu Qian to glare at him. What a sly grandpa!

Seeing them look so amazed almost caused Han Xiao to burst out in

laughter. How could he possibly fail when he already had the blueprint in

his memory?

You have created [Bionic Arm – Left (Heroal Version)], giving you 2000 exp!

[Bionic Arm – Left (Heroal Version)]

Special Item

A very realistic prosthetic created using the principles of machine dynamics

and suspension. Adjustable to suit the user's needs, it is soft, yet extremely

durable!

The polished metallic prosthetic took Han Xiao a total of 2 hours and 33

minutes to make. One look at its structure and everyone present could tell

that it was an extremely functional prosthetic.

Everyone was shocked!

He really made it!

As Lu Qian covered her mouth in disbelief, a single thought came to her

mind. I've struck gold!

"This prosthetic will look realistic if you cover it with—"

"Save the bullshit, let's test it now," interrupted Old Man Lu as he

swallowed his saliva. Although Han Xiao had truly exceeded his expectations, his mind was still unchanged.

Foll_ow new_episo_des on the platform.

The tall old man rolled his eyes at Old Man Lu and picked the prosthetic up

to examine it. He instantly fell in love with it. It fit onto his stump extremely comfortably, unlike other prosthetics that had nonadjustable,

rigid attachments. The reason that he did not like to wear a prosthetic arm

was that they always got in the way of his movement. However,

Han Xiao's

creation did not give him this problem. It felt so realistic that when he

moved it, it felt like he had grown back an arm! The elastic suspension

enabled him to effortlessly make simple movements.

Perfection!

This was the only word that could describe how he felt about it.

"What do you think? Satisfactory?" asked Old Man Lu coolly as he sipped

on his beer.

Lu Qian looked anxiously at the tall old man.

The tall old man found himself in a tight spot. Should he help his friend? Or

should he say his true feelings? Which was more important?

"This thing is excellent. I'm satisfied!"

Old Man Lu spat out his beer and glared at the tall old man as he coughed

continuously.

Weren't we allies? We had a plan!

"Since you like it, you can have it." Han Xiao was not surprised at all.

The tall old man nodded his head and replied, "I will remember this favor."

Old Man Lu was flabbergasted. The arm was made with my materials! Did

you ask for my permission?

"Then, can I stay?" Han Xiao turned to Old Man Lu and asked, his lips

curling.

Old Man Lu's shock immediately turned into embarrassment. As he turned

around to head upstairs, he reluctantly replied, "Whatever, if you want to

stay, then stay. Let's see how long you'll last."

Lu Qian shook her fists in celebration.

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The tall old man smiled at Han Xiao before leaving the workshop.

After

walking out of the alley, he entered a black sedan car that had been waiting

for him.

The chauffeur respectfully passed a mobile phone to him. As the tall old

man picked up the phone, his entire demeanor completely changed. He now

looked extremely stern, a totally different person from the genial old man

from before.

"The Germinal Organization fugitive has snuck into the Western Capital.

These are the coordinates..." he spoke in a deep voice. "Have the intelligence department monitor him for now. I have come into contact with

the target, and will slowly find out his intentions. Unless

necessary, do not

act."

Deserters of the Germinal Organization were highly valued by the Six

Nations as they sometimes held valuable information.

Unfortunately, most

of the deserters were usually small fry. Han Xiao, on the other hand, was

the first person to have a bounty issued for on him; it followed that it was

highly likely that he possessed crucial information.

In the workshop, Han Xiao turned his eyes back from where the tall old

man had left.

His performance should have let the tall old man know that he was not

hostile, and laid the groundwork for a better relationship.

There were three things for Han Xiao to gain from coming to the workshop.

The first was that Old Man Lu kept a very comprehensive collection of

Hero-related basic knowledge.

The second was that this workshop was a good place to hide from the

Germinal Organization. While the Germinal Organization had spies across

the Six Nations, they did not know every single nook and cranny.

This

workshop was one of the few places that they were not aware of.

And even

if they found it, there was Old Man Lu. Old Man Lu was far stronger than

the current Hila. Although he appeared like some carefree good-fornothing, he was actually one of the few Class-D

superhumans on the planet.

On beginner planets in Version 1.0, the strongest superhumans were only

Class-C.

There was a lot of discussion regarding why Heros were a superhuman

class, such as: 'If Heros were limited to a normal human's standards, it

would restrict their inventions by over 90%, and 'Only a superhuman can

use some of the stronger machines they make. At higher levels, there were

stricter requirements for using the machines that Heros made.

Some of

them were even not usable by the other four classes, but only by Heros.

Heros were not all about big guns and giant robots! A high level Hero could specialize in one of many things. They might prefer to wield swords, specialize in assassination, or even pilot mobile suits! These

were but a few of the endless possibilities that the class had to offer.

The official information described the class as such: "Masters of combat

machinery and compaction. Well balanced."

After learning [Compression Technology] and [Spatial Technology],

Heros would be able to disassemble and compress huge machinery into

small capsules that they could activate whenever they wanted to reassemble

them instantaneously!

After learning certain skills like [Rapid Assembly], Heros with a large

amount of energy would be able to create machines on the fly without the

need for tools or equipment. All they needed was sufficient energy and

necessary materials, and they would be able to bypass the creation process

and instantaneously create whatever they needed.

Player inventories were weight-realistic, and with these abilities, Heros

were the only class—apart from Mages and telekinetic ESPers—to be able

to disregard weight constraints.

The third reason that Han Xiao had come to the workshop was the most

important one, for the secret story line! Its rewards were some blueprints of

early level godly equipment!

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In the future, Old Man Lu would leave the workshop and leave behind a

digital safe that contained these blueprints. He would instruct Lu Qian to

pass it to her father, Lu Cheng, who was a warlord amongst the wanderers.

He and his father, Old Man Lu, were always on bad terms.

Back in the game, a player managed to complete the tedious quest line and

obtain the password to the safe. He then had to painstakingly search for the

necessary materials to craft those equipment. However, it all proved worth

it. With just that equipment, he was able to dominate the PVP arena and set

the highest record of 38 continuous victories!

While all that time and effort was certainly worth it for that player, Han

Xiao didn't have to go through the entire quest line as he already knew the

password!

Although the secret quest line was a competitive quest, and only one person

could complete it, other players that attempted it also learnt the password to

the safe. Since it was not a big deal, the password was posted alongside

information to the quest line in various forums.

Still, the story line only occurred after release, so there was still plenty of

time before then. Han Xiao intended to foster a good relationship with them

first.

For the godly equipment!

"I'll explain your apprenticeship. Your meals and

accommodation will be

provided for; there is an unused room on the second floor. Your job scope

will consist of helping out with maintenance work, as well as orders. I'll pay

you % 1000 a month, is that fine?"

Lu Qian looked at Han Xiao nervously. She knew that he was skilled, but

she truly did not have the money to offer him a higher salary.

