

## **M. Leader 71**

Chapter 71: Meeting With Complete Honesty (1)

The Augustus family?

Bai Yan was not the least bit surprised, as expected, this elf girl was indeed a descendant of the Augustus family.

Well, this is very reasonable, after all, among the aristocrats in Tatsumi City, only the Augustus family is of the elven race.

Before joining the Demon Hunt Agency, Bai Yan worked in a clerical position approving the daily applications of registered supernaturals. Naturally, he acquired a great deal of knowledge about the Otherworlds, including some information about the elves.

The Air Alliance is the only country among Noah's three major nations that conceals extraordinary things. It consists of hundreds of independent cities and ultimately, is a diverse and gargantuan entity dominated by humans.

Every year, eighty hereditary kings will select two "proxy alliance leaders" to handle state affairs, switching annually and disallowed from serving consecutive terms.

Only when the Air Alliance is in a critical situation, will a formal leader of the Air Alliance be chosen, who will possess absolute power surpassing all others.

The number of long-lived elf clans is few and far between, and even within the prominent families of the Air Alliance, they are rare. The oldest of these families is the Augustus family of Tatsumi City. Their ancestors have once held the esteemed title of "king", and even acted as a proxy alliance leader for a year. For thousands of years, the Augustus family has resided in Tatsumi City for generations.

Maryse calmly said, "Yes, it was the Augustus family. Last time under your guidance, I discovered a hidden item related to the Outer God at their place. And recently, I have made a new discovery."

For some reason, Maryse felt a sense of illicit pleasure at this moment.

It was as if some sort of negative force was about to joyfully break free from the closed heart!

She began to fabricate, saying, "Perhaps we need to investigate the Augustus family more carefully. I have bribed someone from this family and obtained an absolutely accurate topographic map."

Maryse had no desire to reveal her true identity in the real world, and so she kept the fact that the topographical map was her own creation to herself.

She calmly took out two USB drives from her waist and naturally handed them to Mu Ling and Alan, who were not far away, without giving them any time to refuse.

"The Augustus family?"

Alan narrowed his eyes and said with some concern, "They are the noblest of elves, a quite ancient and prestigious family among the five great families residing in Tatsumi City's Platinum Zone. Many of their members even hold high positions within the city and even the Air Alliance headquarters."

"Your statement just now was a very serious accusation. How can you ensure that what you said is all true?"

Even within the Demon Hunt Agency, there are members belonging to the Augustus family.

If one were to easily target such a vast and ancient family, as an official, Alan cannot simply sit and watch without taking action.

[What's wrong with this guy? Oh, it seems like he's from the Demon Hunt Agency, so did he subconsciously act as a loyal dog and protect his master?]

The so-called Demon Hunt Agency is nothing but the lapdogs of the nobles, and there are actually quite a few scandals. As a member of the upper class, Maryse truly looks down on these so-called Night Watchers from the bottom of her heart.

She was not polite, and said coldly, "Clown of the Demon Hunt Agency, it is not up to you, a mere executor, to decide the authenticity of this matter. Babel Tower doesn't listen to you."

Maryse is well aware of which banner to hoist, for the Savior is the sole nucleus of the Babel Tower.

Alan had no intention of showing weakness and calmly said, "Oh, it seems like you have a strong opinion about the Demon Hunt Agency. Could it be that you are a criminal in the real world?"

"I just don't want you to exploit the Babel Tower," he added.

[Hi there, this guy must not have a girlfriend!]

Maryse was very angry.

At this moment, Mu Ling took a step forward and calmly interjected, sandwiched between the two individuals, saying, "There's no need to debate here. We should simply await the verdict of the Savior."

So all three of them cast their gaze, awaiting the "Savior" to give the final judgment.

[The Savior knows everything, so the dancer's behavior is merely unnecessary. If the Augustus family truly has any issues, the Babel Tower will eventually act on them... This family is even older and more prestigious than the Mu family, and is not easy to deal with.]

This is Mu Ling's idea.

[Damn, what is he thinking? I just called him master, isn't that enough? I hope he can trust me and make the situation of this worthless family even more chaotic.]

This is Maryse's idea.

[These people are clearly thinking beyond just hunting down cultists. Despite having no legal authority, they are brazenly targeting the wealthy elite, a far cry from the Night Watcher's methods.]

This is Alan's idea.

Bai Yan remained silent for a long time, his spiritual strength enabling him to fully comprehend the thought patterns of the three individuals.

Mu Ling abides entirely by her own will, while "Psychic Dancer" desires to deliver a ruthless blow to the Augustus family, and Alan is worried about the unbridled nature of Babel Tower.

He knew how to respond.

[Rather than the problems of the Augustus family, you actually prefer to see to get into chaos. Psychic Dancer, don't you think so?]

Bai Yan's voice calmly entered the minds of the three individuals, causing a dramatic shift in the expression beneath Maryse's mask.

I have actually been seen through!

[How annoying! I wanted to play tricks but he saw through it. Now, I must adjust my rhetoric. I was even planning to create a scene while they infiltrate the family...]

Bai Yan calmly continued to convey his thoughts upon hearing Maryse's idea.

[The Babel Tower is not an organization that strictly requires everything to revolve around saving the world.]

