

M. Leader 241

Chapter 241

Everything feels so familiar.

A gentle breeze, brilliant sunlight, and the scent of earth permeated the mind of the Scarlet Moon, surrounding her ceaselessly.

The light shining through the dawn made the girl squint her eyes.

Here it looks just like the hometown from her memories, completely the same, without any differences.

However, the Scarlet Moon is acutely aware of one thing, that this place is not the real world, but merely an illusion of its own.

All the beauty has long been destroyed by the crimson stone, and she has completely merged with it, unable to separate even until death.

The past, irretrievable.

The lost things can never come back again.

She gently shook her head and turned, intending to leave.

"Scarlet."

The sudden sound made the Scarlet Moon come to a halt.

This is the voice from "mother."

She couldn't comprehend.

Why is it that even though she clearly knew that all of this was false, the current self in this moment still felt an increasingly suppressive urge?

"Ah." Finally, the Scarlet Moon turned around and replied to her mother.

The smile of the woman who was most important to her overflowed under the sunlight.

The next moment, she was stunned to discover that her own body had also undergone changes.

The body of the Scarlet Moon had astonishingly reverted to a small size, devoid of that haughty and domineering dark aura. Instead, she was adorned in rustic attire reminiscent of a country girl.

However, in the heart of the Scarlet Moon, the disparity between the two was not significant.

She followed her mother back home, encountering numerous villagers along the way. Finally, inside the house, she glimpsed her father who had just finished his bustling tasks.

The Scarlet Moon remained silent, while everyone in the village didn't perceive the world around them as illusory.

They lived a normal life, just as it was in her own memories.

Her mother suddenly said, "Are you hungry? Come, have an egg... Today, the chickens at home laid two eggs again, enough for you and your father to have one each."

The Scarlet Moon looked at the warm egg in her mother's hand, realizing that for their household at that moment, eggs were a vital source of sustenance.

She calmly shook her head and said, "You two go ahead and eat, I am not hungry."

The Scarlet Moon came to the entrance and looked at the people in the village, falling into profound contemplation.

"This world is false."

However, I am unable to leave, isn't it?

The Scarlet Moon began her day-to-day life in the false village, pondering initially when she could escape and how she could escape.

However, she quickly realized that this was all in vain.

She truly has no way to leave on her own initiative.

Since it is so, why not stay here to experience more... blissful memories.

Gradually, the Scarlet Moon no longer pondered when she could return to the real world, but rather cherished each day spent with her parents in the illusory realm.

Day after day, month after month, year after year.

Finally, that dreadful day arrived.

On the day when her parents discovered the red stone outside the village... for hundreds of years, the Scarlet Moon has always remembered this day and will never forget it.

The Scarlet Moon deliberately followed her parents, who were gathering wild fruits nearby, calmly awaiting the appearance of the red stone.

They walked outside the village like this for some time.

Finally, she saw it once again.

That red stone, which changed lives, destinies, and everything about her.

It resembled a seething stone of fresh blood, radiant and floating in mid-air, continuously emanating a crimson glow, enchanting anyone who laid eyes upon it with its magical allure.

Her parents were both drawn to its red radiance, that luminous glow filled with life energy.

They stood there dumbfounded, slowly extending their hands, unable to resist.

At this moment,

The Scarlet Moon seized hold of them.

"No,"

She softly said.

This time, the Scarlet Moon altered the outcome of life, becoming ordinary yet simultaneously finding happiness.

--

Finally, the Scarlet Moon awakened from a beautiful dream.

She once again returned to the world of Noah.

Returning to Tatsumi City, she found herself back in her lavish yet solitary room.

Well, it wasn't particularly lonely either, as Lan Lan was still lying there soundly asleep, occasionally scratching its little belly.

The Scarlet Moon, seated on the bed, experienced even greater unrest in her emotions.

She spent a long time in that illusory scene, pondering over many matters.

Regardless, she thanked the "Savior" wholeheartedly.

The Scarlet Moon decided that, from now on, she would no longer perceive the members of the Babel Tower as enemies.

"However, it is only the 'kindness' of this one thing."

The Scarlet Moon was well aware that as long as she repaid the "Savior's" kindness, she would still be the forcibly controlled slave, rather than a willing member of the Babel Tower.

At that time, she would still harbor hostility towards the "Savior".

The Scarlet Moon let out a deep sigh.

In reality, she was weak and powerless. For many years, she had failed to recognize this fact.

"Clearly, the former self was aware."

In the face of the harsh and transient nature of fate, all worldly matters are always insignificant and not worth mentioning.

--

Bai Yan held his mobile phone and noticed that the Scarlet Moon's mood had reached 8, while her loyalty had also been elevated to 5.

Well, although she is not truly loyal to Babel Tower, rather loyal to herself... but as the "Queen of the Scarlet Moon," she will at least not idle away and betray other Core Operators without reason.

"Thus, Mu Ling's safety will be ensured," he murmured to himself.

Then, comes the next important matter.

Finally, there have been outputs from the foundational research facilities.

To this day, Bai Yan has already accessed all of Babel Tower's research facilities, of course, limited to all the "basic" facilities.

The advanced research facilities cannot be accessed for the time being.

At least in the first playthrough, Babel Tower is required to unlock the advanced research facilities only after the First Doomsday Crisis.

The foundational research facilities consist of five types: the Alienation Technology Institute, the Bloodline Mutation Research Institute, the Reconstruction Technology Research Institute, the Soul Origin Nucleus Research Institute, and the Special Development Research Institute.

Apart from the research progress bar of the Soul Origin Nucleus Research Institute, which stands at eighty-seven percent, the other four research institutes have yielded new results.

"Alienation Technology: Blade of the Demon"

"Blade of the Demon: The host undergoing this alienation will experience a significant increase in physical fitness. Their pupils will permanently turn red and they will develop a liking for meat consumption. Additionally, they will acquire the ability to transform their limbs into demonic weapons, possessing formidable destructive power."

"Requirement: None"

Bai Yan's finger tapped on the details and upon checking, he discovered that the strength of the demonic weapon reached only the intermediate level of awakening.

Currently, the Core Operators at Babel Tower no longer require such things.

He mused to himself, "However, such things can be bestowed upon peripheral members who have performed well. For them, even this level of awakening remains a highly coveted and sought-after power."

The following pertains to bloodline traits that differ from "awakening." Compared to the transformative alterations on an individual's fundamental essence brought about by "awakening," these bloodline traits involve fewer changes and possess inheritable characteristics.

"Bloodline Variation: Frost Giant Bloodline"

"Frost Giant Bloodline: The host infused with this bloodline will acquire potent regenerative abilities and possess extraordinary power to summon frost for both offensive and defensive purposes."

"Requirement: 50 Physical Fitness"

During a routine extermination mission, Alan successfully defeated a frost giant, while Babel Tower took it away.

Now, it offers a return.

Still something suitable for peripheral members, Bai Yan glanced at it and skipped over it.

"Transformation Technique: Heart of the Seafire"

"Heart of the Seafire: It creates a core filled with exotic spatial energy, replacing the host's original heart. This Seafire Heart continuously provides an endless supply of exotic energy, nearly infinite in its capacity."

"Prerequisite: None, each transformation costs 10 Source Energy Points"

In a recent emergency mission, Amy managed to neutralize a covert assassin team employed by the company and also obtained the cutting-edge military transformation technology they were attempting to seize.

However, Amy herself lacks sufficient knowledge to comprehend the multitude of complex equations recorded inside, thus she can only rely on the Babel Tower for further research.

And now, the Babel Tower has yielded research findings.

There is no need to think twice about it, this is certainly something that must be given to Amy.

Although with the "Sacred Rune · Saul," Amy herself has already become like a miniature power plant, the amount of energy it generates is still far from sufficient to support her grand ambitions.

"Go forth, Amy, and forge a mechanized legion that belongs solely to you," Bai Yan quietly uttered.

He chose to add "Heart of the Seafire" to the Core Operator roster, bestowing it upon the "Cybertyrant."

Lastly, the outcome belongs to the "Special Development Research Institute."

Once again, it is a skill extracted from memory.

Derived from the Church of Balance, also known as the Church of Ruins, is a forbidden incantation.

That researched heretic, in reality, only glanced at the content of this forbidden incantation, unable to learn it themselves, yet it was still analyzed and deciphered by the Babel Tower.

"Special Development: Forbidden Incantation - Mirror Seal."

"The Forbidden Incantation - Mirror Seal: Using a mirror as a magical material, once the incantation is cast, it can seal the person or object reflected in the mirror into the 'Mirror Dimension'. However, the one performing the sealing will experience significant energy depletion, with stronger targets requiring greater energy expenditure."

"Learning requirements: Mastery of magic, INT100."

Mirror Seal, Black Sun, and Substitute Puppet, like in the level of "Thirty-Six Down," all belong to the forbidden incantations.

Nevertheless, their powerful effects far surpass ordinary spells.

Bai Yan shook his head and muttered to himself, "Currently, it seems that only Alan has the ability to learn it, other Core Operators are not proficient in this area."

"Speaking of which, it would be great if we could draw that fox or the one with pink hair. Both of them possess a high level of magical prowess. Well, Truth Scholar would also suffice..."

Bai Yan pondered, and the time for the next summon is also approaching.

"Knock, knock, knock."

Someone suddenly knocked on the door from outside.

"Come in!"

Bai Yan put away his cellphone and smiled confidently with his hands behind his back.

He saw Lady Helen entering from outside and nodded approvingly.

"Lady Helen, do you have a matter to attend to?"

Lady Helen, still adorned with an exquisite aristocratic aura, paid little attention to the objects in the room and smiled politely.

She nodded and spoke calmly, "Mr. Moriarty, well, you may not be aware... but tomorrow is actually my daughter Sylve's birthday."

"So that's how it is, I indeed had no idea," Bai Yan pretended to display a countenance of ignorance.

Lady Helen hesitated for a moment and finally said, "She seems quite reliant on you. I hope you can attend her birthday party tomorrow. Would that be possible?"

"Of course."

With a smile, Bai Yan said, "That is absolutely possible. I will not let Sylve down in her reliance."

"I won't miss the birthday party," Bai Yan nodded gently. This very day itself is part of the Crown Ceremony plan.

Time passes so quickly.

Bai Yan realized that, unconsciously, he had been spending some time with Sylve.

After Lady Helen left, he sat on the bed in silence for a while and realized that he had just experienced some thoughts of "becoming ordinary".

Chapter 242

The current Bai Yan actually doesn't require sleep.

He sat on the bed, looking at the moon outside the window, without choosing to surrender to slumber.

In Bai Yan's eyes, there shimmered a silvery glow, evidently signaling the activation of his spiritual power.

Although many transcendents choose to anchor themselves by imitating ordinary people, in order to prevent the instability of human nature... Bai Yan now prefers to use this time for training.

He not only trains his own transcendental abilities, but also familiarizes himself with the transcendental abilities of other Core Operators.

While there may not be a pressing need to actively seek ways to become stronger, it is indeed necessary to "attain greatness".

Each Core Operator possesses unique abilities, and Bai Yan cannot instantly master them all. He must continue to train himself in secrecy, away from prying eyes.

He hasn't slept for quite some time.

In the intervals of his training, Bai Yan would open up "Babel Tower" on his phone and take a glimpse into the daily lives of the Core Operators.

Of course, now with the advent of the "short video" mode, he naturally prefers watching videos over reading text.

First and foremost, there is "Nightsaber".

"Core Operator·Nightsaber's log intelligence."

"Seeking the cultists."

"Continuing the search for cultists in Tatsumi City."

"At Tatsumi City, astonishingly, cultists cannot be found. 'Nightsaber' appears somewhat perplexed."

Ahem.

Bai Yan fell into contemplation.

Tatsumi City, it seems that there are truly no cultists present anymore.

They have either already fled this city or have been physically dealt with by the Core Operators of Babel Tower.

After all, the reconnaissance capabilities of Babel Tower are truly astonishing, leaving them with no place to hide.

However, here lies the question, what about the weekly missions of "Babel Tower"?

Fortunately, now the annihilation missions of "Babel Tower" have opened up a brand new map!

The cities visited by the Core Operators of Babel Tower can all serve as stages for annihilation missions - they will be transported there by the black mist to hunt down cultists and extraordinary criminals.

Bai Yan shook his head and chuckled to himself, saying, "It is truly gratifying, truly gratifying, it seems that the notorious reputation of Babel Tower operators is going to spread throughout the world of Noah."

"Intelligence Log of Core Operator - Psychic Dancer."

"Strengthening my own power, conducting memory modification experiments on my older brother, Mood +1."

"Promoting Irena's status within the family, making her the second steward of the household, Mood +1."

"After taking a tour of the school, I realized that I could never belong here, Mood -1."

Bai Yan clicked open the video content of the "Psychic Dancer" intelligence log and saw the little fellow in the video ruthlessly toying with her elder brother's psyche, resembling a manic programmer, causing his memories to become chaotic while being unaware of it.

Maryse sat in the chair inside her elder brother's villa, her smile filled with satisfaction, narrowed eyes, appearing as a pure adolescent antagonist.

Bai Yan gently shook his head, without any intention of restraining, as he recognized that this individual's vindictive mentality remained as strong as ever.

"Intelligence Log of Core Operator, Queen of the Scarlet Moon."

"Lying on the bed with Lan Lan, doing nothing, Mood +1."

"Take care of Lan Lan's bath."

"Arriving at school, sleeping."

Lan Lan...

Bai Yan has an impression of this pet belonging to the Scarlet Moon.

That is a centennial bloodline otter that is capable of experiencing the Flow of the Heart. It appears cute on the surface but in reality, it is a rather eccentric and peculiar little... old entity.

He still remembers that during the first playthrough, there was a time when he drew the "Queen of the Scarlet Moon" first and "Nightsaber" afterwards while playing "Babel Tower".

During that time, Nightsaber was still resisting her own control, while the Queen of the Scarlet Moon had already pledged loyalty to Babel Tower. As a result, the initial Nightsaber was directly thrashed by the otter nurtured by the Queen of the Scarlet Moon.

"Although the initial 'Nightsaber' and Lan Lan are both subliminal beings of awakening, the battle awareness and combat experience accumulated by this otter over the past century have completely surpassed the initial Mu Ling..."

Although the Scarlet Moon and Maryse may appear to be lazy dogs, they actually possess distinctly different inclinations towards laziness.

The Scarlet Moon exhibits a remarkable level of initiative when faced with true challenges, but remains indifferent towards people and matters that they are unconcerned about.

She has always regarded "double standards" as the guiding principle of her life.

Maryse is different, completely unique.

She is simply pure laziness.

Bai Yan continued to read, treating it as his own leisure time.

"The intelligence log of Core Operator, Fist of Duel."

"The reliable individuals are selected from among the sinners to observe and contact those needed for escape."

"Somebody suspected of snitching, find a reason to make them meet an unexpected demise."

"Adapting some ancient legends about the Savior, it is found that most sinners are skeptical to some extent."

Hmm, only Fist of Duel is earnestly preparing for the "Prison Break".

Compared to others, he is currently in the most severe predicament.

"Well..."

Bai Yan is actually very well aware of something.

The preparations that "Fist of Duel" is currently making cannot be described as futile, but in reality, they hold little significance, at least at this stage.

The focus lies not on whether "Fist of Duel" can escape, but rather on how to rescue his sister.

If his sister cannot be saved, he will have no means to resist at all.

Once the safety of "Fist of Duel's" sister is confirmed, Bai Yan can directly transport "Fist of Duel" out of the arena through the portals of "summoning an operator" and the "Operator Center".

Bai Yan vaguely remembers where "Fist of Duel's" sister is being held.

"I will help you rescue her, rest assured."

He made a promise, then set down his cellphone.

However, before that, I must first take care of tomorrow's matter... the birthday party.

The original plan was to confront Sylve at the birthday party.

"To shatter Sylve's heart, to make her despise me, like a puppeteer manipulating the emotions of this young girl... ultimately culminating in the 'Puppet Dance' of the Crown Ceremony."

However, Bai Yan always felt a sense of hesitation.

Huff, Bai Yan began attempting to convince himself that though Sylve now appeared docile, deep down, she still retained her rebellious and turbulent nature... It would be best not to be deceived by appearances.

If I hadn't come here and allowed them to continue along their predetermined path, Sylve's violent tendencies would have escalated, intensifying her tyranny over those who feared her.