"I accept!" said Han Xiao without hesitation, at which she rejoiced.

On the second floor was a full apartment complete with a living room, a

kitchen, and several bedrooms.

Lu Qian brought Han Xiao to his bedroom. It was furnished simply with a

wooden bed, a wardrobe, a book shelf, and a small work space.

"This is now your room," said Lu Qian happily as she passed the key to Han

Xiao and began to dust the area.

She really couldn't be any happier. A thousand dollars was a very small

amount of money, not even enough for an average person's monthly meal

expenses! Han Xiao was a steal!

I must treat this kid well so he won't run away! she thought to herself.

Han Xiao didn't know whether to laugh or cry. Shouldn't the job applicant

be the nervous one, instead of the boss?

Foll_ow new_episo_des on the platform.

Chapter 24: What Is Weak?

Lu Qian left after tidying up the room.

Han Xiao climbed onto the bed and closed his eyes. Now, he had to wait for

Division 13 to approach him.

"I am not strong enough yet."

Han Xiao understood that he couldn't just rely on Stardragon to deal with

the Germinal Organization. He had to become much stronger in order to be

able to take matters into his own hands. In any case, for now, he also had to

be strong enough to gain Division 13's special attention.

Since there were neither quests to do nor monsters to hunt, the only way to

get stronger now was through crafting. Han Xiao would need

money to

make machines, so he planned to find some way to make extra income. The

city provided him with many opportunities. His long journey had only just

begun.

With only six months left to launch, he had to treasure the remaining time.

After resting for a while, Han Xiao returned downstairs. Lu Qian was

working on a household appliance at the workbench. Her denim shorts truly

accentuated her perky curves, and Han Xiao couldn't help but steal glances

at those slender, long legs of hers.

"The orders are in the drawer," she said to Han Xiao as she wiped her sweat with a towel.

The workshop didn't see much business and most of the orders were

advance orders. Han Xiao picked out a few easy ones and began working.

At 7 PM, they closed for the day.

Lu Qian changed into a comfy white dress and let her hair down, giving her

the air of a kind, beautiful sister. There were patches sewn onto her dress,

implying that they weren't doing so well financially. Han Xiao wondered if

the reason she wore so little during work was if she was saving fabric.

Old Man Lu finally showed his face for dinner.

"Let's eat."

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Old Man Lu with his long and, messy hair certainly did not seem the type

of person to do household chores. Their meals were, indeed, always

prepared by Lu Qian.

Han Xiao picked up a piece of char siu 1 with his chopsticks and placed it

in his mouth. It was fatty but not oily, and was extremely tasteful.

Han Xiao

was visibly delighted.

"Delicious, right?" smiled Lu Qian in glee.

Now this—this is proper food! What the hell have I been eating for the past

6 months?

"There's still a lot, so eat slowly," she added, pleased by the sight of his

voracious appetite.

As they continued eating, Old Man Lu suddenly asked, "Who exactly are

you?"

Han Xiao, stopping his chopsticks in mid-air, replied, "I'm just an ordinary

person."

"Do you think you can deceive me with such a blatant lie, kid?

Tell me the

truth," the old man snorted.

Han Xiao's eye twitched.

"And what if I don't want to?"

"Don't want to?"

Suddenly, Old Man Lu tilted his head back as he began to release a

domineering aura of strange, wild melancholy that threatened to

engulf Han

Xiao.

A look of seriousness appeared on Han Xiao's face. Twisting, he leapt

backwards five meters, raising his arms in a cross-shaped guard to defend

himself.

The latest_epi_sodes are on_the website.

Old Man Lu's eyes narrowed.

"I have a skill that can kill the target's very soul in an instant. Do you want

to test it?" he asked.

"Does such a godly skill really exist?" Han Xiao's face began to pale.

"The level of strength I have attained cannot be comprehended by the likes

of you!" Old Man Lu snorted in reply.

Suddenly, a black, stormy cloud arose from behind Lu Qian.

Lightning

crackled and thunder roared. Wearing the same usual smile that she always

displayed, she tapped the table with her chopsticks and ordered plainly, "Sit

down and eat."

The duo instantly returned to their original positions and continued eating,

as though nothing had happened at all.

The Western Capital was vast, comprising of eight districts and three

citadels interconnected by military roads.

District 1 was the central district and the Western Capital's seat of

government. Regular citizens were not allowed inside.

Although the Six Nations were united against the Germinal Organization,

they still remained competitive with one another. After all, alliances were

only temporary. The assassination of important figures occurred frequently

amongst the Six Nations, and although they would always blame these

incidents on the Germinal Organization or other dangerous individuals, the

governments knew that 70% of them were each other's doing.

The Germinal Organization, the wanderer's army, intelligence agencies and

brokers, illegal arms dealers, individual criminals, mercenary assassins,

hackers, and other kinds of shady groups comprised the planet's underworld.

Dragonhorn Tower was the central building of the government, where the

top brass operated from. Its walls were reputed to be strong enough to repel

intercontinental missiles.

The headquarters of a secret department was situated below Dragonhorn

Tower.

Beneath Dragonhorn Tower, at an undisclosed basement level was the

Stardragon Strategic Defense Division.

This_content is taken from

Dozens of screens hung from the wall, displaying countless data and

information. Intelligence agents typed away at their keyboards while even

more bustled around. This place was the central network of the

government,

where information was filtered and channeled.

Division 13 served not only as Stardragon's ears and eyes, but also as a

hidden knife.

"Reporting: 'Zero' has been located."

A gentle-looking bespectacled female secretary hastily knocked open the

office door of the department's director. A stern-faced man was seated

behind the desk. Drool could be seen on the corner of his mouth.

"Speak," he said in a low voice.

"Director, were you secretly taking a nap again?" The bespectacled secretary squinted at him.

"Cut the crap!" The intelligence director glared back. "Talk."

"Zero is currently hiding in a machinery maintenance shop in district 7."

The director swiveled away from his secretary and she could hear him sigh

in contemplation with his back faced towards her. After a moment, he

turned around to face her again and said, "The higher-ups want to adopt a

friendly approach."

"You just turned back to wipe your drool, right?"

"I really regret promoting you..."

The secretary pushed her glasses up and ignored him. "How exactly should

we proceed?"

"Since Zero came to the Western Capital alone, he must want to cooperate...

Activate protection protocol immediately. We must not let

Germinal's

agents learn of his presence here. Have the hackers intercept any news of

his trail and prevent leaks. Also, send an undercover agent to check him

out; he might just be a spy they sent. Get confirmation before making direct

contact."

The source of this_chapter;

"A traitor worth a one million dollar bounty. There are two possibilities:

either he possesses important information, or he possesses great power. For

now, we are unable to ascertain how dangerous he might be, so proceed

with utmost caution. I don't want a repeat of what happened with Black

Spider. Two streets bombed yet we failed to apprehend him. I was scolded

for two whole hours by the minister as a result of that." 'char siu' is a

popular way to flavor and prepare barbecued pork in Cantonese food. It's a

type of 'sui mei'; Cantonese roasted meat.