[You may convince 'Nightsaber' to assist you on your own, without concerning me... When the time is right and I need you to act, I will give instructions naturally, you don't need to try to persuade me to act on your ideas.]

In fact, Bai Yan felt that there was something amiss with the Augustus family, due to the "Deep Ones Transformation" scroll, but he couldn't provide specific details and thus, was unable to orchestrate any concrete actions.

Moreover, he felt it would be better not to make a so-called "judgment" for now, otherwise, he would feel like being led by the little guy. "Psychic Dancer" would attempt to use Babel Tower more often in the future.

Bai Yan initially intended to provide meticulous help directly, but soon realized that doing so would compromise his status.

Alan breathed a sigh of relief, it was evident that the owner of the Babel Tower was not a reckless individual.

But this 'Psychic Dancer' deserves his vigilance!

"Shall I have a private deal with Nightsaber?"

## Chapter 71: Meeting With Complete Honesty (2)

Maryse was momentarily taken aback, thinking that this approach seemed rather satisfactory.

She nodded quickly and happily said, "Thank you very much for your permission."

Maryse turned and walked over with a smiling face, taking hold of Mu Ling's hands sweetly and asked, "Um, Miss Nightsaber, could you maybe lend me a hand?"

Mu Ling remained silent for a considerable period before uttering a word.

"I can help you, but you must be honest. Why do you want to use the Babel Tower to cause chaos for the Augustus family? That ancient family has always been highly respected."

Mu Ling's tone was very serious, as if not even slightly shaken by Maryse's cuteness.

["So adorable..."]

But in her heart, she had already been deeply touched by Maryse's cute voice.

Maryse remained silent for a long time, but finally made up her mind. She took Mu Ling's hand and walked to the other side of the giant round temple, with their backs turned to the clueless Alan.

[Nightsaber is someone whom I can trust. The last time we were at the 'Recovery Spring', her heart had already proven this point. I must be candid...]

Maryse reached out and slowly took off the white cat mask. His emerald green eyes carefully looked at "Nightsaber" in front of her, taking a deep breath.

"In fact, I am one of the members of the Augustus family..."

Mu Ling gazed at those unmistakable elvish ears, nodding gently, not particularly surprised.

"You have actually betrayed your own clan, I feel very disappointed."

Maryse was slightly taken aback and immediately explained, "That's not the case at all, the Augustus family is utterly devoid of any glory..."

She almost vented out as she elaborated on the cause and effect, exaggerating much, which made Mu Ling frown more and gradually clench her hands.

Bai Yan naturally became aware of the truth through his psychic abilities.

Originally, she wanted to escape and take revenge on her family for this reason.

Only Alan was the one who knew nothing.

He stood still, and blinked his eyes, not understanding the situation.

[What are they plotting? Do they want to attack the Augustus family? If that's the case, should I...?]

[Mysterious Magic, in the Babel Tower, you must never betray your companions!]

Familiar voice!

The warning from the "Savior" came suddenly, causing Alan to tremble all over, and sweat streamed down his cheeks.

Could he possibly read my innermost thoughts? He actually knows what I'm thinking!

[The Savior, truly, is too terrifying...]

"I, I understand." He immediately nodded and said.

At that moment, Alan suddenly remembered an important matter.

[That prophecy... the Savior of the world... could it be that Babel Tower is my chance...]

On the other side, Maryse almost tearfully recounted her experiences over the years, including the fact that her father planned to sell her off.

"What I desire is liberty, true liberty. However, if I don't prevent the Augustus family from falling into chaos, I will certainly not avoid being pursued. There is a spell on me that can be used to track me, and it will take time to figure out how to remove it... Please help me!"

Mu Ling nodded gently and said, "I still believe that betraying one's family is a shameful act, but as a member of Babel Tower, I can agree to this deal."

"Thank you, what reward do you hope to receive? Whatever I am able to offer, I will certainly give to you," Maryse smiled, knowing that everything inevitably comes with a price.

Mu Ling pondered for a moment and said, "Providing free help to others is not the way of a hunter, but I will not demand excessive compensation from you. In the future, if you have the chance, feel free to offer me a common Relic as a token of gratitude."

Generally speaking, most people only differentiate relics into two levels in their minds, "ordinary relics" and "civilization-level relics". However, it is obvious that even relics of the same level have varying degrees of strength.

"Very well, it's a deal."

As the two reached an agreement in their conversation, this gathering was drawing to a close.

Until then, Bai Yan suddenly praised "Nightsaber" through his psychic powers.

[Last time you did really well, 'Nightsaber'. Weasley is not an easy opponent to kill, but you succeeded.]

"I also want to thank you." Alan sincerely bowed to Mu Ling. "If it weren't for your presence, the one who died would have been me."

However, Mu Ling paid no attention to Alan's gratitude, as it was completely insignificant to her.

[He actually praised me.]

Mu Ling's eyes shimmered with effervescence, evidently exultant, invigorated with an abundance of vitality!

"I am honored to have received your appreciation, Master."

She placed a hand over her chest and bowed like a knight.

"In the future, I will do even better."

## Chapter 72: Flow of the Heart

After everything had collapsed and reconstructed, Bai Yan had returned to the real world.

He furrowed his brow and suppressed the subconscious urge to take a deep breath. He was in the restaurant's restroom, still holding his phone in his hand.

Calmly he pressed the flush button and washed his hands.