Ultimately, she will commit unforgivable mistakes.

"However, in the real world, these things never happened... and have no connection to the altered Sylve."

There is a possibility that Nightsaber may also have a mischievous side, and Queen of the Scarlet Moon may have a submissive world line... He is well aware that people are not static entities.

What Bai Yan actually knows is that the current Sylve has truly turned over a new leaf, and it is not a pretense of repentance.

She no longer bullies others at school, and occasionally even helps others, perhaps to please him, or maybe out of a sudden realization.

Perhaps not by intention, but Bai Yan deeply knows within his heart that he has truly transformed this girl.

Bai Yan fell into contemplation as he pondered over the imminent act of targeting a good person, even to the extent of breaking her heart.

Actually, this is not strictly necessary.

I am preparing a "Fictional Enactment" as a second option to assist me in ascending to the position of "Crown" during this "Crown Ceremony". All the necessary preparations are nearly complete.

"However, the success rate is slightly lower..."

Never mind, let's not think about it for now.

Bai Yan knew...

When facing Sylve tomorrow, there will naturally be an answer in his heart.

--

December 4th, Saturday.

Today marks the birthday of Sylve, the only daughter of Lady Helen, from the Helen family, a moderately renowned noble family.

As the time enters December, the weather in Tatsumi City is gradually getting colder.

The people in this city start wearing thick clothing and enjoying warm hot pot meals.

People are preparing to welcome the arrival of winter.

However, until now, Tatsumi City still hasn't experienced a single snowfall.

Sylve woke up exceptionally early today.

She felt a slight thrill, although birthdays come once a year, this year is completely different from previous years!

Now, Sylve has someone she hopes to celebrate her birthday with.

She was wearing a pale pink nightgown, sitting on the bed while stretching lazily. Soon, she got out of bed, freshened up, changed clothes, and finally made her way to the dining room in the villa.

Sylve's mother, Helen, was already waiting here.

Upon seeing her daughter's arrival, she immediately revealed a genuine smile.

"You look truly beautiful, Sylve."

Lady Helen felt gratified and commented, "From today onwards, you have officially come of age."

"Today, I will reveal to you the most significant secret of the Helen family, which you ought to know and bear the responsibility for."

Sylve had a momentary look of surprise on her face.

The family, the most important secret, could it be referring to that...

Throughout Sylve's growth, she has always been curious about how the Helen family became wealthy and prosperous.

Sylve once asked her mother this question, and at that time, Lady Helen mentioned that this question involved the family's most important secret, which was not yet the right time to reveal to her.

Now, she finally had the opportunity to know it herself, Sylve realized this.

Lady Helen looked at her daughter and gently shook her head.

The era in which her daughter lives is even more chaotic than it was back then. Tatsumi City, at present, has changed drastically, and there are even rumors that the enigmatic Babel Tower rules over the five great families.

Lady Helen found this to be absurd, yet she still felt the pressure.

A gentle and refined voice of a young man came forth.

"Good morning, two beautiful ladies."

With a joyful smile on her face, Sylve turned her little head and caught sight of that handsome, elegant, and irresistibly charming man.

He appeared in the restaurant, dressed more formally than before, his light gray Western-style tailored suit looking very sophisticated and fitted.

Bai Yan smiled and nodded at Sylve.

"Mr. Moriarty, have you been sleeping well lately?"

Lady Helen smiled and got up to approach; she, much like her daughter, held Moriarty in high regard, albeit for entirely different reasons.

Sylve, however, remained standing where she was, delicately lowering her head.

Her face turned slightly flushed, as she gripped one arm with the other, lost in thought.

Sylve had a premonition.

Today will be the most splendid birthday for her.

Chapter 243

The birthday celebration proceeded smoothly.

The noble families participating in the birthday celebration were neither too many nor too few, totaling a little over ten families.

Without a doubt, their status in the Platinum Zone is comparable to that of the Helen family.

As for the members of the five major families, they would naturally not deign to associate with such inconspicuous minor noble families.

Even among the lower ranks of the nobility, Sylve's birthday celebration still had a grandeur unmatched by ordinary households.

The well-trained servants conducted themselves with propriety, and exquisite dishes were served on the dining table, of superior quality that appeared no less impressive than the culinary offerings of the five major families, leaving commoners no choice but to admire from a distance.

This is also what makes Lady Helen feel proud.

However, if Maryse were to come here, she would discover that at this birthday party, both the tableware and the beverages are of an entirely different caliber compared to what is used in the Augustus family.

In fact, Maryse's household items are all custom-made.

Not to mention the artwork scattered throughout the villa... The painting displayed on Maryse's bedside at this moment alone would be enough to purchase ten precious treasures from Lady Helen's family collection.

The true gap often manifests in these minute details.

Sylve, as the centerpiece of the birthday party, naturally wears a smile in her conversations that is lacking in sincerity, while the gentlemen and ladies surrounding her exhibit their own forms of pretense.

The social interactions of the aristocracy are always filled with etiquette and perfunctory gestures. Occasionally, there are those who make sarcastic remarks about the Helen family, but Sylve, as a noble young lady, cannot directly retaliate with harsh words.

Only "ambiguous" is suitable.

After having barely managed the situation at the birthday party, Sylve was promptly whisked away by her mother, Lady Helen.

"Mother?"

"You must come with me."

She was led by Lady Helen to the master bedroom on the second floor, evading the presence of others.

Sylve appeared somewhat fearful, vaguely suspecting that her mother was about to divulge the matter to her.

Lady Helen took a deep breath and said, "Just as I mentioned earlier, Sylve, it is crucial for you to be acquainted with the most significant secret of our family."

She stood in front of a blank wall in the master bedroom, closed her eyes, and silently recited a simple incantation.

This is not sorcery, but rather a special ritual, it is the "key"... This incantation symbolizes a "key" that can unlock the corresponding "doorway".

The wall started to subtly shake, eventually revealing a colossal door, unveiling a secret chamber that Sylve had been oblivious to during the years she had lived in this house.

"I never expected it to be here," she exclaimed in astonishment.

"Come with me, my Sylve."

Lady Helen took a deep breath and entered the secret chamber, while Sylve nodded gently and followed behind.

They entered the secret chamber.

This is an incredibly spacious secret chamber, appearing to be larger than the master bedroom outside, with an area of at least a hundred square meters.

Inside this secret chamber, there is almost nothing, except for an ancient altar embedded in the floor, crafted from an indiscernible black material of peculiar nature.

The black substance seemed to be writhing, even emanating an eerie aura of magic.

When Sylve saw it, she instinctively felt very uncomfortable and took a step back.

"Do not retreat!"

Lady Helen's tone was extremely stern and earnest, as if reprimanding Sylve while simultaneously engaging in a conversation with her past self.

"This is something you must endure, come forth, Sylve, and advance with me."

Sylve swallowed nervously, nodded gently, and stepped forward.

Lady Helen said earnestly, "Wait a moment, you must try to remember the incantation I am about to recite."

Next, Lady Helen took a deep breath and slowly placed her hands in front of the altar, then began reciting the enchantment.

This is an exceedingly intricate, ancient, and enigmatic incantation that has been passed down through generations of the Helen family for over a century. It is so complex and obscure that Sylve merely listening to it feels dizzy and overwhelmed.

Several minutes passed until Lady Helen finally finished reciting the ancient incantation, consisting of hundreds of words. In the palm of her hand, an ancient symbol began to manifest.

Sylve watched this scene in astonishment.

Blood seeped from Lady Helen's palm, as the crimson liquid rapidly surged towards the altar, merging with it!

The black altar slowly illuminated!

A dreadful force suddenly emerged on the altar, forming a gray vortex.

"What is this?"

Sylve, filled with trepidation, attempted to retreat, only to have her hand firmly grasped by her mother.

In the next instant, Lady Helen suddenly let out a piercing scream!

The act of performing the ritual seemed to inflict immense pain upon her! This agony was comparable to nothing short of bone-shattering torment!

Lady Helen's countenance was filled with anguish, while Sylve could only stand here in a daze, watching this scene unfold.

By the time the ceremony concluded, Lady Helen was already drenched in sweat, and the illuminating light upon the darkened altar had vanished without a trace.

Sylve noticed that there was an additional shimmering blue gemstone on the black altar, radiating brilliance unlike anything she had ever seen before. It must have held considerable value.

"This is the secret that has allowed our family to prosper and thrive throughout the ages. Now, finally, you, ah, you now know it."

Lady Helen's face glistened with perspiration as she weakly approached, crouching down to pick up the blue gemstone.

"The ancient ritual that we possess allows for a connection between Tatsumi City and the untamed wilderness beyond, and this gemstone comes from that very wilderness..."

Her words were undeniably true.

"Our family's other ventures are just a facade, mere failed attempts at transformation. What we truly excel at and succeed in is the business of smuggling and illegal immigration."

Sylve opened her mouth wide, unbelievable!

"Smuggling, illegal immigration... Aren't these activities illegal? If caught, one could face imprisonment! Is it truly in the best interest of our family for you to engage in such actions?"

"Snap out of it, Sylve!"

Lady Helen abruptly turned her head, her chest heaving, her emotions evidently taking a somewhat unsettling turn.

"Who do you think doesn't engage in illegal activities in a place like this? Just because Babel Tower commits daily acts of murder, does that make it lawful? Are the five major families truly blameless?"

She seemed to be accusing!

Accusing herself of enduring various dangers all these years, single-handedly fighting against them, and bearing the multitude of pains on behalf of her family!

Lady Helen's voice grew increasingly louder!

"Truth be told, the terms 'noble' and 'illegal' are never disconnected. This holds true in Tatsumi City and in every city within the Air Alliance!"

"Why do you think I didn't stop Moriarty from doing what he did to you? Because sooner or later, you will have to endure this pain every day, just like me. You must adapt, Sylve! That is what growing up is all about!"

Sylve stood frozen in place, while Lady Helen continued her narrative.

"If one day, those unruly tyrants were to burst in! Forcing you to kneel down and bow your head like a dog, wouldn't you also have to comply? Sylve, welcome to the real dark world!"

Sylve stared blankly at her mother, the woman before her no longer exuded grace and composure. She seemed to have transformed into an entirely unfamiliar person.

Upon seeing her daughter's expression, Lady Helen suddenly felt a bit uneasy, realizing her own lack of composure.

She took a deep breath and said, "I'm sorry, Sylve, I was just... I have endured alone for far too long, and just now hearing your reproach...I couldn't help myself."

Sylve suddenly dashed out from the secret chamber without even looking back.

Lady Helen stretched out her hand and opened her mouth, wanting to shout and stop her, but she ultimately couldn't find the words.

"Sigh."

She gently lowered her hand.

Perhaps it would be beneficial to let her calm down for a while.

--

Bai Yan stood in the position of the balcony, quietly gazing at the night scenery outside.

Alan is right.

"I have indeed become increasingly... ordinary."

What is ordinary, after all?

Ordinary, of course, doesn't mean "good," and it certainly doesn't imply that one has become kind... The so-called ordinary is, in fact, impure.

He tilted his head back and chuckled.

"The purity is too low."

The incomplete badness is thoroughly imperfect, while the goodness is chaotic. Although one may desire to be cool and decisive, they cannot fully carry it through. They neither persist in saving the world with love and benevolence, nor do they realize the necessity of maintaining a flexible moral baseline in being human.

This is what ordinary means.

However, as a person who saves the world, there is no such thing as ordinary...

Bai Yan still remembers that version of himself, documented many years ago, how pure and transcendent he was.

Perhaps it can be referred to as "divinity."

The present self has already lost...

However, Bai Yan doesn't dislike his current self at all.

The voice of a young girl resonated nearby.

"Mr. Moriarty."

Bai Yan, who had looked up, had long noticed someone approaching, and he knew it was Sylve. So he smiled and lowered his head, gaze fixed upon the young girl standing before him.

She seemed to have cried, as there were faint traces of tears in the corners of her eyes.

"What's wrong with you, Sylve?"

Bai Yan was merely asking a question he already knew the answer to; he was well aware of everything in the villa.

Although, theoretically speaking, it would be unlikely for someone to suddenly locate Bai Yan and carry out an assassination, he has remained highly vigilant in recent months.

Even Bai Yan himself was unclear about what he was guarding against.

Perhaps, it is merely instinctual.

"Nothing really, Mr. Moriarty, I am just deeply moved."

Sylve shook her head and said, "I never knew before that my mother silently sacrificed so much for me. All along, I have only known how to enjoy myself, while constantly evading pain."

"Everyone avoids pain, and I am no exception," Bai Yan said calmly.

"Is that so? Mr. Moriarty, if I recall correctly, this is the first time you've ever talked about yourself,"

Sylve smiled and said, "I always feel that today, you seem to be more in agreement with me than ever before."

"It's just your illusion, Miss Sylve. You are foolish. I will not agree," Bai Yan replied casually, with a smile.

Sylve could tell that this man was joking.

He is a man who rarely jokes in front of himself... The girl, instead of getting angry after hearing this, became even happier.

Sylve approached the edge of the balcony, gazing out into the world, and continued saying, "It's lovely to have you by my side. The former me was incredibly hollow, indulging in deceptive and mundane pleasures."

"But since you came, I have started to change. Thank you," she expressed her gratitude.

She sincerely expressed her gratitude to the man before her.

"I am very grateful to you for allowing me to have this experience in my life, even if you may not be aware of it, your influence on me has indeed been significant," she expressed earnestly.

Bai Yan suddenly spoke, "I'm about to leave, Sylve."

Sylve froze for a moment and immediately asked nervously.

"Where are you going?" she inquired.

Bai Yan's tone was calm as he spoke slowly, "I am heading to the place I need to go. In this world, I have many important matters to attend to. For now, I won't be coming back for a while."

After a moment of silence, Sylve hesitated and asked, "Can... Can you take me with you?... No, forget it. I was just being willful. Please pretend you didn't hear anything."

She shook her head and said, "Actually, my mother needs me a lot. She has been shouldering too many things all by herself. I should try to understand."

"You have truly become a good child."

Bai Yan slowly extended his hand.

A peculiar object appeared in the palm of his hand.

That is a silver-white pendant in the shape of a teardrop, a precious Relic from the Capetian family.

"This is my birthday gift to you. When you encounter danger, it will safeguard you and cause your enemies to be harmed by the attacks they bring upon themselves," he explained.

"However, as you now comprehend, everything in this world comes with a price," he pointed out.

Bai Yan cautioned, "Once it is activated, you will pay a price... a significant depletion of something crucial!"

Sylve swallowed nervously and inquired with fear, "What is the price? If it involves the life of a loved one or the loss of a limb, I believe it is better not to use it..."

Bai Yan chuckled and said, "A total weight of one kilogram, with a harmonious distribution between muscle, fat, and water content."

"What?"

Sylve could hardly believe her own ears!

Is this also considered a price?

In fact, this is indeed the price for the advanced Relic, "Star Reversal."

From a macro perspective that transcends human moral values, the loss of adipose tissue, muscle, and water content in a living organism is indeed an unfavorable occurrence.

Sylve eagerly put on the silver pendant "Star Reversal" and exclaimed with excitement, "Mr. Moriarty, I implore you to give me a slap as soon as possible!"

Bai Yan simply touched her face and gently shook his head.

"I apologize."

He left from the balcony.

Until the birthday party came to an end, Sylve too was engrossed in contemplation.

She didn't understand why... Mr. Moriarty would apologize to her.

Was he speaking in reference to the rigorous training?

She always had the feeling that it wasn't the case.

In the dead of night, after everyone else had departed, Sylve, adorned in her nightgown, lay on the bed ceaselessly toying with the silver pendant.

She smiled, devoid of any trace of sleepiness.

Today truly turned out to be the most splendid birthday for me!

"Mr. Moriarty, I will wait for you to send the letter."

--

Upon departing from the villa, Bai Yan tranquilly looked up and beheld flakes of white descending from the black night sky.

This city.

It is snowing.

"Even without that known answer..."

"I would probably make the same choice as well."

In the midst of the snow, he still remembered that he had arrived at "the Library of Ruina" before attending the birthday party.

After Bai Yan asked that question, he received the corresponding answer.

"If I were to reveal all the truths and explain that I came here to destroy her, would the final element of the Crown Ceremony be fulfilled?"

[Not]

[Even if you do so, she will still not hate you.]