Chapter 25: New Talent!

As the workshop wasn't that busy, Han Xiao had quite a lot of free time to

look for the extra income he needed.

Kero Junkyard: the biggest disposal ground in District 7. Here, endless piles

of trash were sorted out everyday.

This place fell under the territory of an underworld boss known as Big

Raccoon. Where there is light, there will be shadows—such is society—and

this holds all the more true in times of chaos.

Although the Western Capital was the main capital of Stardragon, it was

certainly not a holy sanctuary for the law-abiding. It was infiltrated with

spies from other nations, and plagued by criminal networks and illegal

businesses. Small-time bosses like Big Raccoon may have been infamous,

but they were certainly not the key players.

As Han Xiao entered the junkyard with a dust mask on, he was stopped by a

few vicious-looking thugs.

"Kid, you're in the wrong neighborhood."

A bald, muscular thug blocked Han Xiao's path as he stared him down. To

them, Han Xiao, with his small frame, looked like an easy target to bully.

Han Xiao, unfazed, spoke. "I want to see Raccoon."

The thugs instantly burst out in laughter.

"We don't have time to play with you, kid. Run home to mummy, or I'll

break your legs," threatened the bald thug.

"Is that what Raccoon teaches his dogs to say?"

"What did you say?" The bald thug was enraged. He began to grab Han

Xiao by the collar.

Han Xiao looked back at the thug calmly as he squeezed his wrist. The pain caused the thug to let go of his grip, and when he looked at his

wrist, he found that there were already bruise marks on them.

"Friend, which gang are you from?" The bald thug's expression had

changed to one of caution.

Suddenly, he paused to listen to his receiver and stepped away from Han

Xiao's path, saying, "The boss wants to see you."

Han Xiao followed the bald thug and was brought to a resting area inside

the junkyard where a thin man sat cross-legged on a sofa as he enjoyed a

glass of red wine. From his appearance alone it was hard to believe that this

man was the infamous Raccoon who ruled the District 7 underworld.

New novel_chap_ters are published here:

"I heard that you want to see me. What's your name?" he casually asked.

"Technician Han," answered Han Xiao.

The Raccoon sneered.

"You should know what will happen to you if you're just wasting my time."

The reason why he had agreed to letting Han Xiao in was that he was

curious to see what business a snotty-looking brat had with him.

Suddenly, Han Xiao reached out to steal the bald thug's gun. The bald thug

felt a tug at his waist and turned around, but it was too late.

The grunts behind Raccoon hastily drew their guns.

"What's the meaning of this?" he asked nervously. The bald thug was one of

his most trusted subordinates, and he was strong enough to take on ten people at the same time. Yet, he wasn't able to react to Han Xiao's speed!

Who the hell is this kid?

Unexpectedly, Han Xiao began to disassemble the gun, but it wasn't a

simple disassembly. The gun unraveled almost instantaneously, as if Han

Xiao were performing some kind of magic; the disassembled parts fell and

scattered onto the floor.

"Firearms are a sure-profit. I can help you manufacture them in exchange

for a little bit of compensation."

This kid can make guns!

Firearms were hot in demand in the black market. Using a gun and making

a gun were two completely separate concepts. Heros who knew how to

create guns were rare and highly esteemed. Even though Raccoon was the

leader of a gang, they were just small-time hoodlums. To be able to find a

Hero willing to make guns for them was inconceivable; yet, here Han

Xiao was. 'This is my chance!' thought Raccoon.

"What arrangements do you have in mind?"

"I will make a list of materials and parts for you to gather.

Manufacturing

and assembly will all be done by me. I'll come here to work for two hours

every morning. I want % 1500 per gun, and freedom to take anything I want from this junkyard."

Han Xiao had already thoroughly analyzed the Germinal Organization's

guns. He was now able to easily make simple guns.

"Since I'm providing the materials, % 1000," negotiated Raccoon.

Han Xiao instantly turned around and began to walk away.

Foll_ow new_episo_des on the platform.

This caused Raccoon to become flustered. He had only been trying to test

out Han Xiao, and did not expect such a big reaction.

"Wait wait—we'll follow your charges," he hastily said.

One handgun was worth % 3,000 to % 4,000 on the black market.

Han Xiao's

asking fee was still quite reasonable.

"Get a workbench ready, along with the materials. I will come from

tomorrow onwards. I'll go check the junkyard out now."

A skilled craftsman always retained the power to dictate his terms.

Han

Xiao knew full well his own value. Furthermore, his true strength and

identity was a mystery to them. This gave him the complete upper hand.

. . .

Han Xiao salvaged quite a number of parts from the junkyard before

leaving. As he left, he noticed that someone was following him. Clearly,

Raccoon was trying to find out more information about him.

However, for

Han Xiao, shaking him off the thug was an easy task.

Division 13 will learn of my Hero skills... thought Han Xiao to himself.

The fact that he was working with Raccoon would definitely be found out

by them. In any case, it was a way to demonstrate his abilities to them, plus

he also needed the opportunity to craft machinery for experience. The reason he had chosen Raccoon was due to the junkyard's proximity.

. . .

When he returned to the workshop, Lu Qian questioned his whereabouts.

"I went to the junkyard," said Han Xiao, pointing to the big bag of spare parts in his hand.

"The junkyard? That place is not safe. Don't go there in the future."

Lu Qian wasn't really concerned with what Han Xiao did in his free time as

long as his did his job right. In fact, she had a soft spot for people who did

not demand high pay.

Han Xiao put the spare parts aside and summoned the interface.

He still had

a lot of unused talent points, and he decided he would dump all of them into

the two unlocked 'Arms' talents.

This workshop was a treasure trove of Hero knowledge. It was one of

the best places to level up as a Hero. Han Xiao went to look for Old

Man Lu to borrow some of his books. He found him cooped up in his room

as he expected.

"I wish to borrow some Hero knowledge books."

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"Go away, you! There's not a single book for you here."

"Don't be so petty! Think of it as investing into a promising young man and nurturing him."

"...It seems like you are more thick-skinned than me. However, I simply

don't want to lend you my books. What can you do about it?"
What, indeed, could Han Xiao do about it?

. . .

The following day, Lu Qian entered Old Man Lu's room with a spare key

and stole some books for Han Xiao. Old Man Lu was infuriated.

"Why do I have such a disloyal granddaughter?

"Just you wait! I will make you leave this workshop!"

. . .

In Galaxy, each player's advancement mission was not always the same.

Han Xiao's Lv. 20 advancement mission could be counted as one of the

harder ones as advancement knowledge was extremely rare on beginner

planets. In fact, his advancement difficulty was actually comparable to a Lv.

40 one.