"Wow"

After leaving the restroom, the surrounding noise immediately became noisy, and Bai Yan had entered the busy restaurant full of people coming and going.

He sat down by the window and waited. After a while, the waiter approached and inquired what he would like to order.

"Well, let me think. I'll have a chicken rice bowl, an eel rice bowl, a bowl of seafood soup, an order of fried shrimp, and lastly, some shredded potatoes."

"The total is 78 yuan, would you like beer or not?"

"No, thank you," he said.

"This store is as affordable as ever." Bai Yan smiled as he ordered a meal for two, and continued to wait for the person who was supposed to arrive on time.

Ten minutes later, a black luxury sedan came to a stop on the street outside the window.

Alan opened the door with a heavy countenance and walked out, appearing to be lost in thought.

It was evident from his demeanor that he was still pondering over what had transpired earlier, causing Bai Yan to inadvertently break out into a grin.

He didn't expect that another girl would get off from the car.

Apart from Alan, there was also a very familiar girl in blue who came along. It was only after a slight start that Bai Yan realized it was Holly, who was not wearing her rabbit-ear hoodie with a pocket.

Did you use "disguise"? Walking on the streets like a normal human being.

"It seems like I should order an extra meal," murmured Bai Yan to himself. The eel rice he just ordered was for Alan, but he didn't know what Holly liked to eat.

"May I ask how many people are there"

"We already have someone's order."

The two of them entered the restaurant, and Alan sat naturally beside Bai Yan, while Holly sat across from them with a small bag in hand and a smile on her face.

"How did you all come over together?" Bai Yan asked curiously.

Alan came to his senses and said with a smile, "I was originally going to bring you the key, but she found out and insisted on delivering it herself."

"Your colleagues in the team are quite enthusiastic."

He added that this little rabbit was quite familiar and outgoing, and that he himself was startled by the name "Violent maniac".

Holly smiled softly as she withdrew two keys from her purse and slid them over the table.

"Hey hey, the elder has given you the house key, as for the car key, he said he'll give it to you after you finish your driving test."

Bai Yan actually knew how to drive in his past life, but in this life, he never felt he could afford a car, so he never bothered to get a driver's license.

He nodded and smiled as he accepted the room key, saying "Thank you, Senior Holly".

"Ah, then I would like to have a vegetable noodle dish and vegetarian dumplings. Today, it's my treat!" She ate like a rabbit.

Holly evidently took great pleasure in being addressed by Bai Yan as "senior". As a half-human, half-animal creature, she grew at an impressive rate, and although she looked young, she may have been even younger than she appeared. Nevertheless, she attached considerable importance to matters of hierarchy and seniority.

"Respecting orders is better than being polite. It's truly delightful when someone invites you as a guest!"

Bai Yan gazed at the key in his hand and smiled as he exclaimed, "At last, I have a new home. It hasn't been easy, you know. The place where I used to live was absurdly small."

"Yes, he lifted his foot from the bed and stretched it to the next door," Alan said, his tone exaggerated. "Then he was reported for harassment by a fifty-year-old lady."

Bai Yan bluntly said, "I could kick you awake from several kilometers away with one kick."

Holly suddenly recalled something and earnestly offered a suggestion, "By the way, Little Bai, would you like to learn about 'Flow of the Heart' in the future? I am actually quite adept at achieving a state of the Flow of the Heart."

The Flow of the Heart?

Bai Yan slightly paused and earnestly asked, "Hmm, I think I've heard of the term 'Flow of the Heart', but I haven't read the relevant material from the transcendent being in detail, so I don't know what 'Flow of the Heart' specifically refers to."

Actually, he knew about "Flow of the Heart" because there was a "Flow of the Heart" master in Core Operators.

Before Holly could speak, Alan had already started to expound: "The so-called 'Flow of the Heart' is an important branch of modern ceremonial practices."

"The tattooed pictographic characters imprinted onto the skin resemble 'Secret Runes' which are inscribed through the enduring enchantments preserved by arcane techniques."

"The 'Flow of the Heart', also known as 'Heart Fighting Flow' or 'Nine Streams of the Heart Fighting', is a personal ritual stimulated by specific martial arts postures, movements, and vocal language. It has existed for nine schools of Flow of the Heart since it was founded several decades ago up until now."

Holly nodded and continued, "It is because of the existence of 'Flow of the Heart' that we are able to fight against those natural-born monsters. Ah, have you watched the video of Babel Tower? The white-haired hunter in that video was born a 'monster' due to the power of her bloodline... We extraordinary people can only rely on 'Flow of the Heart' if we want to engage in close combat."

"The Flow of the Heart believes that meditation and exercise can connect the world with a refined heart, and inspire the power within the depths of our souls... We must believe that true strength comes not from brute force, but from within our hearts."

Bai Yan remained silent, feeling unconvinced that someone with innate godly powers like her could say such things.

Holly, at this point, raised her left hand and, with a smile, made a claw gesture.

She said, "Heavenly Martial Arts: Dragon Claw."

"Heavenly Martial Arts" is one of the nine schools of the Flow of the Heart.

The next moment, blue scales began to grow from her left wrist, exuding an oppressive aura that was almost palpable.

"'Flow of the Heart' is a structured 'personal ritual' where we simulate a certain 'symbol' through various postures and movements."