Chapter 244

The first snowfall in Tatsumi City was not particularly heavy. It lasted only one night before coming to a halt. The white snow on the streets was shoveled to both sides, leaving space for pedestrians and vehicles to move.

Bai Yan calmly sat in his designated spot inside the university library.

After leaving the villa of Helen's family, he returned to the university, where he continued to cultivate his own power.

For the time being, Bai Yan will not meet with Sylve anymore. He will communicate with her through written letters.

I have other important matters to attend to and cannot afford to waste time on pointless things.

Bai Yan closed his eyes and embarked upon his personal training.

At this moment, he copied Fusion Slime's abilities.

Bai Yan's arm is visibly liquefying before one's eyes, resembling a pool of simmering pale porridge, it softly lands on the table, emitting wisps of white steam.

This state is exceptionally peculiar; prior to encountering Fusion Slime, he had never experienced such a unique phenomenon.

Bai Yan attempted to exert a trace of control over his arms, only to discover that they seemed to be composed of "numerous" entities, rather than a singular limb.

One's own brain consciousness needs to give commands to multiple parts, not like controlling an entire arm, but more like simultaneously controlling dozens of fingers with varying shapes.

Some find it difficult to adapt...

"I gradually understood that this is how it should be operated."

Bai Yan's expression was remarkably serene, completely focused.

He gradually achieved success, as his once watery-like liquefied arm began to wriggle and reassemble itself.

In the end, the arm successfully reintegrated, but instead of returning to its original state, it transformed into a flesh-colored and agile tentacle.

The elongated tentacles extended and undulated slowly, presenting a highly "disharmonious" appearance at first glance.

There were some students around who were reading, but they all "ignored" Bai Yan's presence, as if this eerie and horrifying scene didn't exist in reality.

Before the experiment, he had already given a long-lasting command using the power of his mind.

The people here will not have any reaction to Bai Yan's actions.

After a while, Bai Yan slowly retracted his arm.

"Next, let's try starting from a different area."

He closed his eyes in silence for a long time, and suddenly a large number of wriggling flesh buds began to grow outward from within his body. Tentacles emerged from various parts of his physical form, continuously extending outwards.

It could not extend too far, at least unable to cover the entire library.

Bai Yan attempted to extend his body and cover a nearby female student, as a multitude of fleshy tentacles gradually retracted, slowly engulfing the unsuspecting young woman entirely.

This feeling is extraordinarily peculiar...

Bai Yan murmured to himself:

"Indeed, although the slime has never attempted such a feat, it is actually capable of digesting the swallowed individuals and regenerating its own vitality."

He gradually retracted his extended limbs, while the female student remained seated, engrossed in her book, completely unaware of the recent events that had transpired.

Rest.

Bai Yan took out his phone and saw the game hint provided by "Projection."

Projection, "The Kingdom of Dark Light consists of six provinces, and each province is governed by a 'Divinus,' who possesses great authority and is considered symbolic of divine contemplation."

Today is the day of the seventh convening of the meeting.

"This is also the inaugural meeting of 'Fist of Duel' and 'Queen of the Scarlet Moon.' Hmm, the addition of new members should certainly make the meeting quite intriguing."

Bai Yan, wearing a smile, stood up and walked slowly amidst the students in the library, murmuring to himself.

No one was aware that the true King of Tatsumi City was right beside them.

The students were merely studying peacefully.

He stood by the window, took out his cellphone, and opened the game "Babel Tower".

Choose to enter the grand halls of Babel Tower.

In the next moment, everything around shattered and disintegrated, only to be rebuilt in a collapse and reconstruction of all elements.

Once again stepping into the depths of Babel Tower, Bai Yan donned a cloak of darkness, opting for a previously unexplored world backdrop.

"Ocean Sanctuary"

Bai Yan sat upon a towering azure throne, before him lay a palace crafted with countless coral reefs and underwater rarities, as a multitude of fish suddenly darted past his ears.

Seated within the depths of the sea, Bai Yan remained utterly unaffected by the pressure that should have been present, as if he could breathe freely even underwater. Perhaps it was a special effect bestowed by the "Ocean Sanctuary".

"Let's begin."

Upon confirming that the Core Operators were in a summonable state... he proceeded to summon each and every one of them.

--

The Kingdom of Dark Light.

Annottales.

Seventh District.

In the large training room beneath the abattoir, Ganis, blindfolded, engaged in hand-to-hand combat with ten heavily armed sinners.

"Come, I will fight with you using the same strength, speed as yours."

He took a deep breath and said, "Do whatever it takes to defeat me."

These ten sinners are not ordinary individuals, but rather resident duellists possessing extraordinary powers, not mere cannon fodder.

Their assault was well-orchestrated and highly effective. Together, wielding iron swords, they launched an attack on Ganis, targeting his blind spots.

However, Ganis undoubtedly possessed the innate qualities of a true warrior.

In the midst of an absolute encirclement, he still managed to identify a loophole, swiftly lowering his body and forcefully breaking through the obstruction of the two individuals.

The vulnerability of the sword formation instantly widened as Ganis took cover among several individuals, swiftly delivering a kick to the sinner who had turned his back towards him.

Subsequently, he launched a rapid assault akin to entering a flock of sheep as a predator.

Ganis quickly took down each of his sparring partners, even though he employed the same strength and speed, the gap still persisted.

He shook his head and said, "Your coordination is still not meticulous enough. You must pay attention... If your opponents are experienced, they will definitely find a way to break through the onslaught of the sword formation. So, you need to think about the next step, what to do if the enemy counterattacks... And also, what to do if there is a surprise attack from behind?"

Ganis stood amidst the crowd, imparting his teachings to the sinners present, almost hand in hand.

Inside the underground training chamber, the guards of the abattoir stood naturally. The former knight, now the warden of the abattoir, also stood here.

Clad in a suit of black armor, his visage concealed, he vigilantly supervised the sinner's demeanor, clasping his fists.

Ganis cast a fleeting glance at the warden of the guards.

He clapped his hands vigorously and exclaimed, "Alright, everyone take a five-minute break. Rest up, and then we'll resume training. We must put on a splendid performance at the New Year celebration in one month's time!"

The New Year celebration in January is one of the major festivals of the Kingdom of Dark Light.

When the time comes, the well-trained sinners within the abattoir will offer a series of battles.

However, not all duels necessitate fatalities; in recent decades, there has been a gradual emergence of the "exhibition match" segment.

After all, it would be quite costly if some of the highly popular sinner duelists were to perish haphazardly.

For example, Ganis, he didn't become a duel celebrity solely based on his fighting skills and mischief-making abilities.

Mr. Keno, the organizer of the abattoir in District Seven, spent an astonishing amount of money on marketing for Ganis.

When all the training of today was finally complete, Ganis took a deep breath as he joined the sinners for a bath.

Only here and in the dormitory are the places where the guards will not enter.

He turned around and said to the sinners, "I have mentioned this matter to all of you before, and now I emphasize it once again... The Savior, the Savior spoken of in the sinner legends, does indeed exist!"

The men and women present were all somewhat moved, as they turned around and looked towards Ganis.

Throughout history, there have always been legends among sinners about the Savior.

"The Savior shall emerge from the tower, leading 'the Persecuted' to the city of hope, while the six evil gods kneel trembling on the ground, praying for mercy."

The existence of this legend has a peculiar history, as both the sinners from the Air Alliance and the sinners from the Kingdom of Dark Light, despite being thousands of miles apart, have heard of it.

The sinners have been passing it on by word of mouth from generation to generation, up until today.

Ganis' eyes were filled with radiance as he continued, "The true Savior has appeared, and he has revealed to me... I have been chosen! I will become the executor of the Savior! Ultimately, the Savior will lead all of 'the Persecuted' to the city of hope!"

His emotions appeared greatly stirred as he exclaimed:

"Brothers and sisters! The oppression from the 'City-dwellers' will come to an end sooner or later! 'The Persecuted' will find a safe haven and be bestowed with ample respect!"

"The 'City-dwellers' treat us like livestock and playthings, robbing us of both life and dignity! Look at the current state of affairs, in their eyes, we have ceased to have a gender, devoid of shame. We have become nothing more than swine! 'City-dwellers' show us absolutely no respect!"

Ganis, casting his gaze upon all the men and women, lowered his voice and roared:

"Sooner or later, we must make these individuals pay the price!"

The sinners looked at each other, contemplating the possibility of the existence of the Savior, which they had once pondered.

Having prayed, hoping that the Savior would rescue the Persecuted from their suffering.

However, day after day, year after year, they witnessed countless sorrows and agonies, yet the awaited Savior didn't arrive.

Even though the champion Ganis himself spoke these words, there were still some aspects that were difficult to believe...

Does the Savior truly exist?

[Put on your attire.]

Ganis hesitated for a moment, as a voice in his mind sounded both stern and exhilarating. Without delay, he adorned himself with his garments in the grand bath chamber.

The sinners had no knowledge of his intentions.

Suddenly, a dense veil of black mist materialized around Ganis.

Everyone inside the bath chamber was utterly astonished!

What is this?

Chloe was astounded, "What is that dark mist... what on earth could it be? How are you, Ganis?"

Steel Fist mumbled to himself, pondering, "Such unparalleled strength, why does it manifest here? Astonishingly, it remains unimpeded by the formidable barriers of this place's guardians!"

Ganis suddenly exclaimed, "Behold, this is the power of the Savior!"

"In front of Him, even Dark Light is inconsequential, for this is our hope and the divine being we should believe in!"

Gradually, Ganis vanished from the black mist.

After the onlooker sinners were shocked, one by one, they suddenly knelt down. They dare not shout aloud, yet each person's eyes were filled with a gleam.

The Savior of "the Persecuted" truly exists!

--

When Ganis regained consciousness, he found himself in a completely different place.

In an environment akin to the depths of the ocean, he could freely breathe... Small and large fish swam past him, towering sea creatures sheltered above, and beneath his feet lay a ground formed by coral reefs. The surroundings were adorned with exquisite pearls and resplendent gemstones that could be found everywhere.

Ganis discovered that he still had a peculiar mask on his face, though the exact appearance remained unknown to him.

I emerged from the abattoir!

He could hardly believe his eyes, unable to fathom that he had managed to escape so effortlessly and effortlessly from that infernal place!

However, Ganis suddenly thought of his sister's predicament. Oh no, if he were to leave just like this, wouldn't his sister be at the mercy of that scoundrel Keno...

He took a deep breath, hoping to maintain composure, believing that the Savior could solve his problems!

Soon, Ganis noticed individuals emerging one by one from the dense black mist, donning masks as they stood nearby.

Simultaneously, the most mysterious and unfathomable figure, the one who stirred Ganis with unparalleled excitement, sat tall and composed upon a deep blue throne not far away - the enigmatic man cloaked in darkness.

Transcendent from the world, resembling a deity!

Ganis instantaneously grasped a revelation!

At this location...

It is the very land of his aspirations!

Chapter 245

Bai Yan, seated loftily upon the throne, looked down upon the gathering crowd.

Everything is progressing toward a favorable direction, isn't it?

Bai Yan was well aware, even when considering the entire world of Noah, that the current Babel Tower had become a formidable force that should not be underestimated.

He employed the power of his mind, transmitting his own will to every individual present.

[Everyone...]

[Welcome to Babel Tower, we meet once again.]

[This time's Babel Tower has welcomed new members, as the salvation of the world necessitates increased potentiality.]

Undoubtedly, the Scarlet Moon also stood among the crowd.

She still wore attire in shades of red and black, exuding the regal aura of the sovereign of the dark realm.

A black lion mask concealed her exquisite countenance, yet even so, when people laid eyes upon her, they would instinctively envision the simple concept of "beauty".

Through the black lion mask, she observed the members of Babel Tower gathered before her.

Their faces each bore distinctly different masks - cats, dogs, wolves, deer, and foxes.

The only one without a mask is that massive deep blue slime, which the Scarlet Moon finds somewhat intimidating.

When she was young, her family was extremely impoverished, and she was forced to consume this... Perhaps it is the only thing in the world that can make the Queen of the Scarlet Moon feel fear.

The Scarlet Moon quickly noticed something: most of the members' masks were white, and only the wolf mask was black, leaving her pondering its symbolic significance.

"So, what color is the mask on my face?"

Deep in thought, the Scarlet Moon pondered whether the other members of the Babel Tower were as resilient as herself or become devoted hounds like Mu Ling. What were their attitudes towards the Savior, after all?

Finally, she tilted her head slightly and gazed at the mysterious entity above the throne.

"So... you are the Savior of Babel Tower..."

This man is enigmatic, towering above on the throne, with an inscrutable demeanor that seems transcendent of the world, surpassing everything she had ever witnessed.

If placed in the past, the Scarlet Moon might have resorted to mocking words or even launched a direct attack against the Savior.

Even in the face of a significant power disparity, the Scarlet Moon would not let go of her kingly pride and dignity.

However, after experiencing the events of these past few days, the Scarlet Moon has realized that the disparity between the two sides is not of the same magnitude. Being crushed by the other party would likely be easier than killing an insignificant ant.

And even in death, her soul will continue to be toyed with.

Launching an attack recklessly would only reveal her foolishness and potentially bring catastrophic consequences upon the blood clan, the Scarlet Moon silently pondered.

Moreover, coupled with that wondrous memory experience, it did indeed leave an indelible impression on her, ultimately resulting in the current Scarlet Moon temporarily not exhibiting strong hostility.

Ganis, the figure concealed behind the Black Wolf mask, took a deep breath as he stepped forward from the crowd and knelt before the throne.

"Oh, magnificent Savior!"

"Please save the sinners! Save my sister!"

"I am willing to give everything, even to offer my own soul to you!"

Mu Ling, Maryse, and Alan were all taken aback, unexpectedly witnessing such a spectacle from the new member right off the bat.

What on earth is going on with him?

Could it be that his current situation is quite unfavorable?

Amy, sitting in a wheelchair, silently analyzed everyone present.

From the attire alone, it can be inferred that the woman wearing a black lion mask is highly likely to be the Queen of the Scarlet Moon from Tatsumi City.

She had seen a photo of the Queen of the Scarlet Moon in the database of the Demon Hunt Agency in Tatsumi City.

After the "Savior" mentioned that this formidable individual would become a member of the Babel Tower, Amy consciously deepened her impression of her.

"Indeed, it is true. The reigning champion of the dark world of Tatsumi City... Apart from the unfathomable 'Profligate', she should be the strongest among the current members of Noah's Babel Tower."

Amy continued to gaze at Ganis, silently contemplating:

"This kneeling man has no relevant information in the database, making it impossible to determine his exact identity. However, judging by his attire, he appears to be affiliated with the Kingdom of Dark Light... According to his statement, is he a sinner?"

Ganis knelt down on one knee, at this very moment, he truly was willing to give everything, hoping that the Savior could truly be like a legendary deity, capable of waving a hand to change all the suffering in the world.

He is willing to pay whatever price it takes to achieve his ideals!

[Just like 'Rainbows' and Outer Gods...]

[I am currently unable to directly intervene in the world of Noah]

The cold and merciless voice once again resounded in the minds of everyone.

The "Savior" once again straightforwardly admitted that he is temporarily unable to intervene in the world of Noah.

Ganis was momentarily stunned.

The Scarlet Moon, having existed for a long time, naturally understands the limitations that the "world consciousness" imposes on god-tier beings.

She had anticipated this answer, and the others were also aware of this matter from the previous meeting.

"How is that possible? So, how exactly can I obtain your assistance?"

Speaking of this, Ganis's expression had already changed, and he exclaimed loudly, "Please, quickly send me back! If those despicable 'urbanites', those beasts, discover my absence, they might possibly harm my sister!"

He could hardly imagine what would happen because no matter how revolting the circumstances, the urbanites had perpetrated such atrocities upon the Persecuted.

Maryse suddenly inquired, "Are you a sinner, by any chance?"

Ganis hesitated for a moment, only the urbanites referred to them as sinners, whereas they would identify themselves as "the Persecuted."

He slowly rose to his feet, turning his gaze towards the young girl wearing a white cat mask.

"Urbanites?"

Ganis suddenly realized something, perhaps, a portion of the people here were not the Persecuted, but rather the urbanites.

The Savior of Babel Tower may not necessarily be the "Savior" of the Persecuted as the legends suggest.

Maryse noticed the gaze of the other person, almost as if they were looking at a creature's offspring, filled with wariness.