Most Lv. 20 characters were usually unable to find basic knowledge for

even one talent tree. Some unlucky ones would not even have a main class.

Since there wasn't any advancement knowledge in the workshop, Han Xiao

could only learn more basic knowledge. However, Han Xiao was content

with this. Finding knowledge books was a common problem for

players.

Some players weren't even able to learn all their class's basic knowledge by

Lv. 40 or even Lv. 50!

Fortunately for Han Xiao, the workshop contained a complete set of basic

Hero knowledge, which more than gave him a head start—it was an

expressway to the finish line!

Inter-galactic Contact Law (7th Edition).

"When coming into contact with new civilizations, these 127 intrusive

actions are to be avoided: war, gene manipulation..."

This was why Planet Aquamarine had not been given any cutting-edge

technology. Advanced knowledge was the best that the planet had to offer,

and even that itself was heavily controlled and treated as a top secret.

Foll_ow new_episo_des on the platform.

Add 1 talent point into [Basic Weaponry]? Yes/No

Add 1 talent point into [Basic Material Composition]? Yes/No "Confirm."

Chapter 26: Blueprint: Robot

(Type: Rover)

[Basic Weaponry] contained knowledge on how to craft simple guns and

conventional weaponry. It also increased mastery and crafting speeds.

[Basic Material Composition] was one of the core Weaponry talents. The

quality and grade of a product was affected by that of its

materials, and

many of the key materials for higher level machinery were synthetic

compounds that had to be crafted.

You have learnt five Weaponry talents! You have unlocked [Novice

Refining] and [Overload]!

You have unlocked the blueprint [Robot - Rover]!

[Novice Refining] allowed one to refine materials for higher quality ones.

Any skills or abilities with the terms 'novice', 'beginner', or 'basic' were

generally the lowest versions of themselves. Most of them would have more

advanced versions. For example, [Molecular Refining], that allowed the

user to perform instantaneous molecular manipulation simply by expending

Energy.

Materials were graded similarly to equipment. Of course, the higher the

grade, the higher the value, but the two materials of the same grade could

also have differing values. For example, a common iron ore was worth

about % 13 a pound, while a refined dark iron ore was worth about % 45 a

pound. Both were Common materials.

[Overload] – Active Skill

Drains Energy to temporarily increase the output of Machinery by 30–50%

at the cost of durability. If Han Xiao activated this skill together

with his

Lightweight Heroal Arm, its damage and defense would both be significantly boosted. However, with only 120 Energy, he would only be

able to maintain the skill for 10 seconds or so.

I've finally unlocked an active skill! rejoiced Han Xiao. Heros had so

few active skills in their early levels that it was quite sad. His escape from

the Germinal would have been much, much easier had he possessed this

active skill back then.

The [Robot – Rover] blueprint was an easy-to-obtain, early level robot

blueprint. It was a low level utility robot that could be equipped with

weapons and armor for combat, scouting, and defense purposes, and was

also able to self-destruct. It wasn't created for a specific purpose, but could

be modified and improved. They were widely used for prospecting and mining.

Gaining so much from just two talent points, a bargain! Suddenly, he noticed Old Man Lu creeping up towards him.

"What are you looking so excited all of a sudden?"

This_content is taken from

Han Xiao rolled his eyes at him, replying, "Aren't you being a little too

nosy?"

"Nosy? Why?" Old Man Lu took a moment to inspect himself.

"It's working hours. If you're not helping then go away!" interrupted Lu

Qian as she slammed her welding torch down. Her face was flushed and

dripping with sweat under the protective goggles she was wearing.

"Little brat," grumbled Old Man Lu as he carried his bottle of beer outside for a walk.

"Shop owner, is this a repair shop?"

A customer arrived as soon as he left. It was a middle-aged man.

Han Xiao turned to look at the guest, and he noticed the man was looking at

him. The man immediately averted his gaze.

Suspicious, thought Han Xiao. When he further noticed his above average

sense of balance and solid footing, he realized that the man was most likely

an agent from Division 13 who had been sent to test him.

Lu Qian walked forward to receive him with a polite smile.

"Welcome. What is it that you need repaired?"

"My car broke down," replied the middle-aged man as he watched Han

Xiao. "It's outside."

"Alright, no problem."

Just as Lu Qian was about to pick up her toolkit, the middle-aged man

suddenly pointed at Han Xiao and said, "I want this little brother to repair

my car."

Lu Qian was stunned. Do I not look capable enough? You're being s*xist!

"I'll do it," agreed Han Xiao as he took the toolkit from his dejected boss.

For more_novel, visit

The pair came out of the alley into the main street, where an old sedan car

was stopped by the roadside.

"This is the car."

Han Xiao lifted the bonnet, inspected the interior, and swiftly began to

perform repairs.

As Han Xiao worked on the car, the middle-aged man tried to strike a

conversation.

"Kid, you're quite young, aren't you?"

"I'm 30."

30? Do you think I'm blind or what? The middle-aged man nearly choked.

"How should I address you?" he asked.

"You should show some sincerity when asking for a person's name," replied

Han Xiao without looking at him.

"I'm Feng Jun," answered the middle-aged man awkwardly.

"That's a nice name," complimented Han Xiao, except that he didn't sound

the least bit sincere, leaving the middle aged speechless." But you

misunderstand; I just want a cigarette," he added.

Feng Jun uncomfortably took out his cigarette pack and passed one to Han

Xiao.

"You can call me Han Xiao," introduced Han Xiao as he took a puff and

returned to the task at hand.

Feng Jun continued to probe. "Han Xiao? You're not a local, are you?

Where are—"

"It's done," Han Xiao suddenly interrupted, cutting his words off.

New_chap_ters are pub_lished on

What the hell? I've only just started to probe you! Can you not be so quick?

Han Xiao expressionlessly stretched out a hand, saying, "A pipe was

broken. I'll charge you % 60. Pay up."

Of course I know the pipe is broken, damn it! I broke it on purpose!

Feng Jun smiled as he took out his wallet and slowly fiddled around in an

attempt to buy more time.

"You have pretty good skills. Where did you acquire them?"

"Natural talent."

"Oh, that's amazing. Where are you from?"

"From the countryside."

(())

Han Xiao raised an eyebrow.

"Are you trying to get a discount out of me?"

At his wits end, Feng Jun coughed dryly before finally pulling out the

money to pay up.

Will the department reimburse me for this? he wondered.

Han Xiao sneered. "I thought it would take you another hour to find your

money. How big is your wallet?"

As he whistled whimsically, he proceeded to pack up and headed back to

the workshop.

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When he left, Feng Jun cheerlessly made a phone call.

"Initial observation concluded. The target is a Hero and his threat level

is still an uncertainty. Duration of contact was 4 minutes and 38 seconds.

The target named himself as Han Xiao. I suggest proceeding with more

testing, and to avoid direct confrontation.