Alan continued to explain in a scientific manner:

"The ritual existed long before the birth of civilization, and it might have even been born with the universe. The history of spells dates back thousands of years. The 'Secret Rune,' which doesn't require a casting process, is a recent and convenient invention. As for 'Flow of the Heart,' it is a new and novel concept that has emerged only in the past few decades."

Bai Yan nodded gently and said, "I can fully comprehend that the rhythm of combat between humans and extraordinary beings has become increasingly fast-paced in the era of hot weapons. Thus, the emergence of the 'Secret Rune' that requires no spells became inevitable."

Alan smiled and said, "Indeed, many extraordinary beings perished under firearms centuries ago, as after all, many incantations that take a long time to activate are no match for the speed of pulling a trigger."

"People realized that times had changed, and extraordinary individuals should also change."

Bai Yan looked at Holly's blue-scaled dragon claw and continued saying, "Later on, in order to enhance the basic strength of body, the invention of 'Flow of the Heart' came about, which filled the embarrassing situation in which most extraordinary beings were like 'glass cannons'."

So it turns out that the extraordinary power of the Otherworlds has been steadily advancing in step with the passage of time.

When he reached this point, Alan suddenly fell silent as if he had plunged into some kind of contemplation.

"If, I mean if...the ancient gods that existed in the past era were to come back to life...what should we do?"

Holly blinked her eyes, not comprehending, while Bai Yan understood that Alan was contemplating the matter of Babel Tower.

"Do not think too much, Alan. After all, we are all just individuals."

Alan absentmindedly nodded and said, "I'm sorry, I have other engagements today, so I won't be able to accompany you to see the new house."

—

After dinner, Bai Yan went alone to his new home.

He got out of the taxi, amidst a bustling crowd.

"Thank you, master."

The new house is located in the heart of Tatsumi City, and its surroundings are completely different from the bustling and old apartment environment.



Outside the building is the beautiful Tatsumi City garden with a well-known commercial pedestrian street called "Papa" nearby.

The neighbors in the vicinity cannot be compared to the aristocrats of Platinum Zone, but they still qualify as either rich or noble, comprising the second-tier society of Tatsumi City's affluent and minor aristocratic population.

Most of them have affiliations with the upper class and serve them. If you think carefully, Night Watcher's position is also the same.

These upper-middle class individuals are much wealthier than ordinary people but are without private armed forces, and are very happy to have Night Watchers as neighbors.

"It's on the seventeenth floor, so high. I've never lived on a floor this high before."

Bai Yan made his way through the crowded pedestrian street and reached the building shortly after. He went inside and took the elevator to the seventeenth floor.

Soon, he arrived home.

Bai Yan didn't have much to carry, he only held a large suitcase in his hand.

He took one of the two identical keys, opened the door, held his breath, and walked in.

And then, the smell of the new home!

The entire building spans 140 square meters and encompasses three bedrooms, two living rooms, and two bathrooms. The walls are adorned in white wallpaper, and the fine furnishings have long since been meticulously curated.

Bai Yan stood in front of the French windows, with a direct view of Tatsumi City Garden that spans over forty hectares.

"Tsk tsk, the beautiful era has come."

Bai Yan, who checked in with his luggage in hand, set it down and immediately lay down on the couch.

"Power Possession - Recollection of Mysterious Magic."

He closed his eyes to start sensing, searching for any surveillance instruments inside the room, and spent a lot of time ruling out this possibility.

"Very good."

Bai Yan was very satisfied with his new home. He stretched lazily and made his way to the master bedroom, where he lounged on the white, plush bed and proceeded to place an order for delivery on his phone.

The new home is really in space, and he wants to fill it with something, such as a small refrigerator filled with cola.

At this moment, Bai Yan was experiencing a sense of basic satisfaction akin to that of a nouveau riche, even greater than when he acquired Babel Tower!

To celebrate the joy of moving, he specially ordered two pounds of garlic-infused lobsters for takeout!

"Unfortunately, if 'that thing' didn't exist, maybe I would have truly become a good employee at the Demon Hunt Agency."

He still hadn't completely let his guard down and didn't mention the phrase 'Babel Tower' in his new home.

Feeling the softness of the white bed, Bai Yan picked up his phone and instinctively checked the status of "Babel Tower."

He furrowed his brow slightly and sat up on the white soft bed.

The fifth level of the "Black Star Event" unexpectedly unlocked on its own!

Game tip, "Please complete Level 5 of the 'Black Star Event' within the designated time limit."

"Ah, I see now. I understand."

Bai Yan quickly understood the cause and effect. In fact, the so-called "fifth level" was actually related to the Augustus family, and the actions of "Psychic Dancer" and "Nightsaber" directly triggered the early opening of the level.

He remained silent for a while.

"Dancer, if your father truly is Mr. 'Mystery'... I will make 'Nightsaber' come to put an end to all of this."

### Chapter 73: A Magnificent Rebellion (1)

Sitting on the spacious white upholstered bed, Bai Yan's emotions were somewhat intricate.

He had not yet confirmed the specific circumstances of the Augustus family when he agreed to let Psychic Dancer make a scene.

However, now Bai Yan could basically determine that this ancient elf clan had an ambiguous relationship with the Black Star Faction.

"Even so, Psychic Dancer could not be allowed to personally kill her own family. Such a development would be too twisted. It would be best to leave the task of carrying out the act to Nightsaber."