"Well, it seems you truly are a sinner," she said. "Don't give me that look, I'm not discriminating against you, you know."

Maryse truly had no prejudice against the other person.

Even in the education she received from childhood to adulthood, adults were always telling her that sinners were beasts, animals, murderers, and terrifying monsters.

Maryse had heard many stories of what sins sinners had committed, such as who they had devoured as a family after illegally crossing borders, or whose unfortunate child they had taken away.

But what's ironic is that Maryse herself had been labeled as a monster by her self-righteous family for twenty years.

Therefore, she had long known that some seemingly correct words could not be fully trusted.

Although it is a fact that there is a considerable proportion of sinners among the cultists who believe in Outer Gods.

"Wait, all of you are 'city dwellers'?"

Ganis inquired tentatively, and to his surprise, no one in the room uttered a word, as if they tacitly accepted the answer.

Only Fusion Slime made a feeble attempt to argue, in the face of this.

I am not human!

"Gurgle!"

Hence, Ganis's heart instantly skipped a beat.

Oh no, I've become the one who is surrounded!

How could this happen?

[Please don't misunderstand, I am truly not human! Alas!]

To emphasize its non-human nature, Fusion Slime continued to anxiously exclaim, "Gurgle! Gurgle! Gurgle!"

However, it was ignored.

No one paid any attention to its thoughts.

The Scarlet Moon suddenly spoke up, saying, "Whether it is 'city dwellers' or sinners, it is of no importance to me. I am the king of the vampire, responsible only for my kind. I have no desire to be involved in the matters of the Babel Tower."

Mu Ling finally spoke, saying, "But you also have no chance to withdraw. Let us together save this world, which is essentially equivalent to saving your own vampire kind as well."

She was initially concerned that the Queen of the Scarlet Moon might cause trouble here, but the situation turned out to be much better than expected.

The Scarlet Moon merely snorted disdainfully, refraining from further speech.

She actually never believed in the words of saving the world, even though she had witnessed many miracles, she still didn't believe.

If the "Savior" were to claim that He intends to rule the world, then the Scarlet Moon would believe a little bit more.

Why is that?

Because over the course of several centuries, the Scarlet Moon has come into contact with more than a dozen cults devoted to the Outer Gods, and among them, half have been proclaiming themselves as Saviors of the world...

Maryse and Alan were taken aback, only now realizing something.

Wait, hold on, is that woman really the legendary Queen of the Scarlet Moon?

That is a character from a legendary tale!

She has actually become a member of the Babel Tower!

Alan pondered, truly living up to the title of the Savior of the Babel Tower, to think that he could even subdue such a character!

Drawing a deep breath, he stepped forward and spoke:

"Great Savior, I hope to resurrect those who have passed away! Surely, you must have a solution, right?"

"Please make me stronger! I wholeheartedly pledge my loyalty to you!"

After he finished speaking, he also knelt down on one knee.

"This city, no, not just this city, but there are also many people in the world who need me to protect them."

All eyes turned towards the exalted Savior, high above, seated upon the throne, so transcendental and sublime, as if surpassing the very realms of the world, resembling a deity!

A voice, once again resonated from the depths of everyone's hearts.

[Mysterious Magic, your dreams can come true in the future]

[But not at the present moment]

[As a member of the Babel Tower, continue to perform brilliantly]

A surge of intense joy welled up in Alan's heart. He now held utmost trust in the Savior, fully aware that His promises were anything but mere frivolous words!

Lin Bian, along with her, are both saved...

Bai Yan, I will definitely find you. Please, don't perish!

Meanwhile, Bai Yan, the "Savior," continues to convey his thoughts.

[As for you]

[Soon you will return, but now is not the time to escape.]

[Sooner or later, you will realize your aspirations]

[He will assist you]

Ganis blinked slightly, suddenly noticing the presence of an unfamiliar man that had appeared nearby, at an unknown moment.

He was the only person on the scene who was not wearing a mask.

With his slightly curled black hair, handsome Western features, and the demeanor of a noble scholar, the man dressed in a black robe smiled as he gazed upon the assembled crowd.

Bai Yan, or "Profligate", with a solemn pretense, smiled and said, "Pleased to meet you, 'Fist of Duel'. I am the 'Profligate' of Babel Tower, hm, you probably don't know me yet... but others are rather acquainted with me."

The Queen of the Scarlet Moon's mood grew increasingly displeased, always sensing that encountering this individual never brought anything good.

Maryse's mood, on the other hand, soared, and a smile appeared beneath her mask.

Ganis was completely immersed in contemplation, unsure of how to answer.

Maryse immediately interjected, "Senior Profligate hails from another realm, and what you see is merely his projection. He is certainly capable of assisting you!"

"The true him is a formidable force beyond your imagination!"

Upon hearing that, Ganis naturally felt a startled surprise.

The temperament of this man does indeed bear resemblance to that of certain top-tier powerhouses.

He pondered, "So that's what it is! It means that the Savior has dispatched a mighty ally to aid me!"

Ganis was well aware.

Regardless of whether the enigmatic Babel Tower is truly the Savior, as the legend of the sinner suggests, at the very least, it will be my Savior.

He is also our only choice now!

[Fulfill the tasks bestowed upon me, constantly accept bestowed blessings, and then grow powerful]

[Fist of Duel, you will brandish your fist against this unjust world and initiate duels]

Ganis understood that Fist of Duel was his own nickname.

He raised his head and exclaimed loudly:

"O great Savior, I long to know! As one who accepts all of this, what cost must I bear?"

From a young age, Ganis knew one thing, that all blessings come with a predestined price in his fate.

Even many times, this price would be an unbearable sacrifice, far surpassing the value of the blessing itself.

[Without cost]

[Only requiring your constant growth, ultimately saving the world, fulfilling the mission of the Babel Tower]

Bai Yan emphasized once again.

[To save all worlds, to prevent the demise of the multiverse, that is the purpose of your presence here]

[Save all worlds?]

Ganis finally recognizes that the Savior of the Babel Tower harbors aspirations grander than his own!

Indeed, He is a magnificent being!

Therefore, achieving one's own ideals along the way should also be possible!

"Very well, I comprehend!"

He nodded heavily, his face adorned with a gleam of longing and hopeful radiance, as he clenched his fists.

Those "urban dwellers" who act with reckless abandon... wait... I will be back...

However, Ganis looked towards these so-called companions, who, besides the "Profligate" from another world, were all "urban dwellers".

As a veritable human being, can I truly endure becoming teammates with demons, and even save the world alongside the very same demons?

Moreover, he simply couldn't believe that the "urban dwellers" possessed the virtuous qualities of desiring to save the world!

During his time in the wilderness, Ganis had only heard of the wickedness and atrocities committed by the "urban dwellers".

After departing from the wilderness, Ganis also witnessed the audacious recklessness and crazed hypocrisy of the "urban dwellers" within the abattoir.

He truly had no favorable impression whatsoever towards the "urban dwellers".

After all, it is truly difficult for humans to imagine things they have never seen before.

--

After the "Profligate" version of Bai Yan heard the remarks of the "Savior" version of Bai Yan, he spoke up as well.

"I will journey to Annotales and rescue your sister."

"Thank you, Mr. Profligate."

Ganis nodded at Bai Yan and smiled.

As Bai Yan claimed to be from another world, neither "the Persecuted" nor "a city dweller," Ganis had a rather favorable first impression of him.

Bai Yan's purpose in journeying to the Kingdom of Dark Light was actually not only to rescue Ganis's loved ones.

He also had two important matters to attend to.

One of them is, as the witch mentioned, the ultimate ritual of achieving godhood that exists in the Kingdom of Dark Light.

That is the only known path to divinity in Noah's world!

Although the Core Operators are far from becoming deities, Bai Yan clearly is the kind of person who would make preparations in advance.

The quantity of god-level combat capabilities is highly important to determining the ultimate success of clearing Babel Tower and even achieving a perfect ending.

The second important matter is to make early contact with those Core Operators from the Babel Tower in the Kingdom of Dark Light, within the Euro League.

In fact, Bai Yan knows that there are Core Operators waiting in the pool, not just "Fist of Duel," who currently need assistance.

He will not only go to the Kingdom of Dark Light but also to the Night Union.

Bai Yan, naturally, will not passively stand by in the face of a tragedy that can be changed.

If, in the future, after drawing them, he listens to these Core Operators recount their experiences, and then hypocritically say, "Ah, what a pity, if only someone could have saved you at that time" with the identity of Profligate... Bai Yan feels that he truly cannot treat his comrades in such a contemptible manner.

"Mr. Profligate, are you really going to Annottales? I know that it is the capital of the Euro League, Noah's largest and oldest city!"

Maryse suddenly becomes excited.

At this moment, Fusion Slime is repeatedly rolling at the edge of the Ocean Sanctuary, but no one pays it any attention.

Bai Yan nodded gently.

"Yes, I do intend to go," he replied.

She looked at Profligate Bai Yan, hesitated for a moment, and finally mustered the courage to ask, "Can you take me with you?"

"No, I can't."

Bai Yan shook his head gently and said with a smile, "Rest assured, I will constantly travel between the two cities, so you will still be able to see me often."

After hearing this conversation, some Core Operators revealed an expression of "Could it be that they actually..."

Maryse coughed lightly and said, "It doesn't matter, to be honest, I don't really want to see someone like you either."

Bai Yan faintly smiled, remaining noncommittal.

In fact, he intends to create another avatar in Annottales, aiming to enhance the likelihood of success in the "Fictional Enactment" of the Crown Ceremony.

If Maryse also goes along, then this avatar's identity won't hold true.

The "fictitious identity" required for the Fictional Enactment must remain unknown to all individuals in regard to the actual circumstances.

[Psychic Dancer]

[You also have important matters to attend to]

Bai Yan felt like a master director, seamlessly slipping into the dialogue of "Savior" when needed, instantly capturing everyone's attention once again.

Maryse lifted her head blankly, unaware of what task the "Savior" had in store for her.

[Soon, you will ascend to the position of Crown]

Inside the current Babel Tower, there are three extraordinary individuals with Potential Crown, namely "Psychic Dancer," "Fusion Slime," and "Fist of Duel."

Naturally, Bai Yan inquired about the suitable Crown Ceremony for them through "the Library of Ruina."

Next, we need to assist them in their ascension before the arrival of the First Doomsday Crisis.

And among the three Crown Ceremonies, the Crown Ceremony of the "Psychic Dancer" is the easiest to accomplish. Bai Yan naturally decided to let her ascend to Crown first.

The slime continued to roll around.

Maryse was dumbfounded.

What?

So fast, unexpectedly?

Will I... also become a "Crown"-level transcendent?

Chapter 246

"A transcendent being at the Crown level... Oh, they actually chose me?"

Maryse was dumbfounded, as she vaguely recalled that it had been a hundred years since a transcendent being at the Crown level had last emerged in her family.

As the age-old saying goes, in any faction within the world of Noah, the Crown level is an existence that cannot be underestimated.

However, nowadays, at least in Babel Tower, Maryse couldn't help but feel that the notion of a "Crown level" transcendent being was becoming common and ordinary, like comparing carrots and cabbages.

In fact, the main reason lies in the contribution of "the Library of Ruina".

In the world of Noah, there are abundant transcendent beings whose power is confined within the realm of Potential Crown level.

For most transcendent beings, finding a suitable Crown Ceremony is no easy task. Moreover, the difficulty levels of various Crown Ceremonies are completely uneven.

The Crown Ceremony that Mu Ling experienced seems to be much more challenging than Bai Yan's Crown Ceremony.

However, even so, her Crown Ceremony was carefully chosen from thousands of suitable ones for her by the Library of Ruina, and it still falls under the category of moderately challenging in terms of ascension difficulty.

Some Crown Ceremonies, in order to be completed, require intricate steps that may take centuries or even millennia.

Some Crown Ceremonies, even at the first threshold, require one to undergo life-threatening crises.

For most transcedents who lack support and have not joined any influential factions, the only way to break through to the Crown is to spend years after years searching, expending their time.

They can only find some Crown Ceremonies that are both complex and difficult to comprehend.

The final success rate of ascension is only around one to two percent, or even lower.

The most incompatible Crown Ceremony has a success rate as low as one percent.

Without a majority of transcedents who are not part of "the Library of Ruina," they not only struggle to discern the suitability of the Crown Ceremony but also remain unclear about its success rate.

It is customary for hard work to go in vain, and achieving the Crown in a single attempt is purely a rare occurrence.

In the mainstream consciousness of the Otherworlds, it is considered a fortunate endeavor for transcedents of the Potential Crown to aspire to ascend to the esteemed rank of Crown, as it truly requires a significant investment of energy and time.

Maryse gazed at Mu Ling, who had already reached the Crown level, her expression growing increasingly excited. She exclaimed loudly, "Great! I will strive for it. So, what do I need to do?"

[You will naturally know when the time comes.]

Bai Yan didn't elaborate on the detailed steps here, intending to teach Maryse separately in the future.

According to theory of "Silent Mastery," if I were to blabber about a bunch of tedious ritual steps here, it would definitely diminish the air of mystique!

Therefore, Bai Yan has no intention of saying more.

Next, Amy and two new members of Babel Tower introduced the forums they had developed.

However, the Queen of the Scarlet Moon had some difficulty understanding the internet, so she simply turned away with an indifferent expression, expressing her rejection.

"I've already said it, I don't want to be involved in the affairs of Babel Tower!"

Amy silently complained in her mind, "If you didn't want to be involved, why were you attentively listening to me explain the usage earlier?"

Ganis is a sinner born in the wilderness, who has never used any internet products and completely fails to comprehend this thing.

Fortunately, he has a strong learning ability, so after a while, he understood quite a bit.

However, at the same time, a problem arose. Ganis, being a slave, naturally didn't possess a mobile phone.

In fact, within the Kingdom of Dark Light, both mobile phones and internet are prohibited from usage.

"It's not a problem at all, here, take this thing."

On Amy's wheelchair, a newly replaced steel mechanical arm suddenly popped out.

Subsequently, it swiftly extended towards Ganis.

The movement speed of the mechanical arm was rapid, as it drilled a needle-like object from its tip, with the intention of piercing into Ganis' body.

However, Ganis instinctively reached out his hand and directly grabbed onto the mechanical arm.

A tremendous force came forth and fearing the mechanical arm would be damaged, Amy hurriedly spoke, "Do not resist, I simply wish to implant micro-machines inside your body for communication purposes."

Ganis, utterly distrustful of the so-called new companions, coldly refused, saying, "Forget it, I don't need anything from you now. Thank you for your kindness."

Amy shook her head, refraining from imposing upon the other party.

She nodded and said, "Alright, alright, I can understand your thoughts... Do the others have anything they desire? I have brought quite a few items from the Night Union this time, perhaps we can make an exchange."

Maryse leaned in immediately, whispering softly, "Amy, dear, do you happen to have a potion that can instantaneously mature living organisms? For example, a potion that could directly transform A cup into E cup..."

"Uh."

Amy fell into contemplation and shook her head, saying, "The Night Union's beauty industry surely possesses such biotechnologies, but unfortunately, I don't have them in my possession at the moment."

"I have obtained a drug that allows instant resistance to most toxins and enhances physical prowess, along with military-grade computer compartments integrated with the new 'magic chip,' as well as advanced electronic eyes yet to be announced by Noy Military. Lastly, there's this form-fitting GT reinforced battle suit, which grants agile mobility and formidable defense once worn..."

However, the little one clearly showed no interest in any of these.

"Do you have something that can make someone's chest smaller?"

The murmuring sound of Maryse grew increasingly faint.

Amy was left dumbfounded.

What is this person trying to do?

"No!"

"Do you have a machine that can steal body parts from others?"

"Still no! Is this just science fiction?"

Maryse let out a sigh and disdainfully said, "Sigh, you really have nothing at all."

"You're so useless."

Maryse shook her head and turned away.

"I..."

Amy was slightly choked, and for a moment, she surprisingly didn't know what to say.

She could only maliciously imagine Maryse being inserted into the works she loved to read!

Just at that moment, the round and massive slime crawled over.

"Hmm?"

Amy was completely stunned. To be honest, at first, she even thought that this guy was someone's pet.

Until Amy discovered the imprint of the Babel Tower on the surface of the slime, she realized that it was also one of the members of the Babel Tower.