"My analysis of his character? Hmm... yes... extremely annoying!"

Chapter 27: The Final Tes

The next couple of days went by peacefully. Han Xiao's daily routine now

included going to the junkyard every morning to produce guns.

He was paid

in cash daily after each session, and was able to salvage a number of spare

parts for creating the rover. He had already begun to craft some of its parts,

but was holding back on assembling it.

Old Man Lu would occasionally lurk around to spy on Han Xiao as he

worked. He was trying to figure out Han Xiao's background from his

craftsmanship. However, because Han Xiao was self-taught, his efforts

were in vain.

The tall old man frequently came over to compete with Old Man Lu at 5 in

a Row, which Han Xiao found hard to understand. Is 5 in a Row that fun?

The tall old man also gradually began to converse with Han Xiao more, and

Han Xiao was more than happy to entertain him. Everything was going

according to plan.

For Heros, crafting rewarded the most experience, followed by enhancement, repairing, and lastly, assembly.

As Han Xiao had no way of acquiring advanced knowledge for now, he

decided to use his accumulated experience points to raise the 3 skills of

[Beginner Machinery Affinity Lv. 3], [Basic Combat Lv. 8], and [Basic

Shooting Lv. 6] to close to max level, and he gained quite a number of talent points from this.

The prerequisite for advancing to a [Trainee Hero] happened to be

unlocking [Intermediate Machinery Affinity], which required Lv.

5 in

[Beginner Machinery Affinity]. Machinery Affinity was one of the common

prerequisites for many blueprints and skills.

Although Han Xiao now had a whopping 15 talent points, which seemed a

lot, it was always better to save some for rainy days. This was something

that he had learned the hard way.

To think I actually had to spend over tens of millions of Enas (universal

currency) just to buy Water of Lethe to reset my talent points back then!

At Kero Junkyard, Han Xiao had been busily producing guns all morning.

When he was about to leave, Raccoon passed him a stash of money that he pocketed without counting.

"That should be enough for today. I'll make a move first," said

Han Xiao.

"Thank you for your contribution. We don't need any more guns for the

time being. However, our deal is still valid. You can continue to salvage any

junk parts."

Now that Han Xiao had served his purpose, Raccoon planned to get rid of

him. However, it was not time yet. Raccoon was an extremely cautious person.

"Fine by me," replied Han Xiao, who saw through his intentions. He left the junkyard, remembering to make a few extra turns to

shake off

his tail before coming to a large Hero market.

This market was popular among students from the Western Capital School

and the Hero School due to the variety of machine parts and metals it

offered.

Han Xiao spent all of the 70,000 Aquamarine Dollars that he had earned to

buy the remaining materials that he needed for both the rover, as well as

another Lightweight Heroal Arm.

After obtaining the materials, he returned to his room to continue working

on them.

. . .

A few days later, Han Xiao had finished crafting all of the rover's parts, and

he was now assembling the robot in his room.

1.2 meters tall and armor-plated to protect its interior. Its top half was the

shape of a person, except that it didn't have a neck. It ran on a basic

integrated circuit.

It had two sectioned Heroal arms that could bend and rotate like a

person's, and its fingers were remodeled by Han Xiao into guns.

Its torso

could also rotate 90 degrees, and was inlaid with magazine compartments.

Instead of legs, it moved on tank tracks.

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The system prompted Han Xiao to name his creation. Adopting his past

naming style, he named it "Rover 1".

Rover 1 (Tank-style)

Type: Robot

Grade: Common

Basic Stats: 800/800 Durability, 18 Defense, 59 Power Output,

23 Max

Speed, 120/120 Energy

Height: 1.18m Weight: 64.8kg

Mode of Control: Remote (Electrical Signal)

Control Radius: 50m

Energy Source: Battery Unit

Energy Usage: 8/min

Power Capacity: 36/80 Ona

Right Arm Module: Small Caliber Machine Gun – 35-40 Dmg, 4

Firing

Speed (Max 7 – for 10 seconds), 30 Magazine Capacity (+60 Belt

Capacity), 40 Power Output, 18% Accuracy

Left Arm Module: Small Caliber Machine Gun – 35-40 Dmg, 4
Firing
Speed (Max 7 – for 10 seconds), 30 Magazine Capacity (+60 Belt
Capacity), 40 Power Output, 18% Accuracy
Skills:

- •Self-destruct: Self-destruct to inflict 280-430 explosion damage in a 30m radius.
- •Metal Armor: Reduces damage taken by 8% (except penetrative attacks).

Note: Don't underestimate this little fella just because he looks stupid.

The name [Rover] is not exclusive to one type of robot.

The key materials used to craft Rover 1 were two common materials: steel

and plastic resin. If Han Xiao had used a higher quality steel alloy, Rover 1

would have higher durability and defense. Nevertheless, he would be able

to update or upgrade the rover with better parts when he got them to keep it

relevant. This was a selling point of Heros.

The number of modules that could be installed on robots, vehicles, and

mobile suits, was limited by their 'Energy Capacity'. Beside the quality of

the energy source itself, 'Energy Capacity' could be upgraded by 'Energy'

talents. Rover 1's energy source was a standard battery unit, so its Energy

Capacity was low.

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Completing the rover rewarded Han Xiao with 24,000 exp. The following day, Han Xiao finished crafting the Lightweight Heroal Arm.

You have crafted Lightweight Heroal Arm (Left), gaining 2,500 exp.

His second Lightweight Heroal Arm was still a left arm, like before.

However, the materials he had used to craft it were lower in quality than before, causing it to have a lower grade.

Advertisement

Lightweight Heroal Arm (Left)

Grade: Common

Base Stats: 28-45 Damage, 8-12 Defense, 26 Power Output,

205/205

Durability

Prerequisite(s): 23 STR

Bonus Stats: -4 Attack Speed

Length: 0.51m Weight: 6.1kg

Additional Effects: Bonus +6 STR

Currently, Han Xiao strongest form of combat was melee combat, so the

Lightweight Heroal Arm suited him well.

Heros that favored melee combat were known as Mecha-warriors.

Han

Xiao did not intend to walk down this path as it was long-ranged capabilities that Heros truly excelled in, after all. However, since Mecha-warriors was the style that offered low level Heros the highest

combat prowess, it would have to do for now.

Han Xiao hid the Lightweight Heroal Arm before heading downstairs.

Lu Qian was engaged in a conversation with a customer who kept on

glancing at Han Xiao when he appeared. He was clearly yet another agent

from Division 13.

Division 13 had, over the past few days, sent many undercover agents to

spy on Han Xiao, but since Han Xiao was a tough nut to crack, they were

now attacking from a different angle.

"Why are there so many people asking about you?" asked a puzzled Lu

Qian when the agent left.

"Well, I'm popular."

"But they're all guys."

For more_novel, visit

Han Xiao froze up.

"It's not what you think-"

"Don't worry! I won't judge you," replied Lu Qian as she started giggling.