Bai Yan knew that girl hated her own family, but he didn't want to leave any psychological scars on her nor did he want her to become more radical and twisted because of it.

It's not just for the good of the Babel Tower, but for her own good as well.

Although the little guy sometimes scolds himself and her personality is not as pleasing as "Nightsaber's", she is still a member of Babel Tower and a companion to himself.

Soon, the operator selection screen appeared on the mobile phone's display.

The pixelated avatars of three individuals lit up in the operator list.

The Core Operators available for selection this time are two individuals, rather than a solo mission.

Bai Yan didn't hesitate and directly chose "Psychic Dancer" and "Nightsaber" to go to battle.

"Let's begin."

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Nightfall.

A black crow stood upon a branch, its golden-hued pupils gazing upon the nearby group of villas.

"Gah!"

The security and environment of Platinum Zone have always been the best in Tatsumi City. There is not even a speck of litter on the streets and alleys, let alone noisy vendors and vehicles.

Quiet and serene, the Platinum Zone is home not only to the villas of the five major clans, but also to the vast ecological botanical garden that the city spent large sums of money creating.

The ecological garden is filled with various plants and birds, and is only open to ordinary visitors for half a month each year. The rest of the time, only nobles are allowed to enter and enjoy.

The front of the Augustus family's residence is naturally situated in a clean and orderly street, devoid of any extraneous individuals. As one would expect, the abode of the aristocratic elite is held in high regard.

In the most significant mansion of the ancient elf clan, a grand banquet attended by numerous high-class individuals is currently taking place.

"Today, we had the privilege of being invited to a grand banquet held by Mr. Phoenix, the eldest son of Mr. Reno, in celebration of the birth of his first child."

"A new generation of elves has been born into the world, and the gods will also extend their blessings for the perpetual prosperity of the Augustus family."

The decoration was magnificent and grand, classical music filled the air as elegantly dressed attendants courteously presented fresh beverages, desserts, and fruits on trays.

Hundreds of celebrities were present, conversing and discussing various so-called amusing anecdotes with smiling faces, even if they didn't truly find them humorous, they would still pretend to smile.

"I heard that the 'Emperor' of Eyes of the Empire is coming here. Apparently, he is of humble origins and has committed quite a few offenses..."

"The man, in my memory, had publicly expressed dissatisfaction with the aristocratic system, it was quite evident that his morality was completely corrupted."

"This savage fellow, haha, should not be allowed to become a guard of the Eyes of the Empire."

Some of the nobles reached a consensus regarding their views on the "Emperor". Although the "Emperor" was quite popular among the Demon Hunt Agency due to his extremely protective and domineering personality, the opinions of the nobles who had been offended by him on multiple occasions were quite substantial.

However, the protagonist of this banquet was not the "Emperor", nor anyone else, but the head of the Augustus family, Reno, and his numerous children.

The seven children, led by their eldest brother, are all handsome and beautiful with splendid clothing, and they have already made their appearance.

Maryse's handsome elven brother, whose name was "Phoenix", stepped forward and greeted the guests with a smile.

"Welcome, everyone, to be able to come here today..."

The elves have always attracted a lot of attention, catching the eyes of many celebrities. However, some people admire and respect them, while others have a contemptuous attitude.

Not everyone likes the elf race, or to put it another way, within the predominantly human Air Alliance, there are those who hold strong views against the "others".

That is, discrimination.

Of course, these things have nothing to do with Maryse.

For years, she was not qualified to participate in the family banquet and had long been accustomed to it.

She is the only exception in the family.

Until this day, Maryse has not been able to see her own niece. Her elder brother, like their father, has kept her at a distance for some time now.

At this moment, Maryse was sitting on her pink bed in a room with no lights turned on.

In the darkness, the girl's eyes seemed to sparkle with an unusual glint.

"Miss?"

Irena suddenly walked in from outside and looked at Maryse, who was sitting in silence in the darkness. She couldn't help but feel that something was amiss.

[What is she thinking about? Is she unhappy tonight?]

She frowned and said, "I have already inquired about the matter you asked me to, and I can confirm that Mr. Trap and Mr. Lin are not among the many celebrities attending the banquet tonight. The high-ranking representatives from Demon Hunt Agency are someone else."

"Uh, I got it, thank you, Irena."

Maryse's lips curved into a smile; thus, her long-standing arch-nemesis ceased to exist.

## Chapter 73: A Magnificent Rebellion (2)

If those powerful ones were there, things would be difficult to handle and could easily become unpredictable.

Both Mr. Trap and Lin Bian's abilities are not to be underestimated, even possibly surpassing that of the Weasley's.

Alright, it's time for me to depart and find the issues that exist in this place.

In fact, Maryse didn't entirely lie to the "Savior".

She did indeed discover that there was something amiss in her family.

Thanks to the "Invisible Cloak of Hermes", Maryse sneaked into her father's study and discovered a terrifying aura lingering in a place she had never approached before.

At that moment, Maryse confirmed that she had indeed heard it!

A low, muffled murmur that made one feel dazed.

As if from an unreal place, indescribable...

At that moment, she was feeling dizzy and befuddled. Before she could conduct any thorough investigation, she noticed that her father had already returned, causing her to hastily flee from the study in fright.