She cautiously asked:

"Do you wish to exchange something with me?"

Slime, "(๑•๓ • ʝ)ღღ Gulu!"

Then it started dry heaving, seemingly attempting to cough up something in order to make a trade with Amy.

Amy watched this scene with an unhealthy complexion, filled with a strong sense of foreboding.

"Wait, don't! Stay away, please, no!"

--

The meeting has concluded.

The Kingdom of Dark Light.

Annottales, District Seven.

In the collective bathroom of the underground abattoir, the dark mist reappeared once again.

While there was still time, Ganis had already been brought back by the "Savior".

Within the dense black mist, that man who resembled a deity, stood there with his head held high and a proud demeanor.

The other sinners quickly stood up and surrounded him.

His good comrade, Steel Fist, was the first to inquire, shouting, "Ganis! Where exactly did you go just now? Could it be that, that you have already departed from the abattoir?"

"Indeed, how did you suddenly vanish? Did you manage to find a way to escape?"

"What is that black mist, Ganis?"

"Is it true about what you said about the Savior?"

Everyone was buzzing with inquiries, each person filled with excitement; that miraculous scene just now made people believe.

Perhaps, in the wilderness, the Savior of the Persecuted truly exists!

Is that Savior truly our legendary Savior?

On the contrary, Ganis himself, at this moment, felt a flicker of doubt in his heart.

After all, among the members of Babel Tower, everyone except oneself and Mr. Profligate is surprisingly comprised of "citizens of the city"!

Believing the slime to be merely a summon of a certain member, Ganis fell into contemplation.

Does a mysterious organization, whose main body consists of "citizens of the city," truly deserve his belief?

He must lead all the Persecuted to obtain dignity, contemplating thoroughly the various dangers and opportunities!

Every choice one makes, is not made for oneself alone, but will block the future of all the Persecuted!

However, Ganis soon also realized one thing.

That is, oneself currently has no power of choice!

The only thing he could gamble on was leading everyone aboard the chariot of the Babel Tower!

Even if it means becoming a cannon fodder, it is better than rotting away here!

Upon realizing this, he felt an immediate sense of relief.

In fact, Ganis, as a visionary leader with grand ideals, possesses a remarkable level of psychological resilience, positioning him as one of the foremost members within the present-day Babel Tower.

With a faint smile, Ganis addressed everyone, saying:

"I will inform you all about the situation in the future, I promise you," Ganis vowed.

As the time arrived, Ganis paused for a moment before continuing, "Let's all put on our clothes and return to our dormitories. If we're late, we'll be subjected to punishments."

"No, you have forgotten," Chloe remarked.

Chloe shook her head and calmly said, "Today is the day for medical examinations, there is no need to dress up for now."

"Oh, right, I forgot about it."

Ganis nodded slightly, contemplating whether accepting what the "Cybertyrant" had offered would inadvertently lead to exposure during the medical examination.

In that very moment, he sensed something amiss, as if there was something in his hair.

However, it felt more like an illusion...

No, absolutely not an illusion!

Just at that moment, the guards entered.

"All individuals are to line up properly and await the medical examination! Hurry up!"

The warden was clad in heavy black armor, complete with a helmet that concealed every inch of skin, except for his piercing gaze revealed through his eyes.

The sinners immediately divided themselves into male and female groups, adeptly arranging themselves, and awaiting the physicians.

Except for Ganis, no one noticed as an imperceptible tiny robot flew out from his hair.

What is this thing...

Ganis furrowed his brow, knowing without a doubt that it was placed on him by a member of Babel Tower, most likely the "Cybertyrant."

In no time, the small robot vanished without a trace.

Suddenly, the warden gazed at Ganis with a frigid stare.

He approached slowly, the cold black armor on his body emitting a clanking sound. In a deep, resonant tone, he said, "You've done well, our esteemed champion Ganis, heh heh."

Ganis remained remarkably composed, displaying exceptional psychological fortitude as he calmly shook his head and said, "I don't understand, Mr. Warden. What do you mean?"

The warden's sharp gaze lingered upon him for a while, and he slowly uttered, "I can't help but feel that you're not training a group of slaves, but rather, attempting to train an army... Perhaps it's just my imagination, but why do you need to be so serious?"

"Is it necessary to be so harsh on those sinners? I have witnessed the conditions at the abattoirs in every district, and among all the sinner slaves, only you exhibit such vitality and spirit."

Ganis remained remarkably tranquil, responding nonchalantly, "Because I want to appease the organizers here. Only by delivering a flawless performance during the New Year celebration can we receive favorable treatment!"

"I don't think this is anything suspicious or problematic. You may be overthinking it."

After a brief silence, the warden refrained from commenting on this response. However, his voice became increasingly solemn, resonating through the helmet:

"Champion, you show no fear of me, nor do you even dread death... My intuition tells me that someone as composed as you is full of danger."

"If you weren't a coveted star contestant in the abattoir, I would have killed you by now..."

"What a pity."

The warden gradually approached, leaning close and whispered, "You must remember, a sinner can only be a sinner, and in the Kingdom of Dark Light, you are nothing more than slaves, for this is the god's mercy... In reality, you have no purpose for existence."

"It was your collusion with the Outer God that sought to destroy our world, and the current state of affairs is a deserved punishment."

"If you dare to resist, you will lose everything completely!"

Ganis merely smiled and remained silent, refraining from further speech.

Behold, people of the city, just wait and see.

What we will lose is nothing but shackles and prisons!

--

Bai Yan still lingered in Herendor, occasionally appearing in the library and other classrooms, unnoticed by anyone regarding his true existence.

Now, he boldly sits in the front row of that esteemed professor's classroom, nonchalantly playing with his cellphone.

All individuals were under the control of a formidable force of the mind, thus, everyone perceived Bai Yan's act of playing with his cellphone as normal, with no one finding it objectionable.

The professor, still teaching, had long ceased pondering about Bai Yan as a student.

Bai Yan organized the currently useful "Non-core Operators" among his subordinates, recognizing the significance of these peripheral members.

Currently, among the five major families and the Tatsumi City Demon Hunt Agency, there are only two individuals who can be classified as "Potential Crown" level extraordinaires. One of them is the rejuvenated Count Gallard.

The other one is the current director of the Demon Hunt Agency, Raven Reaper · Mo.

Apart from that, among all the forces loyal to Babel Tower, there are a total of over twenty individuals at the awakening level.

Their combat prowess certainly proves to be useful.

However, when it comes to the individuals who truly have an impact in the Doomsday Crisis, Bai Yan can be counted on one hand.

Among them, the most powerful individual undoubtedly is Raven Reaper·Mo himself.

This former boss has now become a peripheral member of Babel Tower, truly illustrating the unpredictability of life.

Non-core Operators:

Title: Director of Tatsumi City Demon Hunt Agency.

Gender: Male

Rank: Plane Material Realm

Rank: Awakening (Potential Crown)

Race: Human Species

Primary Attributes:

Physicality: 58

INT:68

Skills: 135

Secondary Attributes:

Charisma: 10

Loyalty: 3

Mood: 3

Ability:

Heart Duel Nine Styles: Swift Wind Eightfold, Heavy Rock Sevenfold, Flowing Water Eightfold, Heavenly Martial Arts Eightfold, Diamond Sixfold, Blazing Fire Threefold, Forest Intentions Twofold.

Translation: Description, "Raven Reaper" of the Demon Hunt Agency in Tatsumi City, currently serves as the director.

"Hmm... Traditional nine styles, along with the unorthodox Flow of the Heart, make a total of ten schools. It's quite impressive that you can master seven out of them."

Unfortunately, it is only at the tenth stage, known as the "Transcendent Realm," that a qualitative change will occur.

The difficulty of cultivating Flow of the Heart from the eighth stage to the tenth stage is higher than that from the first stage to the eighth stage.

As for the Flow of the Heart realm beyond the tenth stage, I'm sorry, but there is none at the moment... The Flow of the Heart power system has only emerged for a few decades, and currently, its limit is right here.

He clicked on "Influence Related," and Noah's world map appeared before his eyes once again.

Then, it is the current status of the various forces that Tatsumi City has pledged allegiance to.

"Tatsumi City - Demon Hunt Agency (pledged allegiance)"

"Power intensity: 62"

"Leader: Raven Reaper·Mo"

"Recent developments: Personnel changes"

"Current favorability rating: 81"

The current membership of the Demon Hunt Agency is a total of 2381 individuals, which clearly includes not only the number of Night Watchers but also tactical support personnel and logistics personnel.

Within the options of Tatsumi City, besides the Demon Hunt Agency, there are also the Five Great Families, and the blood clan under the command of the Scarlet Moon.

"The Wettin family (loyal)"

"Power intensity: 15"

"Leader: Count Gallard"

"Recent developments: Nurturing newcomers"

"Current favorability rating: 33"

The influence has slightly strengthened compared to before, and this owes entirely to the prowess of Count Gallard himself. However, the next generation has still not been properly nurtured.

With a favorability rating of 33, to be honest, it has surprised Bai Yan a little. He knows that besides Count Gallard, everyone in this family harbors resentment towards him.

However, Bai Yan doesn't care.

Then, he took a look at the Augustus family.

"The Augustus family (loyal)"

"Power intensity: 11"

"Leader: Phoenix"

"Recent developments: actively engaging in business."

"Current favorability rating: 42"

Bai Yan felt that the power intensity and favorability rating of the Augustus family should not have excluded the "Psychic Dancer".

The head of the Reno family has been captured, both Civilization-level Relics have been taken by himself, and the power intensity of the Augustus family has plummeted.

Among the other three major families, the Capetian family only has a power intensity of around ten, while the Guise family, who remains detached from the matter, along with the Astore family, has a power intensity of over twenty.

Finally, we have the Blood Clan of Tatsumi City.

"Tatsumi City Blood Clan (Loyalty)"

"Power intensity: 35"

"Leader: Marquis Scarlet"

"Recent trends: Self-indulgence and amusement."

"Current favorability rating: 77."

"Indeed, neither the power intensity nor the favorability rating took into account the Core Operator. Otherwise, the Scarlet Moon alone could single-handedly raise the power intensity from 35 to 135."

He found something that was taken for granted.

The teammates of the "Problem Squad" have now also become members of the Babel Tower's faction, owing to their loyalty to Mo.

Bai Yan clicked on "Intervene" and a filtering search bar appeared on the screen, allowing him to directly enter the name "Holly".

Very soon, a pixelated rendition of "Holly" appeared on the phone screen.

She is in the office, watering a flower.

Bai Yan still remembers that when he was there, there was no such thing; perhaps Holly recently purchased it.

He quickly discovered that his desk had been occupied by Holly and others.

Not only were there a large number of snacks placed, but also flower pots and even a fish tank!

Darn it!

Bai Yan shook his head and selected "Life" in the "Rewards" section, spending 10 Source Energy Points for the reward.

"Game tip: 'Holly' receives a 10-year increase in lifespan."

After Holly, with a pixelated art style, finished watering the flowers on her phone screen, she sat on Bai Yan's former seat, lost in thought, completely unaware of what had happened to her.

Bai Yan silently watched the scene unfold, murmuring to himself:

"I'm sorry, I won't go back anymore."

He swiftly exited this interface and quickly selected the list of Core Operators.

Commence preparations for the Crown Ceremony of the Psychic Dancer.

Chapter 247

In truth, Bai Yan had long since discerned the pattern.

The secret of the Crown Ceremony resides within the destiny of every individual.

The more the Crown Ceremony aligns with one's personal trajectory of fate, the higher the chances of success.

In the fate description provided in "Babel Tower," for instance, "Nightsaber" is referred to as the future King of Night.

Therefore, the Crown Ceremonies that best suit Mu Ling are mostly associated with the realm of darkness.

This is how Maryse's destiny is described.

"The future Empress of Hearts, a manipulator of souls' monstrous entity."

The initial Crown Ceremonies suitable for the "Psychic Dancer" are also closely connected to keywords such as "dancer," "empress," "manipulation," and "monstrous entity."

Taking into account the difficulty and success rate, "the Library of Ruina" carefully selected from thousands of ceremonies that could aid Maryse in ascending to the Crown. In the end, the most suitable Crown Ceremony for her was determined to be the "Grand Opera."

"The Grand Opera: The conductor of the ceremony manipulates different individuals by altering their memories, showcasing an opera that encompasses both 'love' and 'death'. The manipulated individuals must unknowingly participate in the performance, while the conductor of the ceremony also assumes the role of an 'actor'."

"The conductor of the ceremony must activate the 'Ermoros Crystal' to absorb the emotions of the 'participants'. Before the final curtain falls, they harness the power of these emotions to ascend to the Crown."

The Ermoros Crystal is also a rather rare ceremonial material that can be used in various rituals to absorb and transform emotions. It possesses excellent capacity and compatibility, but it comes with a high price tag.

Fortunately, this item was readily available in the inventory of the Demon Hunt Agency... Bai Yan decisively took it without hesitation, intending to use it for Maryse's Crown Ceremony, the "Grand Opera."

After absorbing the heritage of the Five Great Families and the Demon Hunt Agency in Tatsumi City, the current Babel Tower is easily able to gather the rare materials required for many ceremonies and spells.

Furthermore, during this Crown Ceremony, Bai Yan also wishes to prove something, a hypothesis.

"It will be interesting."

He smiled.

--

The Augustus family.

Phoenix has already moved into the room that used to belong to the family head, Reno.

He sat calmly on the antiquated chair, gazing at his pallid right hand.

Gradually, the skin on this right hand started to peel, gradually transforming into a one-meter long, black and red alternating, metallic barrel with flesh suspended from it.

Phoenix murmured to himself, "This is it, the weapon of demons."

The demonic weapon "gun" has three attack modes, namely "rapid fire," "tracking," and "charged strike."

"In rapid fire mode," it can unleash dozens of powerful energy bullets per second, capable of instantly killing multiple enemies.

"In tracking mode," the number of energy bullets fired is two-thirds less than in rapid fire mode, but they automatically track the enemies until a complete hit is achieved.

To launch an attack in "charged strike mode," although it requires a charging time of over ten seconds, a single strike is capable of demolishing an entire building.

"The Devil's Gun" itself is an almost indestructible entity, even if severed, it rapidly regenerates due to its inherent durability, which also enables it to be used for defense.

This is the gift bestowed upon us by the Savior yesterday, out of the blue.

Let him be pleasantly surprised!

As a man with power only at the level of awakening, Phoenix still greatly need this demonic weapon, which can be considered a significant boost in strength.

"This is just the beginning, in the future I will become even more powerful."

Phoenix muttered to himself, while simultaneously recalling his sister's flawless face, immediately feeling a surge of fear and anger in his heart.

One day, sooner or later, I will seek revenge against her.

This fellow is truly too audacious and overbearing!

In these days, Phoenix has been manipulated by Maryse several times, causing him to become a bit bewildered.

Once, he even believed that Maryse was his mother!

At that time, Phoenix felt greatly perplexed, wondering why his mother appeared so youthful. Maryse even playfully teased him, claiming that she had used magic to rejuvenate herself.

"Wait and see, Maryse. I will obtain even more from the Savior, gaining greater power and a higher status than you!"

I will prove that I am deserving of all this!

Although he claimed otherwise, Phoenix was actually quite perplexed about how he could truly demonstrate his worth and earn the recognition of the Savior of the Babel Tower.

He knew very little about the Babel Tower and the Savior, certainly no more than outsiders did.

Maryse couldn't be bothered to tell Phoenix about what she knew.

In reality, Phoenix could never attain a higher status than Maryse in the eyes of Bai Yan in this lifetime.

It's just that he felt that there was still a chance, that's all.

Phoenix attempted to wield the terrifying Devil's Gun, and suddenly felt a stirring desire to unleash this immense power in search of a suitable outlet!

For instance, go and shatter that little fellow!

"Hehe."

Phoenix chuckled, shook his head, knowing that this was an impossible endeavor.

"Are you yearning for power, isn't that right?"

The hoarse voice that suddenly emerged from the corner startled Phoenix.

"Who?"

Phoenix rose alertly, gazing intently at the corner of the room, and soon laid eyes upon the newcomer - a brown-haired man clad in a black robe, as it turned out... Ah, of course.

Phoenix suddenly recalled that his name was Allen - a friend he had trusted since childhood.

Oh, I see.

"Allen, how... how did you end up here? Wait a moment, how did you come back?"