Why are you giggling like that!

Suddenly, Han Xiao's turned serious. He had received a system alert.

You have triggered the Class-E Mission, [Assailants!].

Accept/Reject]

Han Xiao was bewildered. What could have triggered such a mission?

"Accept."

Mission Synopsis: The bounty on your head is being eyed. Your enemies

are near and they are hiding in the shadows. Meanwhile, a certain group of

people has been watching you to assess your potential. What will you do?

Requirement: Avoid death

Reward: 10,000 experience

Bonus Reward: 1x Skill Level-up Card (Basic)

Han Xiao rolled his eyes at the dramatic synopsis.

The 'group of people' referred to in the synopsis most definitely referred to

Division 13. Han Xiao put the clues together and conjectured that Division

13 could have leaked intel on him in an elaborate set-up to test his combat

strength. However, if that were the case, the people after him must not be

too strong. After all, Division 13 wouldn't risk things blowing up in the city.

Although Han Xiao wasn't interested in typical Class-E mission rewards,

the bonus reward caught his eye. A Skill Level-up Card was certainly something handy to have.

If a mission had a bonus reward, it meant that there was a secret condition

to fulfill. Han Xiao guessed that this mission's secret condition was most

likely to kill all of his assailants.

"Since the enemy could appear at any moment, I'd better not stay in the workshop."

Han Xiao didn't want to rely on Old Man Lu. After contemplating for a

moment, he thought of the perfect location for battle.

Kero Junkyard.

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Chapter 28: Jealousy

Kero Junkyard was Raccoon's territory. Han Xiao planned to kill two birds

with one stone. He put down his tools and called out to Lu Qian with a

request.

"I wish to take the day off."

"Okay," replied Lu Qian, blinking. "Is something wrong?"

"No, why?" Han Xiao paused.

Han Xiao always looked lethargic and bored, and Lu Qian, being the

observant woman that she was, had noticed the sudden change in air about

him. If she had to describe the kind of feeling Han Xiao was giving her

now, for some reason, dangerous was the word that came to mind.

"If you're facing any difficulties, I'll definitely help you," she said in a

serious tone.

Not knowing what to say, Han Xiao stared at her, which caused

her to shift

about uncomfortably. She turned away from Han Xiao and twirled her hair,

saying, "Don't you know its rude to stare?"

Han Xiao turned away too and replied, "I won't be back for dinner."

"I was actually thinking of letting you try my latest creation, black pepper

pineapple baked ribs stew with parsley," responded Lu Qian dejectedly.

Han Xiao shuddered. What kind of cuisine from hell is that?

Han Xiao returned to his room to get ready. After a short while, he headed out with a backpack and a trolley.

. . .

"Boss, is that kid the target?"

A man wearing shades was tailing Han Xiao. Every time Han Xiao turned

back, he would instantly vanish by making use of his surroundings, be it a

public phone booth or a magazine stand. He was clearly a professional. He

was using the mini receiver in his ear to communicate with his partner who

was hiding in an old van two streets away. There was a total of five masked

men in the van. They were none other than Han Xiao's assailants.

They were the Bee Sting Squad, a group of mercenaries who specialized in

hunting bounties. They were decently well-known in underground

networks, having successfully completed numerous missions.

They had by

chance 'stumbled' upon Han Xiao's trail.

For them, this mission was more important than any that they had ever

taken on before. Bounty aside, they were hoping to gain favor with the

Germinal Organization and earn their backing.

"How could this kid be worth one million? He looks so ordinary!
This will

be a piece of cake," said the number two of the squad, full of confidence.

This_content is taken from

"Don't forget that we are deep in Stardragon territory. Act swiftly,"

reminded the leader, Kelly, as he inspected his gun.

. . .

"The target is on the move."

A black, plateless Jeep was following Han Xiao from afar. Inside the Jeep

was a team of Division 13 field agents, led by their mission captain, Li Hui.

Besides him were 8 other fully equipped agents and Feng Jun, who was

acting as an advisor. They were armed with tranquilizer guns.

Just as Han Xiao had expected, his assailants, the Bee Sting Squad,

indeed being used by Division 13 to test him, and these agents were, in fact,

tasked to play the role of hero.

Feng Jun brought up a video feed of Han Xiao.

"The target seems to be headed to the District 7's Kero Junkyard.

The Bee

were

Sting Squad is following him. It would be ideal if the battle took place

inside the junkyard."

. . .

Han Xiao arrived at the Junkyard, to Raccoon's surprise.

Why is he here?

"I've come to find some spare parts," Han Xiao casually lied. It was a

reasonably convincing excuse.

Raccoon then invited Han Xiao for lunch, assuming he would decline, but

unexpectedly, Han Xiao agreed, causing him to be visibly caught off-guard.

Han Xiao took his dust mask off, revealing his face to Raccoon.

Raccoon

found his face strangely familiar, but wrote it off.

Although Han Xiao was unquestionably famous in the criminal world,

small-time crooks like Raccoon were, for the most part, largely irrelevant.

Hence, they were often not privy to, or bothered with, the latest ongoings.

Although Han Xiao had been wearing the mask to keep his identity a secret,

it didn't matter anymore.

A banquet table was set up by Raccoon's men. Han Xiao and Raccoon sat

on opposite sides, facing each other as they conversed.

"How was the last batch of guns?"

Foll_ow current_novel on

"The 73-WASP is an excellent gun. Even the Six Nations' armies are using

it. One of them is worth six to seven thousand on the black market. I've

earned a lot thanks to you," answered Raccoon, as he puffed on a cigar.

"And the quality of your guns is way better than those shitty second-hand

guns on the market."

Although a batch of mass-produced guns wouldn't vary too much in quality,

there would always be minor differences from gun to gun. These differences arose from the innate composition of the materials, but they

could be minimized by a skilled Hero. A gun expert would be able to

tell a hand-made gun from a mass-produced one.

"What's in there?" asked Raccoon, pointing towards the stuffed bag and the push trolley.

"Some spare parts," replied Han Xiao. Raccoon was satisfied with the answer.

They continued chatting until dusk arrived, and the sky had transformed

into a gorgeous hue of orange and indigo.

One of Raccoon's thugs suddenly ran into the room, saying,

"Boss, someone

is looking for you."

"Can't you see I'm with a guest?" replied an irritated Raccoon.

The thug whispered a few words into Raccoon's ear that made him look at

Han Xiao contemplatively. He then got up from his seat and smiled at Han

Xiao.

"Please excuse me for a moment," he said before leaving. Han Xiao narrowed his eyes. Something's up.

. . .

Half an hour ago.

"Cousin, I travelled all the way here just so I could enjoy a good life under

your care. Please don't abandon me!" pleaded Ma Jie as he chased after a young man.

He had come to the Western Capital intending to join his cousin's gang, but

his cousin had deemed him unworthy and given him a janitor's position.