After reminiscing, Maryse fell into contemplation.

"The problematic area is the study, where Father likes to spend most of his time. However, today both he and the internal guards will be in the banquet hall, along with most of the family guards."

Thus, the defense of the study will become empty!

"Miss, what exactly are you thinking?"

Irena looked concerned, as she knew this girl too well and felt that today's Maryse was acting a bit unusual.

[What's wrong with her today? Is there something she's hiding from me? What are you thinking, Maryse?]

Maryse turned her head and fixed Irena with a peculiar gaze.

That is the nostalgic longing and missing towards a friend.

"Irena... I just want to go out and get some fresh air," Maryse smiled sweetly.

Irena furrowed her brow and asked, "Do you have to go out so late?"

[This is a good opportunity. I can arrange this place later and then take out the gifts.]

[Ah, ah, I cannot continue to think about it.]

"Ok, you just go ahead and set it up! I'll pretend I don't know anything about your surprise, hehe!"

Maryse nodded with a smile, gazing at Irena for a moment before turning her head away.

Thank you.

She had already decided not to involve Irena, who was different from her, had a promising future and still had a chance to salvage her life.

Even if Irena is willing to accompany her, what about her parents? Irena's family has been serving the Augustus family for generations and cannot escape their bond.

After Maryse left the room, she quickly donned the Invisible Cloak of Hermes and gradually faded into the darkness of the night.

She looked at the rainy night and took a deep breath, feeling the cool air entering her nostrils. It was the first time in her life that she had experienced a certain tangible happiness.

My heart is free...

Please dance now...

[Psychic Dancer, stand by.]

Oh?

Maryse found herself completely constrained by the concept of "freedom," and in an instant, she became profoundly helpless.

What is it again?

However, luckily I am very clever, so this time I have already gone to the bathroom in advance!

——

A few hours ago, in the downtown skyscraper.

"Game tip: Unlock the fifth level of the Black Star Event."

"The Augustus family!"

"Please uncover the true depths of sin buried within this family, and bring forth judgment!"

Bai Yan calmly looked at his cellphone as lines of black text appeared on the screen.

Next, the scene suddenly transformed into the most familiar pixelated style.

Inside the cluster of villas on a rainy night.

"Psychic Dancer's" pixelated figure wearing the Relic "Invisible Cloak of Hermes", appeared calm as she stood at the entrance of a rather secluded villa.

"Time for a true display of skill!" she spoke.

Game tip: Current mission objective is to find the study of the Augustus family's mastermind "Reno The Strategist".

Bai Yan furrowed his brow deeply and muttered to himself, "Is the name of the head of the family 'Reno The Strategist'? Hmm, this nickname doesn't sound like that of a good person."

He maneuvered "Psychic Dancer" continuously within the villa community, because of the "Invisible Cloak of Hermes", the roaming black-clothed guards all ignored her.

Very good, it was simply effortless to sneak around.

At last, "Psychic Dancer" arrived at the cluster of villas and stopped in front of the largest and most magnificent one.

The entire villa was aglow with lights, while outside there were black-clad guards stationed everywhere, and a constant hubbub of merry voices and laughter emanated from within.

"Psychic Dancer" suddenly became unresponsive, standing still for ten seconds, gazing in the direction of the villa.

The black subtitles gradually appeared on the screen of the mobile phone.

"My 8th birthday is a memory that I will never forget. At that time, I was the focal point of the high society of this city. Everyone celebrated for me, and I was hailed as a sparkling star."

"For the past twenty years... I have forgotten more and more things, but I have always been able to recall it in my dreams. Every time I wake up, tears fill my eyes at the corner."

"A moment of reminiscence."

"Today is actually my birthday, and finally, I understand that the happiness I lost in the past cannot be regained."

"I hope to celebrate with a great fire... and watch the flames dance."

"This will become my new and unforgettable memory."

## Chapter 74: Ignition

Game hint, "Allowing 'Psychic Dancer' to commit arson or not?"

Bai Yan fell into contemplation, instinctively sensing that this particular option held considerable significance, to the point where it could potentially determine whether "Psychic Dancer" would spawn a new trait or not.

Although burning down a house may seem bad.

But this place is most likely the headquarters of the 'Black Star Faction' cultists, and we must treat them as enemies.

Moreover, it is apparent that "Psychic Dancer" has been repressed for many years and has long harbored hatred towards her family.

Her words just now were spoken from the heart. If she were forcibly prevented from taking revenge, she might still end up blaming Babel Tower for it later.

After much deliberation, Bai Yan made a decision.

"Yes."

At that moment, he suddenly felt...

Perhaps he also wished to see a large fire himself.

Flame.

"I heard that the arsonist didn't actually intend to cause true destruction."

Bai Yan muttered to himself.

The purpose of arson is, in fact, for individuals to alleviate the sense of frustration that society imposes upon them, to garner attention from others, and to obtain satisfaction that they have not otherwise attained in certain aspects of their lives.

Let the flames purify everything.

After Bai Yan made his decision, "Psychic Dancer" stood calmly in front of the villa and said nothing more.

The subtitles disappeared.

After a while, she used Psychic Domination to make many black-clad guards set fire to various places.

The grasslands throughout the villa community were burning, with pixelated flames gradually rising and the background beginning to turn red.