Phoenix's mind was somewhat perplexed as he vaguely recalled this person... Ah, yes, Allen had departed from Tatsumi City several years ago in pursuit of formidable power.

Why would he suddenly appear in his own room?

Phoenix frowned, feeling a vague sense of unease, yet unable to pinpoint the exact reason.

He maintained a state of vigilance.

That "Allen" chuckled, quietly uttering in the corner:

"The reason is obvious, I am here to assist you, Phoenix,"

"Help me?" Phoenix furrowed his brow.

The man said, "You have been unhappy lately, haven't you, Phoenix? You lack a formidable power and have faced various limitations, even being ridden on the head by a little girl."

"Despite being the head of the Augustus family, you have absolutely no freedom,"

Phoenix's gaze turned cold as he indifferently said, "What are you saying? I don't understand."

Allen took off his hood, revealing a face marked with scars, and growled at Phoenix, "Stop pretending! Phoenix, I know you have joined Babel Tower, and now your immediate superior is none other than the betrayer of our family, that shameful monster, your sister, Maryse!"

"You wish you could tear her apart! Yet you find yourself compelled to kneel down and lick her feet!"

A dramatic change came over Phoenix's expression.

He suddenly reached out his hand, transforming into Devil's Gun, aiming it at the man in front of him.

"How dare you slander the relationship between me and my loved ones, Allen? What exactly do you want to say?"

Allen smirked, showing no signs of fear.

He gazed at the Devil's Gun that had transformed from Phoenix's right hand, shaking his head and saying,

"So, this is the power that Babel Tower bestows upon you? Well, it is nothing more than that."

"We can offer you more, as long as you are willing to assist us... So, I can now help you kill that girl, the half-elf you detest."

Allen extended his hand, a powerful energy gathering within the palm of his hand.

This force, for some unknown reason, possesses a peculiar enchantment, greatly intriguing Phoenix and leaving him spellbound and mesmerized.

By embracing it, one will become immensely powerful!

Even more terrifying than that little creature!

For some reason, Phoenix's mind was filled with various voices, all urging him to accept the invitation as quickly as possible!

Go forth!

Go and fetch it!

This is the power you desire!

Unlike Maryse, Phoenix's mother comes from a noble family of pure-blooded elves. Naturally, Phoenix is also pure-blooded, and within the family, Maryse has always been the exception.

Maryse's human mother had the opportunity to unite with Reno, not out of love, but because of her family's abundant financial support.

Phoenix, back then, was constantly astonished by the fact that his half-blooded sister could be so adorable and beautiful.

Every elf, unable to resist the allure of such a magnificent creature, gradually accepted her presence.

Even after Maryse's formidable power was discovered, Phoenix initially didn't see any issue with it.

Until the moment when, including himself, people's innermost thoughts were unabashedly pointed out by her innocent words... Phoenix gradually began to fear the presence of this girl.

After that incident, the siblings gradually went their separate ways.

Phoenix's mother had a dark secret; she once used the power of a cult to help Reno and, as a result, generously donated money to this cult for an extended period of time.

After the secret was exposed by the naive Maryse, the Augustus family was embarrassed, and Reno had no choice but to expel Phoenix's mother from Tatsumi City.

When Reno officially expressed his desire to isolate his sister, everyone, including Phoenix, hung their heads and didn't object.

At that moment, Maryse looked into his eyes, pleading, while Phoenix coldly remained unresponsive.

She is indeed a monster.

However... now my own choice has nothing to do with these matters anymore.

Phoenix shook his head and calmly said, "No matter what you say, I am clear about one thing... The Savior of Babel Tower is the true god of this world, and Their power in Tatsumi City is far more terrifying than 'Rainbows' and 'Outer Gods!'"

"I will not stand on the wrong side."

Fire!

In an instant, the Devil's Gun in "rapid fire mode" sprays numerous blue and white light orbs.

Allen burst into wild laughter, his body had already vanished in some mysterious manner.

The light orbs blasted the front wall into smithereens.

Upon realizing the sudden disappearance of the enemy, Phoenix immediately rushed out of the bedroom with an anxious stride. He made his way to his daughter's room, scooped up the infant, and hurried towards Maryse's residence.

As for the safety of others, he temporarily paid no attention to it at all!

--

"So, this is how the ceremony goes, right?"

Maryse, who had been observing this scene from the shadows, turned her head and addressed Mr. Profligate.

Bai Yan nodded and said with a smile, "Indeed, it's quite bizarre, isn't it? This is just the beginning of the story. Now, it's your turn to make an entrance."

Maryse hesitated and struggled to find the right words, eventually furrowing her brow and asking, "If my brother, um, I mean, that guy Phoenix, really allied himself with the cult I control, what should I do?"

Bai Yan knew that Maryse posing such a question indicated that there was still a trace of familial affection in her heart.

"The decision to dispose of him is up to you."

Maryse said faintly, "Fortunately, he doesn't give me any dilemmas now. The Savior of Babel Tower is truly formidable, which makes Phoenix dare not rebel at all."

"I am the kind of person who treats others well if they treat me well, and vice versa... I have kept in my heart all the insults Phoenix hurled at me in these twenty years."

Bai Yan remained silent, knowing that Maryse was indeed the kind of person described.

Her preference is for people who are kind to her.

For the past twenty years, besides Irena, she had no other friends, so it was effortless for both himself and Mu Ling to take advantage of her vulnerability.

Similarly, anyone who slightly offends her will be remembered by the little one for a lifetime.

Maryse paused for a moment and continued, "But his child is innocent, I don't want my niece to lose her father easily."

--

When Phoenix arrived at Maryse's room, he found that the female housekeeper named Irena was not there. Only Maryse stood calmly in front of the dressing table, looking at herself in the mirror as if she were applying makeup.

"Phoenix, what's the matter?"

"Our house has been invaded by cultists!"

I know, that cultist was under my control, hehe.

In reality, Phoenix doesn't actually know anyone named "Allen", it is merely a manipulated memory created by Maryse.

All of this was for the sake of the "Grand Opera" of the promotion ceremony.

Suppressing a smile within, Maryse pretended with astonishment, "How is that possible? Did someone intrude into the family?"

"It's true! You can read my mind!" Phoenix said somewhat angrily. "In short, you should understand that I don't want anything to happen to my daughter. This is the safest place for our family because you're here."

Maryse nodded gently and stood up, saying, "Indeed, since joining the Babel Tower, I have acquired a power even stronger than before!"

She said with a slightly "chuunibyouto" manner:

"As long as I am here, no enemy can ever destroy Augustus."

Phoenix couldn't help but feel a bit peculiar. Since when did Maryse start caring about the family?

However, before he could ponder further, he suddenly heard a loud noise!

"Boom!"

A dreadful impact surged from outside the house, devastating the entire room as this force demolished it, causing the walls to crumble instantaneously.

Phoenix held his daughter tightly, guarding her against harm.

He felt the pain as the aftermath of the attack inflicted damage to his skin and flesh.

The baby cried loudly, and miraculously, she was completely unharmed.

After the dust settled, he was stunned to discover... Maryse, the epitome of beauty, impaled to the ground by a massive steel beam, her eyes bulging and her mouth filled with blood.

"Ah, ah, the pain, it is so agonizing. I should not have lost. Ugh, I feel so wretched..."

Maryse continued to cry out for a while, until finally, her head tilted to the side.

She "perished".

Phoenix's heart sank as he began to regret his decision to bring his daughter here.

Emerging from the dust, a group of individuals clad in black robes slowly emerged; undoubtedly, they were cultists.

Phoenix knelt down, his eyes filled with terror, and pleaded loudly, "I am willing to do anything, I implore you, as long as you spare my daughter. I am prepared to do whatever you ask!"

Allen, that person has appeared again, holding a bottle of crimson elixir in his hand.

He said indifferently, "Then, Phoenix, please consume this potion. From now on, you shall become our slave, but we shall spare your daughter..."

In that instant, Phoenix was rendered speechless; a multitude of emotions flooded his heart.

Resentment, anger, fear, pain, sorrow, confusion... When he finally looked down at the crying baby in his arms, he suddenly smiled.

"I will protect you."

Phoenix slowly lowered his head and gently kissed the forehead of the infant.

Oh, Savior.

If you truly are the Savior of the world.

Please save my daughter! She is innocent!

I am willing to devote everything to you!

Bai Yan stood outside the house, his body enveloped in a classical black robe, his presence unbeknownst to anyone.

In his hand, he held a fist-sized transparent crystal.

After a large influx of extreme emotions, little by little, they entered the crystal in Bai Yan's hand.

The originally transparent crystal gradually turned red. After all the negative emotions, it was the emotion called "love" that eventually caused the crystal to transform completely into a deep crimson shade.

Bai Yan used his psychic power to notify Maryse.

[Success has been achieved. Next, you must assimilate the power of the crystal within the drama, ascending to the rank of Crown.]

[Ah, Phoenix has indeed compromised with the cultists now and intends to betray Babel Tower]

Maryse's emotions seem somewhat low, and at the same time, Bai Yan is able to perceive that certain inner aspects of her are undergoing some changes.

[However, how should I put it, he is no longer so despicable in my heart]

Chapter 248

Maryse, upon witnessing the crisis unfolding before her eyes, still chose not to intervene for the time being.

Although those cultists are indeed wicked individuals, she is not concerned about being outwitted by them.

Because Mr. Profligate is right here, as long as reliable him is present, there will be no failure whatsoever.

[The name of the Crown Ceremony is 'Grand Opera', but I feel like it is not grand at all, and the current situation is too simplistic, isn't it?]

Why would there be disdain for one's own simple ceremony? Bai Yan almost stumbled and fell to the ground upon hearing this.

[Originally, Mr. Savior had chosen the simplest ceremony for you...]

[Moreover, Phoenix's emotions are extremely intense, as a single individual, he carries a considerable amount of emotional energy. On the other hand, the majority of emotional energy obtained by Crystal is actually derived from within yourself.]

"Fusion Slime" and "Fist of Duel" have also reached the level of Potential Crown.

However, their Crown Ceremonies cannot be resolved overnight.

The most suitable Crown Ceremony for the slime is straightforward and requires it to devour ten rare ceremonial materials, merging them into one.

However, Bai Yan scoured through only half of the five major families in Tatsumi City and the Demon Hunt Agency.

As for the most suitable Crown Ceremony for Ganis... the time for its completion has not yet arrived.

Because Maryse's Crown Ceremony is the simplest and she happened to have obtained the necessary materials, Bai Yan chose to promote her immediately.

[Do I really have this much emotional energy... I suppose I am indeed too strong.]

Maryse was a little surprised, but then very naturally began to boast about herself.

However, what she said was not entirely incorrect.

Bai Yan noticed that 80% of the emotional energy within the crystal came from Maryse, 15% came from Phoenix, and the remaining portion came from other "extras."

As a formidable wielder of psychic powers, her emotional energy naturally surpasses that of ordinary individuals.

Furthermore, Maryse, at present, may not appear outwardly, but in reality, her emotions are quite stirred.

Bai Yan could vaguely infer that she was responding to the display of affection between Phoenix and his daughter.

He took out his phone and flipped through Maryse's character card, suddenly realizing that the item "family" she disliked was no longer present.

The only thing that Maryse dislikes left is... "herself".

She has always understood why everyone dislikes her!

Even she herself hates herself!

Phoenix, still very excited, didn't directly agree with the other person, but instead, was stalling for time.

The followers led by Allen were wicked and malevolent.

At this moment, the guards of the Augustus family finally reacted.

"Wuuuahhhhhh!!!"

The alarm blared, and the lights within the heavily fortified villa community flickered on.

Hundreds of guards, both internal and external, surrounded the villa from all sides, activating armed vehicles and activating various monitoring, lighting, and communication devices.

The adult superhumans in the Augustus family were also informed of the situation and swiftly arrived on the scene.

Although it was already late at night, the illumination equipment instantly lit up the surroundings of the villa, making it as bright as day.

[Now that there are many people here, it's also time for me to perform... Mr. Profligate, how about you hand over the crystal to me?]

Bai Yan vaguely sensed that Maryse was up to something, but he wasn't quite certain about the exact nature of her intentions.

However, he believed that the little one would at least not mess up the Crown Ceremony.

However, Bai Yan couldn't help but peek into Maryse's inner thoughts and only after confirming the situation did he respond.

[Very well.]

Maryse's happiness was soon interrupted as she heard Bai Yan's subsequent words.

[However, you must remember, there is only one Ermoros Crystal in the entire Tatsumi City, and tonight is your only chance... If you fail, Mr. Savior may very well suspend you and administer disciplinary measures.]

[Nonsense, Mr. Savior would never be as mundane as you!]

Allen and the multitude of cultists before Phoenix were all astounded.

"Why, why are we surrounded, so many people!"

They suddenly realized something, why is it that they, as individuals, were able to successfully infiltrate the villa.

Clearly, in their memories, it seems they have never earnestly planned an infiltration before.

How did we come in?

There always seems to be something amiss.

"The villains who dare to cause trouble for the Augustus family, all of them shall perish!"

Suddenly, everyone witnessed Maryse rising again.

The "wounds" on her body unexpectedly began to heal bit by bit.

Phoenix was startled, this fellow is truly a monster, to think that he didn't die despite such circumstances!

Or rather, has the Savior manifested?

Regardless, he breathed a sigh of relief. How wonderful, both he and his daughter are saved!

Maryse's eyes had turned silver-white, barefoot, she slowly approached, radiating an overwhelmingly majestic aura.

"Kill her!"

Allen and the other cultists sought to attack, only to find themselves completely immobilized!

"Why can't we move?"

"What's going on? What's the deal with this guy?"

"Wait, my legs, my legs are moving on their own!"

Maryse stepped forward, one step at a time.

"What happened?"

Deep within Allen's heart, there is a multitude of fearful emotions, which are gradually being extracted by the crystal, one by one.

Under Maryse's relentless advance, the uncontrollable cultists took step by step in automatic retreat from the mansion, gradually emerging from the ruins of the room.

Hundreds of guards, both external and internal, anxiously watched this scene unfold.

Simultaneously, when they caught sight of Maryse, they were utterly astounded.

"It's her!"

"Miss Maryse, she has actually returned?"

"How could she be here?"

The guards were all unaware of Miss Maryse's return, but everyone knew that the "monster" of this family was extremely terrifying.

They didn't expect to see her here, driving away the cultists.

What's going on?

When the members of Augustus' family saw Maryse, they were all taken aback.

"How could it be her here?"

Although the true members of the family knew that Maryse had already returned, nobody had seen her make a public appearance.

Soon, everyone's attention was directed towards the cultists.

Many people were perplexed, wondering how dozens of cultists had managed to sneak in unnoticed.

They can't fathom it.

However, in front of that "monster" from Babel Tower, the cultists were merely walking into their own demise.

No matter how much they wracked their brains, they could never have imagined that the person letting the cultists in to destroy their home was none other than Maryse herself!

Maryse uttered slowly:

"You dare challenge Babel Tower, seeking to destroy the Augustus family, but it is an impossible delusion!"

"As long as I am here, no one can let them be destroyed!"

The scarred cult leader, Allen, persistently struggles, trying to break free from mental manipulation. At this moment, his face turns ashen, and his feet are completely immobilized under the control of psychic forces.

There is simply no way to contend with it.

Why?

Ultimately, why am I here?

Indeed, I came here to negotiate with Phoenix, who was once my dear companion.

"What exactly is going on with all of this..."

The memories of the cult leader Allen are also very chaotic, perceiving many subtle inconsistencies.

Maryse actually longs to reveal the truth to this cultist named Allen, which is why she preserves their ability to think and maintain their consciousness while under mind control.

You don't truly know Phoenix at all...

You don't know me either!

They don't even know about the existence of the Babel Tower!

However, you are indeed cultists, as Mr. Profligate brought back "ritual materials" from other cities one by one.

Each one has killed innocent people; they deserve to die.

Of course, Maryse cannot reveal the truth, otherwise the Crown Ceremony would fail.

Although the Savior would not subject themselves to self-flagellation, there is still a possibility of involuntarily urinating... The thought of this sends shivers down her spine.

Phoenix rose with his daughter in his arms and walked out, staring blankly at this scene.

"This fellow, she protected me and little Eir..."

Although the disgust in his heart had not completely faded, at least Phoenix refrained from cursing his sister at this moment.