Obviously, Ma Jie wouldn't settle for it, but what else could he do but beg?

"I've told you before, don't call me your cousin!" barked the irritated young man.

"Of course, of course. My bad. I'll slap myself," replied Ma Jie, after which

he actually slapped himself.

"Just look at how pathetic you are. I let you watch the door precisely

because we are relatives! Do you know how many wanderers out there have

only spoilt food to eat? I'm going to see a big shot now; don't follow me!"

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"Big shot?" Ma Jie's eyes lit up. "Who?"

"The boss of District 7, Mr. Raccoon! Each district other than District 1 has

an underworld boss. Do you know how powerful they are?"

. . .

Before the pair realized, they had arrived at the entrance of the Junkyard.

Ma Jie tried to follow him in, but the young man glared at him, causing him

to give up. Just as Ma Jie was about to leave, he looked beyond the gates

and noticed Han Xiao being welcomed. What the heck?

"Isn't that the kid who sneaked in with me?"

A thug stopped the young man.

"Don't loiter here," he said.

"I'm also one of the boss's men," replied the young man respectfully. "I've

come to make a report."

Suddenly, Ma Jie interrupted them.

"Who is that guy?" he asked, pointing at Han Xiao.

"Who gave you the right to talk?" snapped his infuriated cousin who

motioned to slap him. However, the thug stopped him.

"That person is an important guest of the boss," he answered.

An important guest? Ma Jie was shocked, but his shock was immediately

replaced by jealousy and bitterness. This is unfair! Why is that ignorant brat

having it so much better than me?

Scenes from their conversation replayed in his mind, causing him to feel

embarrassed.

"You know Technician Han?"

"Not really, but we did talk a bit when we were being smuggled in."

The thug's eyes suddenly lit up.

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"Follow me! The boss will want to see you!"

Ma Jie and the young man were stunned.

Chapter 29: Fall Ou

The duo was led to a room.

"What do you want from me?" asked Ma Jie nervously.

"Relax, it's nothing. That guy is a Hero who knows how to make guns

and our boss has been thinking of making a move on him for a while, but

since we aren't sure of his background, we haven't acted yet. I just want to

know everything you know about him."

Ma Jie's eyes lit up at the thought of being able to gain the boss' favor. This

was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that could allow him to surpass his

cousin! He sneered and shot a scornful look at his cousin.

Who cares what happens to that bastard Han Xiao?

After waiting for about half an hour, Raccoon came to meet them.

When he

arrived, both Ma Jie and his cousin hastily arose to greet him. Ma Jie was so

tense that he even knocked his own chair down.

"You know Technician Han's background?" asked Raccoon.

"His name is Han Xiao. He's a wanderer who snuck into the city with me. It

was his first time coming here; he has no relatives."

"That's all?" Raccoon's eyes twitched.

The sight of the boss' displeasure made Ma Jie think harder to recall

something.

"Oh right, he was empty-handed when he came here. His clothes were also

extremely tattered, and he looked like a nobody."

"Very good."

Raccoon turned around and left.

"Anything for you, boss," cried out Ma Jie after him.

Raccoon paused and turned around to look at him.

"I like you. Join my gang."

Ma Jie's eyes widened with joy.

I've hit the jackpot!

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After Raccoon left, Huang Mao began to fawn all over Ma Jie.

Their roles

were now reversed.

"Ma Jie, please take good care of me in the future."

"What did you just call me?" scoffed Ma Jie.

"Cou- cousin."

Both of them sure were shamelessly quick to adapt. Ma Jie put his arm

around Huang Mao's shoulders gleefully.

"Brother, may I know what boss intends to do with Han Xiao?" he asked the

thug.

"Isn't it obvious? We'll force him to spill out the blueprints for the guns

before silencing him!"

"That's good then," replied a relieved Ma Jie.

. . .

Less than three minutes later, Raccoon returned to the banquet hall. Han

Xiao had left all the dishes untouched. Raccoon smiled.

"Han Xiao... right?"

"Looks like you've found out my name."

Sensing the calm before the storm, Han Xiao stealthily reached for the

Lightweight Heroal Arm in his backpack.

Click!

He equipped it. Although he had already intended to do battle from the

start, Han Xiao still remained as vigilant as ever. He had learnt the

importance of vigilance the hard way back in Galaxy, but that's a story for

another time.

Raccoon began tapping his fingers on the table.

"Hehe. I've always been curious about your true identity, but it turns out

that you're just a wanderer! I must say, you have indeed been very cautious

all this time."

"So what?"

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"Do you understand the situation you're in? Hand over everything you know about making guns!"

"Why so cold?"

"Cold? We were nothing more than business partners!"

"Would you believe me if I said that I can slaughter all of you if I wanted

to?" Han Xiao smiled tauntingly.

Raccoon snapped his fingers as he sneered. In an instant, the four thugs

around him were pointing their guns at Han Xiao.

"Did you think that I wouldn't be prepared? What a joke! All of these guns

being pointed at you were created by yourself!"

Other than Raccoon and the four thugs across the table, there were two

more men standing guard outside the room, and there was little space for

Han Xiao to maneuver in the compact room.

"Even if I tell you, you will still silence me."

Raccoon laughed coldly. It was exactly as Han Xiao said.

"I do hope that you cooperate though. At least it will save you some

suffering."

"And if I don't?"

"I have some men who are good at things like torture. You will talk

eventually."

Suddenly, the air about Han Xiao changed as he decided to drop the facade.

"Do you actually think that you have me cornered?"

The sudden change alarmed Raccoon, but he shook his head.

"Even if you do have some kind of trump card in that bag of yours, do you

actually think you can move faster than a bullet?"

"What if I told you that there's powerful explosives in here?"

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Raccoon laughed. Ma Jie's appearance had been, without a doubt,

coincidence. How could Han Xiao have made preparations? Who was he

trying to fool?

"I don't know who the person who told you about me is, but he obviously

knows very little. Why don't you try checking the underworld network to

see the latest bounties?"

Raccoon frowned. How could Han Xiao remain so calm, and what was he

playing at?

Although Raccoon did have some power in the Western Capital, he was

actually just a small-time hoodlum in the grand scheme of things

– too

insignificant to partake in the matters of the underworld. Hence, he paid

little attention to such matters.

He must just be trying to buy more time! Why should I even listen to him?

"Since you don't believe me, wanna bet? Life is always full of surprises

anyway. Now that I noticed, this room is pretty small, isn't it? Perfect for an

explosion. First comes the blast, followed by the shrapnel. Then, this entire

place will be razed to the ground. But I guess that's fine, since we'd all have

died in the initial shrapnel..."

"Enough! I have no time for jokes. Stand up, or I'll fill you up with holes!"

Han Xiao shrugged his shoulders, sighing, "Can't we talk things through?

Fine, I'll give-"

Suddenly, as the last rays of sunlight dissipated, darkness descended.