Shrill cries reverberated throughout the area as numerous individuals fled and endeavored to extinguish the flames.

"Psychic Dancer" manipulated the guards to set fire to uninhabited areas; evidently, she deliberately didn't want to harm any innocent individuals.

She only wanted to witness a great fire that could burn down her past...

The screen suddenly turned.

The pixelated figure of Nightsaber has arrived at the doorstep of the Augustus family, simultaneously observing the emergence of a fervent blaze ahead.

"Face your sins!" she once again uttered her battle cry.

A vertical list appeared on the left side of the mobile screen, containing the pixelated avatars of "Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer".

Bai Yan knew that he could switch the character he wanted to manipulate by clicking on the pixelated avatar of the two individuals.

Game Tip: Shadow Mode: You can check the character avatars at the same time, preset the "character behavior", and make the two characters act together!

Bai Yan is very familiar with games featuring pre-set roles and gameplay mechanics in which multiple characters act together, having previously played real-time strategy games such as "Shadow Tactics" and "Bounty Hunters."

"Very well, let's make some noise...or rather, let me allow you to make some noise."

He manipulates "Nightsaber" to infiltrate the villa complex, quickly receiving game prompts, and discovering that "Nightsaber" can use "Anathemas Star Chains" as a grappling hook to climb up the building.

As long as "Nightsaber" leaps onto the building, she can avoid the numerous black-clad guards on the ground. If she encounters any guards in the building, she can swiftly hide from their sight by using "Deep Blue World" and rushing past them.

However, "Deep Blue World" has a cooldown period.

Bai Yan must pay attention to the gaps in the guards' line of sight when allowing "Nightsaber" to move up and down the buildings via the chain, so as to maintain her undetected status.

If it were Bai Yan from more than half a month ago, he probably wouldn't have been able to pass this level at once, but now his gaming skills have improved significantly, and he leisurely maneuvered 'Nightsaber' all the way to the main villa.

She reunited with "Psychic Dancer" here.

"The next step in the game objective is to locate the study."



Bai Yan clicked on "Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer" respectively in the vertical list, and once he had selected them, the entire screen of his phone dimmed and the world fell into stillness.

This is the "Shadow Mode" in the game where you can simultaneously operate two operators.

Then, he clicked on the screen to preset the next actions of the two people.

"Enter the villa together."

Preset completed.

The screen returned to normal and the world reverted to being dynamic.

"Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer" sneaked into the villa together, the image on the phone turned into a map of the interior, and the black-clad guards became even more intensive.

Due to the occurrence of the fire, the celebrities and nobles were first plunged into a state of "panic", constantly fleeing outside the villa, while the black-clad guards had to escort them.

"It seems that starting a fire could lower the density of the guards," Bai Yan muttered to himself.

Even so, the difficulty of the operation still increased.

"Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer" must repeatedly coordinate their innate powers to let "Nightsaber" proceed unhindered while constantly deceiving the guards... "Psychic Dancer" has the protection of the Invisible Cloak of Hermes and faces no issues with stealth.

The location of the study is also easy to find, as "Psychic Dancer" had long prepared a complete topographic map... which was intended for outsiders.

.

One can easily imagine that "Psychic Dancer" would never get lost in her own home.

At last, the two of them successfully reached the study room.

However, in front of the study, there were still two guards of the Augustus family, whose strength was evidently superior to that of the ordinary black-clothed guards.

The most crucial issue is that if we were to directly employ violent methods to kill the two guards, the entire clan's security force would be alerted and they would come together to retaliate.

That would result in a direct game over!

"Well, not only the guardians, but also the Augustus family itself has several extraordinary individuals."

Even though not all descendants of extraordinary individuals are born with extraordinary abilities, the probability is quite high. Among Maryse's siblings, half of them were born with innate superpowers while the other half developed them later in life.

Her innate power was one of the most frightening among them.

"So, give it a try."

Bai Yan knew that the final two levels of the "Babel Tower" event were truly the most difficult levels, and it was almost impossible to pass them on the first attempt.

So, he maneuvered "Psychic Dancer" forward.

Psychic domination!

Both of the bodyguards were successfully subjected to Psychic Domination, but just then, a deafening alarm sounded in the villa!

Bai Yan remained calm and collected, as he had anticipated the situation beforehand.

"So it turns out that there is a counter-curse on units like 'Internal Security'. After all, Psychic Dancer has been discriminated against and monitored in her family for so many years, they must have taken precautions against her."

On the screen, more and more black-clad guards surged forward, along with several elite monster-like Internal Guards...And two obvious boss units.

The Augustus family's leader, "Reno," who has a serious expression and a handsome face... and a blue crow-masked, light-colored suit man suddenly appeared from nearby.

"Could it be that this person is... actually 'Raven Reaper', and he is present here?"

Bai Yan immediately recognized the other person, whom he had briefly encountered in front of the office of the director.

How could it be him? Why would he be here?

"Raven Reaper".

When Bai Yan first saw this man, he felt an extremely strong "hunter" aura, making everyone in his presence seem like prey.

Alan considered himself one of the top three members of the Demon Hunt Agency, on par with Lin Bian and Mr. Trap. In fact, his strength may even surpass that of Weasley, the leader of Black Wizards.

Bai Yan is very aware of the operator's strength and mutters to himself, "It's terrible to have this kind of boss. Perhaps we should not take action today and definitely should not engage in direct combat with such an individual."