As they say, love extends to all, influenced by the presence of his daughter, Phoenix started to view Maryse with a slightly more favorable eye.

However, if he were to know that the instigator behind this "drama" was Maryse...

He would probably be infuriated to the point of wanting to dip her in soy sauce and devour her.

"Perish, sinners! The Augustus family is not a place you can violate!"

"The Babel Tower is even less likely to be challenged by humanity!"

Maryse, radiating with grandeur, began to adopt an increasingly adolescent tone in her speech.

"Execution!"

With a grand gesture, she commanded one after another of the cultists to raise their weapons in horror and begin performing public suicides with cries of agony.

"No, no, no!"

"Damn it, I can't control myself!"

"Please, spare me!"

"I curse you, you bastard! The Moon of Eternity will never let you go!"

Even the guards and palace sentinels, upon witnessing this scene, stared wide-eyed, causing some members of the Augustus family to vomit immediately.

Blood and screams, fear and despair.

The powerful performance of the "actors" under the spotlight is absolutely staggering, and the haunting "self-slaughter" scene leaves the audience in attendance with an unforgettable experience!

The colossal, overwhelming blend of emotions from hundreds of people on-site surged into the Ermoros Crystal, causing the initially deep red hue to grow darker, verging on a shade of crimson that almost approaches blackness.

In the final moments, the crystal even trembled, revealing delicate cracks that emerged on its surface.

In the darkness, Bai Yan, has already noticed that when it comes to constructing the "stage", Maryse actually places even greater emphasis on the aspect of performance than himself.

Perhaps, in some alternate timeline, she would evolve into a character of the "clown" archetype.

Meanwhile, Maryse quietly conveyed her thoughts to him.

[As I reminisce, I recall that version of myself from the evening before my father made the decision to sell everything, pondering over what I truly desired.]

[...This way, perhaps, is not too bad... I can manipulate Phoenix's memories in public in the future, hehe.]

Maryse, as Bai Yan knows, has always yearned for acceptance from her own family.

Despite harboring a deep resentment towards Reno due to love, the desire for recognition and acceptance merely remained deeply buried within.

From the very beginning, she has always yearned to be admired and acknowledged by others.

The gruesome scene, the composed young woman, and the horrifying imagery left Phoenix silent, unable to utter a single word for a long time.

In the next moment, Maryse slowly made her way past numerous corpses and stood before the members of the Augustus family.

"I know, you are afraid of me!"

"It has always been like this!"

"You think of me as an uncontrollable monster!"

Upon hearing this, the members of the Augustus family wore somewhat grim expressions, unsure of how to respond.

Maryse once again communicated through her psychic powers, speaking inside someone's heart.

[Actually, you're right, I am a monster.]

Maryse suddenly smiled and said:

"However, starting from today, I will protect the Augustus family! As long as it progresses along the trajectory I envision, following in the footsteps of the Babel Tower!"

She paused for a moment, took a deep breath, and finally said:

"Remember! Do not betray me!"

The family members, guards, and internal defenders suddenly found that their bodies were also beyond their control!

One by one, they knelt down!

[Dreadful apparition of the mind.]

[Indeed, it is an exceedingly chilling force. How repugnant! Do not dwell on it any further, for she shall become aware!]

[However, with such a monstrous guardian protecting the family, the name of Augustus should undoubtedly grow even more prestigious...]

In this moment, Maryse finally felt that she had decisively reclaimed the rightful place of her family in her heart.

The objective pursued since departing from the family has now truly been achieved.

Indeed, compared to being a mere shadow head of the family, it is far more gratifying to wholeheartedly bask in the admiration of others!

She smiled as she produced a quivering crystal before the onlookers, reciting the pre-prepared incantation for the ritual.

The ancient incantation, which didn't belong to Noah's realm, carried a power that surpassed mortal comprehension. Gradually, it manifested as massive crimson runes, encircling the petite figure of Maryse.

A resounding "crack!" resonated.

The crystal shattered!

Countless emotions and energies that had been condensed within were released, as waves of immense power surged from the depths of her soul, inundating Maryse's inner being.

"I sensed it."

She murmured to herself as her body gradually ascended, entering the realm of clouds.

An immensely colossal red radiance blossomed amidst the darkness of the night, with the clouds continuously rolling and twinkling incessantly.

Many people from Tatsumi City gathered near the windows, observing this incredible spectacle that is seldom witnessed during the darkness of night.

Maryse's body gradually fragmented within the emotional energy, as she screamed amidst the immensely colossal emotional force, transmitting increasingly powerful psychic energy.

A tremendous upheaval began to engulf the entirety of Tatsumi City, while the girl's shriek left everyone unsettled, causing millions to awaken from their dreams!

Mu Ling calmly watched this scene from the top of a building.

She was aware that a new Crown level powerhouse had emerged.

Without a doubt, the new powerhouse is none other than "Psychic Dancer" Maryse.

Mu Ling smiled with contentment.

She genuinely felt happy for her good friend.

Bai Yan remained in the shadows, lifting his head silently as he observed everything.

"The absorption of emotional energy is overwhelming. The grandeur of the promotion ceremony is even greater than anticipated. However, this also means that if you cannot withstand it, your promotion will immediately fail... But Maryse, if you truly can endure it, the success rate of your promotion will greatly increase."

I believe in you.

In fact, he didn't need to come tonight, Maryse could have performed the Crown Ceremony herself.

However, Bai Yan still came.

He hoped to witness the breakthroughs of the Core Operators with his own eyes.

Meanwhile.

Maryse's physical body gradually undergoes reshaping under the embrace of psychic power.

She experiences an unprecedented sensation.

A multitude of voices, ranging from male to female, from old to young, enveloped her ears.

They whispered, shouted, conspired, vented, and murmured.

Not only could she listen attentively, but she could also join in.

The concept of "mind" is not a simple one for oneself.

...but rather faithful subjects.

The important object that ordinary people find difficult to defend has always remained worshiped at my feet, bowing down and pledging loyalty, immune to betrayal.

Obey my command!

Let us dance together!

Chapter 249

The grandiose Crown Ceremony has finally concluded.

The red clouds gradually dissipate, leaving the residents of Tatsumi City, who have witnessed countless wonders over the past few months, still awe-struck.

Maryse, who had reconstructed her body, calmly landed on the ground, even the clothes that were just destroyed moments ago were now fully rebuilt.

She could feel that the psychic power within her had multiplied several times, and the precision in controlling this power was completely different from before.

"I had never before realized how obedient and compliant the mind could be."

With a smile on her face, Maryse looked triumphantly at everyone who was left speechless.

The voice of the young girl resounded in the minds of the guards, internal security personnel, and family members.

[What you just witnessed was the Crown Ceremony, and up until this moment, I have successfully ascended and become an extraordinary being at the Crown level.]

In this moment, astonishment consumed everyone!

Crown...

Especially the core members of the Augustus family, their emotions were incredibly stirred.

How many years has it been?

It seems that for over a hundred years, the Augustus family has not produced any Crown level extraordinary individuals. However, that monstrous girl managed to reach this level rapidly within a few months!

Is this the power of the Savior of the Babel Tower?

"Savior... Did he truly make you become stronger this quickly?"

Biting his teeth, Phoenix, holding onto the child, truly felt envy and jealousy upon witnessing this scene.

He yearned to transform himself into a girl and offer himself to the Savior.

To be honest, Maryse's elder brother, as a high elf, naturally possesses a handsome appearance, and coupled with his skillful sense of fashion and attire, his charm is at least an 8 out of 10.

[Arise, I beseech you.]

Maryse no longer manipulates everyone to kneel down and withdraws her psychic power.

Until this moment, members of the Augustus family gradually stood up one by one, while many others remained deeply immersed in today's astounding events, unable to regain their senses for a long time.

Maryse, too, was unsure of what to say at this moment. Though she had put up a facade, she herself had no idea how to salvage the aftermath.

Character and experiences have both determined that Maryse is not a natural leader.

After entrusting his daughter to the elderly governess, Phoenix let out a sigh.

He stepped forward to take charge of the situation.

"Listen to me, everyone. Thanks to my sister, Maryse, we were able to resolve today's matter..."

[Darn, if only it were me who stood out, this little monster...]

[How dare you insult me again?]

[I can't control myself...]

Cold sweat immediately trickled down Phoenix's handsome countenance.

[In conclusion, as long as you don't let me make a fool of myself in public, anything is fine, Maryse...]

Phoenix was genuinely afraid.

If that little monster made him do a handstand streaking right now, everything would be ruined, and he would probably have to leave Tatsumi City.

But he soon discovered that Maryse surprisingly didn't hold it against him.

Not even uttering any more threatening remarks.

Wait a moment, where is she?

Phoenix froze in place.

The onlookers were all perplexed, unaware of when exactly Maryse had vanished without a trace.

Just a moment ago, she was clearly at the very center of everything.

--

"What a failure."

Bai Yan sat in a dimly lit café, tranquilly sipping a cup of coffee generously blended with sugar and milk.

Now it is late at night, and one would expect no one to be making coffee at this hour. However, there are still some individuals diligently working in the café.

They prepared coffee and pastries, serving them to Bai Yan, who sat on either side of the table underneath the sole spotlight, alongside Maryse in front of him.

These individuals are all under Psychic Domination, not employees here, acting as if they were sleepwalking under Maryse's command.

Upon hearing Bai Yan's words, Maryse blinked slightly, becoming perplexed.

"What do you mean by 'failure'? Wasn't it a success?"

Maryse's transformation at this moment is quite significant.

In her eyes, there is a faint silver shimmer, and her entire aura is drastically different from before.

It's as if she possesses an aura of a youthful empress, apparent to ordinary individuals who can't help but feel her nobility and be compelled to bow in reverence.

This is the change brought about by the elevation of spiritual power.

With a smile, Bai Yan continued, "You have succeeded, I have failed, but I won't tell you what I have failed at."

Maryse, becoming increasingly perplexed, asked, "Why can't you tell me?"

Bai Yan said earnestly, "You know so much about what's in people's hearts, losing many mysteries of the world. Have you always found it tedious? I choose not to speak, for your own benefit, so that you may have something to ponder and speculate within your heart."

Maryse was stunned for a moment, only then realizing that the other party was bluffing her.

"Go away!"

Bai Yan remained silent, his mentioned failure referring to his experimentation with "Babel Tower".

The Crown Ceremony today is not only intended to aid Maryse's ascension to the Crown, but also to ascertain whether Bai Yan's recruited cultists can activate the mechanism of the "Babel Tower" game.

The answer is, no.

If it could be triggered, Bai Yan would not hesitate to "import" cultists from other regions on a daily basis, using his psychic powers to confine them within an area and continuously alter their memories.

Regular dispatch, targeted point accumulation.

Unfortunately, alas, the experiment has failed.

The "Babel Tower" game, the black mist, and the Cognition Filter, these things all seem quite user-friendly and intelligent, indicating that their mechanisms are subject to constant fluctuations and not easily deceived.

Bai Yan shifted the topic, smilingly asking, "Maryse, it seems that you no longer harbor resentment towards the Augustus family."

Maryse glanced at the coffee for a moment, finding it too bitter to drink, so she only indulged in sweet desserts.

While enjoying a macaron, she shook her head and said, "How should I put it? I still detest what happened in the past, but for now, I don't want to dwell on it anymore. It's like practicing the art of 'letting go'."

"I will remember all of it, and I won't forgive easily."

Maryse paused for a moment and continued, "However, these things will no longer be a burden on my soul."

She chuckled and jokingly said, "I want to set an example for my younger sister Mu Ling. As someone older than her, I should strive to perform well in Babel Tower in the future."

Bai Yan asked earnestly, "I can't tell, are you even bigger than that 'Nightsaber'?"

Her face blushing, Maryse said, "I have elven lineage, you see. In terms of age, I am actually slightly older than Mu Ling."

Just a little bit!

"Oh, so you were talking about age!"

Bai Yan made a sudden realization expression.

Ah, what else could it be then? Maryse paused for a moment, then grew angry!

"I will kill you!"

Bai Yan chuckled, having discovered a way to get along with Maryse during this period of time.

--

After Maryse left, the unfortunate sleepwalking workers were also sent back to bed.

Only Bai Yan remained alone in the café, savoring the tranquility of the late night.

"What's going on, I find myself increasingly fond of drinking coffee lately, even though I can only drink the sweet ones."

He gently shook his head and opened the operator list for "Babel Tower" on his phone, only to find a set of refreshing and rejuvenated character cards.

Just like Nightsaber, after being promoted to the Crown level transcendents, the character card for Psychic Dancer underwent significant changes.

Bai Yan squinted his eyes and murmured to himself, "Is it because she absorbed the largest amount of emotional energy in the end? The plane of her soul, surprisingly, also ascended along with it."

Core Operator:

Title: Psychic Dancer

Gender: Female

Plane: Formation Realm

Level: Crown (Lower Rank)

Race: Elven Kind

Operator Identification: Control/Support/Infiltration

Milestones: High Elf, Betrayer, Chief of Shadows, Executioner

Primary Attributes:

Physical: 42+50 Self-healing Specialization (Rending geese alive!)

INT: 146 (Enables more precise application in battle)

Skill: 388 (Can influence the minds of all animals within a radius of three hundred meters)

Secondary Attributes:

Charisma: 10 (The demeanor of a superior being, almost flawless appearance)

Loyalty: 8 (She is filled with gratitude towards you, perhaps even expressing it)

Mood: 8 (I am invincible!)

Trait:

Unfiltered love and hatred (revenge paid tenfold!)

Farewell, my timidity (skills will receive a significant boost during battles)

Free-spirited (reducing the likelihood of being controlled)

Ability:

Telepathy (proficiency level 100%)

Mind control (proficiency level 100%)

Memory retrieval (proficiency level 74%)

Long-lasting Command II (proficiency level 65%, extending the duration of mind control to 190 hours)

Mental transmission (proficiency level 28%)

Blood of Darkness · Self-healing Specialization

Memory alteration (proficiency level 57%)

Sacred Rune - Athena (proficiency level 66%)

Deep Red - Divine Punishment (proficiency level 85%)

Common Knowledge Substitution (proficiency level 1%)

Mind's Piercing Scream (Skill Level: 1%)

Secondary Data:

Measurements: 145cm, 74, 54, 81

Interests: Being kind to oneself, garnering attention, playing games.

Aversion: herself

Items: Ring of Protection 1, Invisible Cloak of Hermes 1, Blade of Annihilation 1, Special Automated Battlerobot 1, Copper Waistband 1

Description: A noble descendant of an ancient elf clan, naturally endowed with incredibly powerful psychic abilities. Ordinary minds are laid bare before her, and the uncontrollable power has made her aware of the filthiness of the real world, and also heightened her appreciation for sincerity.

Betraying the family that raised her, willingly embracing the incarnation as a true psychological monster, thereafter transcending above all other beings.

"The future Empress of the Mind, a creature that manipulates all beings."

After promotion, the physique and INT gains of the Psychic Dancer are both minimal.

However, the most important attribute skill has been greatly enhanced!

When Maryse's awakening was at its lower level at the beginning, her psychic power could only influence people within a radius of fifty meters.

When she ascended to the status of Potential Crown, her psychic power was already capable of influencing people within a range of one hundred meters.

However, when elevated to the status of Crown, the range of Maryse's psychic power instantly expands to three hundred meters!

In other words, the advancement from Potential Crown to Crown, as a significant stage of progress, results in a substantial increase, by several folds, in the overall magnitude of Maryse's psychic power!

Alternatively, she is able to simultaneously control the bosses holding meetings on the top floor while sipping her milk tea underneath the skyscraper.

With regards to the number of individuals under her control, Maryse's psychic power, which has grown exponentially compared to before... at this very moment, her ability to simultaneously exercise Psychic Domination over individuals has greatly increased as well.

Not only has Maryse's charm experienced a certain enhancement, but her Traits have also undergone a transformation.

"The extremism and madness" have transformed into "blunt expressions of love and hate."

Upon seeing this, Bai Yan felt genuinely comforted and happy, as it indicated that the little one's mental state had greatly stabilized.

He had witnessed the deterioration in the first playthrough, during which Maryse would have a Trait called "Descent and Isolation" as a substitute for "extremism and madness".

The long-lasting command has been directly upgraded to the second level, extending the original duration of just a few dozen hours to a significantly increased timeframe of one hundred and ninety hours.