Han Xiao had been waiting for this!

Vroom!

The Heroal arm roared to life, shredding the backpack apart! Han Xiao

flipped the dining table, sending pots and plates smashing into Raccoon and the four thugs.

Talk things through? Ha! As if!

There were four thugs in front of him, and two behind. Han Xiao knew

exactly what he had to do. He picked the table up to use as a screen and

charged forward like an unstoppable juggernaut, holding the

Heroal

arm up in front of him.

Crash!

The four thugs were knocked aside like flies.

"Fire!" screamed an enraged, bloody-faced Raccoon.

The two remaining guards began to fire.

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Chapter 30: The Mighty Rover

Bullets clinked and clanked onto the Heroal arm, causing its durability

to plummet. A bullet found its mark, hitting Han Xiao in his shoulder and

doing 16 damage, dying his shirt with blood. However, all it did was give

Han Xiao an itch. Han Xiao's pain tolerance was extremely high, and his

solid muscles halted the bullet.

Han Xiao smashed the Heroal arm into one of the thugs' chest.

One

loud thud, and he exploded on the spot. He then proceeded to yank the other

poor thug up to use as a meat shield against the four thugs who had gotten

back up and were firing at him.

Gathering all his strength, Han Xiao ripped out the door from its bolts and

threw it at them before running out.

"Chase!" barked Raccoon.

Dozens of thugs throughout the entire Junkyard were alerted by the

gunshots and they were rushing over to help.

Kero Junkyard was Raccoon's main base, and Han Xiao had to tread

carefully to avoid being surrounded. He looted a gun from one of the thugs

he encountered which made things easier for him.

With his fast reflexes, as well as [Basic Shooting] and [Precise Aim] to help

auto-correct his shots, Han Xiao was able to always have the edge against

the thugs in the battle of guns. If he encountered a group of them, he would

tumble and duck and fire lethal shots as he evaded. The only limitation that

he faced was ammo, so he would loot their magazines after each wave. The

trail that Han Xiao left behind was bloody and littered with corpses, and

Raccoon could hardly believe what he was seeing. Han Xiao had effortlessly taken out over 20 of his men single-handedly!

However, there were indeed way too many thugs converging on Han Xiao,

making it hard for him to take the initiative.

Han Xiao hid behind the vehicle frame of a scrapped sedan as dozens of

guns were fired in his direction, their muzzle flashes lighting up the night.

The bullet storm was deafening, making it hard for Han Xiao to even hear

his own breath, and it was extremely difficult to return fire.

"Good thing that this is my territory. No matter what, he can't possibly

make it out of this alone!"

Raccoon was seething with rage.

"I will make him regret ever being born!"

Suddenly, something unexpected occurred.

Bang-bang-bang-bang!

A submachine gun was being fired from the side of the battlefield! The

thugs began dropping in numbers as their screams filled the air.

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Bee Sting Squad was entering the fray! Under the guise of nightfall, they

instantly overwhelmed Raccoon's inexperienced thugs.

"Where did these mercenaries come from?"

Raccoon was scared shitless. Are they after me?

However, the mercenaries suddenly changed direction and advanced

towards Han Xiao instead, ignoring him.

These mercenaries are after him?

Raccoon stared at the unfolding events in disbelief.

As a villain himself, he understood the simple fact that the stronger a person

was, the stronger his enemies. The fact that these mercenaries were willing

to risk exposing themselves in the capital to go after Han Xiao meant that

Han Xiao must not have been an ordinary person!

He thought back to Han Xiao's words. "Why don't you try checking the

underworld network to see the latest bounties?"

He wasn't just talking big?

Who exactly is he?

. . .

"That's the sound of submachine guns."

His mission target had appeared! Han Xiao was able to sniff out the Bee

Sting Squad's location from their muzzle flashes.

"300m to the west: six people, six submachine guns."

Han Xiao rapidly performed calculations in his head. The enemy's

firepower was overwhelming. It would be unwise to meet them head on.

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Lucky, I came prepared with my trusty Rover. Han Xiao sighed in relief. He

whipped out the touchscreen remote control that he had created for Rover 1.

When activated, the rover's visual feed would appear on the screen.

However, the display was currently reading "Out of Range". Han Xiao had

to get to within 50m of the rover to activate it!

Steeling himself, Han Xiao stood up and began to run back along his

original path. He was instantly assaulted by submachine gun fire.

Han Xiao made use of the heaps of scrap and junk to duck and take cover,

advancing through the rain of bullets.

"Damn it! There's so much cover for him here," cursed a long-haired Bee

Sting Squad member as he reloaded. "He's faster than a bloody rabbit!"

Although their original plan had been to assassinate Han Xiao, they had

decided to take advantage of the ongoing fight between him and

Raccoon to

mask their intentions.

"He's already exhausted! Go in for the kill!" Kelly shouted out.

After the earlier bloodbath, all of Raccoon's men were either dead or had

lost all morale and were unable to fight. Seeing Han Xiao running so

desperately emboldened the Bee Sting Squad, and they gave chase.

While he ran, Han Xiao suddenly sensed danger and ducked down.

A bullet

narrowly missed him, severing a strand of his hair.

After sliding under two more scrap cars, he finally came in range with the

rover!

Connection successful!

"Activate!"

In the resting area, amidst debris and dust, the cloth cover on the push

trolley suddenly began to vibrate, and two red lights appeared from beneath

it!

The rover's eyes!

The rover's engine started to whirl, and its wheels began to rotate as Han

Xiao piloted it out of the resting area.

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At this point of time, the Bee Sting Squad had come extremely close to Han

Xiao. Rover 1's defenses were not strong enough to take on the collective

fire of six submachine guns, so it would be too risky to send him in headon. The sole edge that Han Xiao had over them was the

element of surprise,

as they would never imagine him to have a robot as a reinforcement.

Han Xiao surveyed his surroundings to find a suitable spot for an ambush.

He found two scrap cars along the Bee Sting Squad's path that were angled

in a such a way that the bend they formed provided a spot of concealment!

Han Xiao piloted the rover to hide inside the bend.

The noise from Rover 1's engine was masked by the ongoing chaos, and

only Kelly suspected that something was off. The instinct that he had

acquired from surviving through numerous life-and-death encounters told

him so. Pausing, he said to his team, "Something doesn't feel right here."

"What did you find?" asked the long-haired man.

"That's the thing; I don't see anything."

"Well, it can't be. The target is already cornered. He's dead meat."

At this exact moment, his squad entered Rover 1's shooting range, and Han

Xiao was quick with the command.

Du-du-du-du-du...!

Hell rained upon them from Rover 1's fingers!

The entire squad was wiped out on the spot.

Your machine, Rover 1 (Tank-style) has killed a mercenary! You have gained 800 exp!

Your machine, Rover 1 (Tank-style) has killed a mercenary! You

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have gained 800 exp!

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