Simultaneously, Maryse has gained two new abilities!

"Common Sense Substitution" and "Mind's Piercing Scream."

Replacing Common Sense is undoubtedly a powerful ability.

Just like the Civilization-level Relic "Script of Pseudo," it can alter one's cognitive common sense.

For instance, making people believe that hunger needs to be replenished through love, or causing them to think that stabbing oneself with a knife is the only way to quench thirst, and even considering... that kneeling motionless is the way to retaliate against enemies.

This ability can truly be described as terrifying!

However, Maryse's "Common Sense Substitution" still has flaws compared to the Civilization-level Relic "Script of Pseudo."

It cannot work on souls of a higher Plane, and its effectiveness cannot last for too long.

"The Script of Pseudo" is a Civilization-level Relic, and its power is irresistible to all mundane entities.

Mind's Piercing Scream is a powerful ability that can attack and control others over a large area, making it difficult to defend against.

Maryse's inner strength has become incredibly powerful, and with a single Mind's Piercing Scream, she can even shatter the minds of ordinary people.

Individuals whose sanity is shattered will enter a state similar to that of a vegetative state. Although they are still alive, they are unable to respond to the outside world and it is highly unlikely for them to recover without specialized treatment.

After the promotion, Maryse undeniably became stronger.

Simultaneously, Bai Yan also grew strong.

Nowadays, he possesses the extraordinary powers of three different Crown levels simultaneously.

He slowly closed his eyes, extending his psychic power, perceiving the people living in the surrounding neighborhood.

One after another, souls in the darkness shining like torches.

"It's time to move on to the next task."

Bai Yan rose slowly, took out his mobile phone, and selected to enter the Babel Tower.

As the world before his eyes began to crumble and disintegrate, in a daze, he found himself in the Heart of Babel Tower, also known as the Operator Center.

Here stand seven towering portals, and the gateway of "Fist of Duel" is forged from steel, adorned with numerous dark patterns on its pristine white surface.

While the gate of "Queen of the Scarlet Moon" is constructed of vivid crimson hues, it even emits a hint of warmth.

Bai Yan slowly approached the gate where "Fist of Duel" was located, intending to journey towards the capital of the Kingdom of Dark Light.

Annottales.

That is the largest and oldest city in the entire world of Noah, where countless powerful forces intertwine, and a considerable number of formidable individuals roam within its midst.

However, the self-proclaimed strongest human in the world, known as the "Divine Envoy of Dark Light," reigns over the city. Hence, until now, no so-called powerful individual has dared to manifest their madness.

Bai Yan knew in his heart that there were at least four Core Operators of the Babel Tower, all present in this city of hope.

He must go there once, to interact with and assist known and unknown operators, as well as to seek the path to godhood.

"So, let us journey to Annottales."

Chapter 250

The Kingdom of Dark Light.

Annottales.

The closer one gets to the first urban district, the more ancient the history becomes, and consequently, the fewer foreign residents there are. At the same time, the inhabitants are wealthier and hold higher social status.

In Annottales, the first three urban districts are predominantly inhabited by nobles and wealthy individuals.

In the third urban district, there stands a renowned estate called "the Tulip Manor," which even within the city occupies a significant portion of land.

It is renowned for the abundant golden tulips blooming within the estate, and many people greatly appreciate the scenic beauty here.

However, due to the bankruptcy of the estate owner, the manor had to be auctioned off.

Due to the extremely unfavorable location of the Tulip Manor, being in close proximity to the ill-omened "abattoir," several months passed without it being sold.

People simply find the tulip courtyard beautiful, but if the whole family were to live near the "filthy" abattoir, it would be something that needs serious consideration.

Additionally, considering the vast size of the land within the urban area, a substantial amount of money is required which cannot be simply produced by anyone.

Thus, the Tulip Manor remained unsold throughout.

However, just a few days ago, a man named Edmond appeared.

He extravagantly purchased this the Tulip Manor.

The man named Edmond, who is around thirty years old, dresses impeccably. Not only does he possess an extremely handsome appearance, but also exudes the maturity and grace of a refined gentleman. His gaze is always composed and wise.

He claims to be a viscount hailing from a distant province, having come to Annottales to pay a visit to his relatives.

As a result, Viscount Edmond found this place more suitable for residing than his native province. Therefore, with the assistance of his relatives, he purchased the Tulip Manor, intending to establish a permanent residence here.

In the Kingdom of Dark Light, the ancient aristocratic system still exists, albeit without much practical significance. They don't possess personal territories or receive special privileges. Their role is merely to handle mundane affairs on behalf of the Dark Light Church.

The true "nobles" are the clerical aristocrats of the Dark Light Church, those "saints," "diviners," and "high priests" who hold the supreme authority of the ruling class.

--

The grand mansion displayed a hint of dilapidation, typical of Gothic architecture. Its interior featured enormous scale-like stairs, splendid leather wall ornaments, and the majestic silver emblem of a dragon.

"Edmond" said calmly, "This piece of furniture should be placed here. As for these items, leave it to the steward Carson to decide."

"Mr. Edmond, I can take charge here. Please go rest for now."

Carson, a butler of around fifty years old, stood at the side. He had a slightly plump figure, dressed in a black suit, and his head was adorned with silver hair.

He was impeccably dressed, bowing respectfully with a serious expression on his face to the man before him.

"I will ensure that they arrange everything here properly, but whether it is furniture purchases, food supplies, servant wages, or other aspects, it will require significant expenses..."

Inside the fully renovated classical villa, servants are scurrying back and forth, continuously moving things to their respective places. The middle-aged steward, Carson, wears a serious expression on his face.

"Carson, you don't need to worry about the financial issue. I will go back and rest for now."

Mr. Edmond, the viscount dressed in black formal attire, nodded gently. A composed and dignified smile appeared on his face as he turned around and ascended the staircase crafted from oak, making his way to the second floor of the villa.

He is a man in his thirties, with light gray pupils, deep and profound gaze. He is dressed tastefully and stylishly in a well-fitted, custom-made black suit.

The viscount, Edmond, possesses a certain air of lofty pride, commanding respect without the need for anger. He seems like a natural-born ruler and leader, evoking a sense of reverence that discourages any hasty offense.

Then, he is Bai Yan.

To further meet the ceremonial requirements of "Fictional Enactment," Bai Yan created a brand new character persona.

On the other hand, this character persona also facilitates his infiltration into high society.

Among the four Core Operators in Annottales, one of them belongs to the upper echelons of the Kingdom of Dark Light's society.

In order to get closer to her, it would be best for Bai Yan to become a member of high society as well.

Moreover, only by being exposed to high society is it possible to obtain the "key" to initiate the "Ultimate Ritual."

The process of becoming a deity involves more than just the "Ultimate Ritual," but the use of the "Ultimate Ritual" is an essential element required during the ascension to godhood.

Very few people in the entire world of Noah are aware of its existence, to the extent that even in the minds of ordinary individuals, the path to transcendence reaches at most the level of "Apocalypse."

However, Bai Yan has played through the first playthrough of "Babel Tower."

He is well aware of the location and significance of the Ultimate Ritual, as well as how to initiate it, to the extent that he even has memorized the complete steps to ascend to godhood.

The "key" to the Ultimate Ritual is also more advantageous the earlier one obtains it.

If he had waited a little longer, Bai Yan remembers that in the plot, the "key" would have been taken by an extremely powerful boss.

When his Core Operators reach the time to use the "Ultimate Ritual," he will need to go and defeat the boss, completing a series of tasks... which is very troublesome.

Bai Yan thought this way, rather than waiting, it would be better to seize the opportunity before the plot unfolds!

After ascending to the second floor, he continued up another level, arriving at the innermost room on the third floor.

In the Kingdom of Dark Light, those who hold status live upstairs, while servants and slaves often reside downstairs... Some unlucky souls may even find themselves residing in dusty attics.

Bai Yan returned to his room with steady strides.

This bedroom, with a predominant deep brown color scheme, is just like Edmond himself, following a path of elegant and solemn tranquility.

He first approached the window and gently extended his hand to push it open.

Outside in the courtyard, there are vast stretches of golden tulips, creating a magnificent sea of flowers. The golden floral expanse is awe-inspiring, while a faint, mysterious fragrance envelopes the entire old villa.

With no one around, Bai Yan calmly seated himself back into the chair.

He took out his phone and flipped through the details of "Babel Tower".

"Mm, the World Tree has already grown halfway, it will soon be ready for use..."

The "World Tree seeds" that were drawn earlier have already been planted by Bai Yan at Sylve's home for quite some time. They will be ready for use soon.

By then, the new task list will replace the existing one.

While Bai Yan was flipping through, he suddenly realized that he had forgotten to do something.

That is to say, forgetting to modify the battle lines for "Queen of the Scarlet Moon" and "Fist of Duel".

The original battle line for "Queen of the Scarlet Moon" was "..."

Yes, a typical silent and feigned expert!

The Scarlet Moon can't be bothered to say even a single word to her enemies!

After pondering for a moment, Bai Yan revised her lines as follows.

"The taste of blood, what a marvelous sensation."

Though it may be a bit juvenile, I quite like it.

It would be perfect if we could embarrass her completely.

Upon contemplating this situation, Bai Yan's face revealed a mischievous and jesting smile.

The battle cry for "Fist of Duel" is as follows, "The only thing we will lose is the cage!"

After careful consideration, Bai Yan felt that the original dialogue was quite good, so he decided not to make any changes.

Despite having thoughts of changing the dialogue to phrases such as "I love cross-dressing!", "Demacia!", or "As long as we keep moving, the path will continue to extend,"

However, he restrained himself.

"Thump, thump, thump."

From outside came the sound of knocking on the door, followed by the rich voice of Carson.

"Mr. Edmond, all the candidates who have come to apply for the position of your personal servant are here. Should I invite them into your study, or would you prefer to personally select them in the hall?"

With an anticipation of visitors, Bai Yan calmly put away his cell phone.

He uttered with a steady voice:

"Now it's quite chaotic outside, isn't it, Carson? Please have them all come into my study."

"Very well," replied Carson.

The study of the Tulip Manor is remarkably spacious, more akin to a "library" rather than just a mere study. Lined with towering bookshelves, reaching over ten meters high, it is filled with thousands upon thousands of age-old and historically significant books.

After a while, a total of ten applicants all arrived at Bai Yan's study.

Bai Yan stood by the window, holding a lit dark-colored cigar in his hand.

He calmly surveyed everyone present, refraining from speaking for the moment, instead taking repeated puffs of his cigar.

The truth is, this cigar is actually an ordinary relic, known as the "Delicious Cigar."

While Bai Yan is enjoying it, he doesn't actually inhale smoke from it, but instead, he randomly encounters special gusts of flavor reminiscent of delicious foods like "filet mignon," "chocolate," "caviar," "jumbo shrimp," and more.

The cost of using it is minimal, but for some people, it is quite significant... With every puff, a strand of hair falls out.

Bai Yan holds it primarily to embody the character of "Viscount Edmond."

Furthermore, it is to satisfy his cravings.

"You, you, you, stay behind. The rest of you can go for now. Take care of the souvenirs."

He coldly and solemnly furrowed his brow, took another puff of the "cigar," and calmly singled out three out of the ten candidates.

It was a simple decision, keeping the three who were decent-looking.

The rest, who didn't pass the appearance standards, can just leave.

Those who came to apply for the position of "personal servant" generally have professional conduct and don't waste words, instead they simply bow and leave.

The remaining three individuals, consisting of one man and two women... in the Kingdom of Dark Light, there is no such restriction that male nobles must have male personal servants. In this context, female servants are equally admissible.

In Bai Yan's homeland, Europe, the existence of female personal servants is limited to serving the wives and daughters of the nobility, with no eligibility to attend important occasions.

As for the situation in the Kingdom of Dark Light, it could be due to the virtual nonexistence of the "feudal system" here or perhaps the presence of extraordinary powers, which in a sense promotes gender equality.

Bai Yan spent half the day drawing on his delicately flavored cigars, but still didn't manage to acquire the desired taste of "caviar". It left him somewhat disheartened.

He calmly and steadily spoke, his voice resonating with magnetism:

"Please, one by one, introduce yourselves... Share your lineage, place of origin, educational background, familial circumstances, areas of expertise, and why you have applied for this position."

The servants and slaves in the Kingdom of Dark Light are entirely distinct.

They still possess fundamental human rights and autonomy; they are not mere possessions of their masters, but instead receive wages.

The ranks of these servants undoubtedly fall within the seventh or sixth tier. Even if individuals of higher rank were to serve as servants, they would face punishment.

Soon after, Bai Yan eliminated another woman.

The reason was that the other party's family situation was excessively complex, as stated by the woman herself, revealing that her parents were burdened by substantial debts.

"However, your willingness to speak up about this matter shows your true honesty, Carson. Give her some extra money," nodded Bai Yan.

Even if the people who come to apply for the position are not successful, they will still receive a gratuity; this is customary.

"Thank you for your gratuity."

The woman nodded and left.

In the end, only two candidates remained, and a faint smile appeared on Bai Yan's face.

First, there was a handsome young tall male, named Leo, wearing a white suit with blond hair. He was a Rank 6 elf.

His hometown is the province of Orenda. He has studied at the College of Professional Servants. His parents are alive and both serve as butlers in prominent families. He excels in socializing and possesses a deep understanding of aristocratic and ecclesiastical circles.

The elf, Leo, spoke, "I applied for this position because of my family's demands and expectations. Everyone in our family is a professional personal servant and butler... I also aspire to become a

professional butler in the future. However, before that, I must accumulate sufficient experience. Unfortunately, the previous family I served encountered some unfortunate circumstances, and they didn't have the financial capability to continue employing me..."

He didn't explicitly speak ill of his previous employer, but Bai Yan knew that the master must have fallen on hard times.

Leo was undoubtedly a very suitable candidate, yet Bai Yan still didn't choose him.

Finally, Bai Yan's choice was a young half-orc girl.

She had a short, icy-blue hair, fuzzy canine-like beast ears, an expressionless delicate face, a slender waist, ample bosom, and her eyes, like water jade, always managed to capture people's attention.

A maid outfit adorned with black and white, paired with white stockings, and an always poised and polite demeanor.

Her name is Kaluoer.

The disposition of rejecting others from afar and working diligently, is even more enchanting than her appearance.

She never attended a professional servant university, and with both parents deceased and no other relatives, Annottales is a local. She served as a personal maid to an elderly noblewoman for three years.

If we were to mention her greatest advantage, it would probably be her exceptionally outstanding appearance, far surpassing that of ordinary people, along with her confident claim of being "proficient in everything needed by a servant."

"Mr. Edmond, I respect your decision, however..." Carson paused for a moment, and said, "Perhaps she is too young and inexperienced for the position."

"Let's give her a chance first."

Bai Yan shook his head and continued, "Kaluoer, I have decided to appoint you as my personal maid from now on. You may leave and discuss the wages with my Steward Carson."

"Yes, Mr. Edmond."

The blue-haired girl named Kaluoer nodded gently and turned away.

Watching the slender figure, a meaningful smile appeared on Bai Yan's face.

"True hunters often appear in the form of the prey."

--

The salary contract ultimately formulated by Kaluoer is neither excessive nor inadequate, but rather adheres to the standard market price, displaying no trace of greed.

Once everything was settled, in the evening, Kaluoer carried a large bundle of luggage and arrived at her exclusive room on the second floor of the mansion villa.

Compared to other servants who reside in double rooms, it is evident that she, as a personal attendant, receives much better treatment.

However, there is still a slight level of dirtiness here, as the entire estate has been unattended for quite some time. Even though a thorough cleaning took place during the daytime, there are still some lingering issues... at least, for her perspective.

Kaluoer, with evident cleanliness obsession and OCD tendencies, swiftly tidied up the entire room, meticulously leaving no corner untouched.

The amount of physical activity involved in this task was substantial, yet not a single drop of sweat appeared on her exquisite face.

As the night grew dark, Kaluoer sat silently on the bed, lost in her thoughts.

She was like a shut-down puppet, motionless, with lifeless eyes, as if she had ceased all contemplation.

The suddenly ice-blue haired girl calmly began to mutter to herself in the air.

It seemed as if she was communicating with someone, as a faint blue light illuminated the back of her left hand.

"I have successfully infiltrated the target's residence, awaiting further instructions from the organization..."

"Hidden Azure."