The enemies still had not discovered "Psychic Dancer". The Invisible Cloak of Hermes was simply too effective. However, "Nightsaber" at this moment had nowhere left to hide.

Bai Yan knew walking this far was as good as a death sentence.

"I am sorry, 'Nightsaber', but in reality, I will not let you die so easily."

He wants to test the bosses' abilities here and will not give up easily.

Therefore, Bai Yan promptly maneuvered "Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer" into action, engaging in combat against numerous adversaries.

.....

"Would you like to save?" "Restart?"

After the hardest battle, the two girls fought to death, just as Bai Yan had expected.

Indeed, the most challenging one was the "Raven Reaper".

His strength even surpasses that of the head of the Augustus family, Reno.

Bai Yan sighed and rose to get a drink of water.

Well, facing this "raven", it's probably necessary for Nightsaber and Psychic Dancer to team up against him, in order to have some chance of winning. It's completely impossible to beat this guy one-on-one.

Start again!

This time, Bai Yan still chose the option of setting fire.

Following the usual path, "Psychic Dancer" and "Nightsaber" returned to the villa. However, this time Bai Yan didn't choose to have "Psychic Dancer" directly control the guards at the door of the study.

Initially, Bai Yan allowed "Psychic Dancer" to venture towards the vicinity of the ballroom, seeking the opportunity to gain control over a male elf by the name of Phoenix.

He appeared to have a high status, always standing by the side of the household master, Reno.

Bai Yan had a trial-and-error attitude and believed that after being controlled, this elf could very likely trigger an alarm.

However, the situation turned out to be smoother than expected, as Phoenix didn't trigger any alarms while being controlled by "Psychic Dancer".

"Although the reason is unclear, the progress is smooth, which is good."

After being controlled, Phoenix was immediately directed by "Psychic Dancer" to the door of the study where he faced two guards.

Indeed, the option to initiate dialogue was triggered!

Sister?

Bai Yan was not surprised at all, but thoroughly confirmed that "Psychic Dancer" was the biological daughter of the head of the Augustus family, Reno, but all of this is no longer important.

The father and daughter, from a certain moment onward, will never reconcile and be as they were before.

He hesitated for a moment and chose the second option.

Soon, the two guards hesitated briefly before heading toward the direction of the banquet hall.

"Chose correctly."

Psychic Dancer and Nightsaber had the opportunity to act upon, and Bai Yan instructed Psychic Dancer to command her own brother Phoenix to stand guard outside the study, while manipulating Nightsaber to enter it immediately.

However, he unexpectedly saw the "Raven Reaper" standing with arms folded in the study room!

Chapter 75: Goodbye, My Father (1)

As things stand now, we can only move forward.

It only takes a few minutes to get from the study to the banquet hall, leaving little time for "Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer".

"Raven Reaper" is a Night Watcher, but "Nightsaber" and "Psychic Dancer" are not. If "Mysterious Magic" were here, perhaps there would be a chance for a discussion.

Although "Raven Reaper" may not be a villain, he attacked "Nightsaber" without mercy during their last encounter.

If he could threaten Nightsaber's life, then what meaning does it have whether he is a good person or a bad person?

"Raven Reaper" stood there, appearing completely relaxed and in a position that seemed like he could collapse at any moment.

Bai Yan didn't hesitate to operate "Nightsaber" to launch an attack!

"Deep Blue World!"

The next moment, the world came to a complete standstill.

Bai Yan swiftly steered "Nightsaber" and brandished the black greatsword, incessantly launching attacks towards "Raven Reaper".

"Not right, not quite right."

Bai Yan noticed an anomaly in the boss's health bar displayed on the screen above.

Continuously attacking multiple times, "Raven Reaper" only lost a very small amount of health! Although he is also flesh and blood, he will not be instantly killed by the big sword... Just like when Bai Yan failed just now!

"Sure enough, this ambush couldn't kill you."

Due to having already been hit once, Bai Yan was not overly surprised, instead he became even calmer.

He knew that the fate of "Nightsaber" was in his hands.

So, he must take responsibility for her.

The head of Raven Reaper was crowned with a pale blue halo, which Bai Yan immediately discerned upon clicking to be a state of increased power or ability known as a BUFF status.

At this very moment, he was in a state of "Flow of the Heart, Flowing Water" and under the effect of the skill "Flowing Water, Serene as Still Water".

"Flowing Water" is one of the nine schools of the Flow of the Heart, much like Holly's "Heavenly Martial Arts".

It is an individual ritual that imitates the concept of "flowing continuously without stagnation".

How can a sword kill water?

Bai Yan was very aware that the minimal damage caused earlier was actually dependent on Mu Ling's "Crime Hunting Blood."

The few seconds of time standing still quickly came to an end.

Three and a half seconds, it's still too short.

The "Raven Reaper" quickly assumed a new posture, a completely different movement. The Flow of the Heart style on his body shifted to "Flow of the Heart: Swift Wind," with his special ability state being "Swift Wind: Velocity Surge."

The pixelated figure disappeared from the screen!

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

"Bang!"

The white shadow kept flashing beside "Nightsaber", Bai Yan tried to make her avoid, but there was no room for him to operate.

After a series of five quick hits, the pixelated character of 'Nightsaber' was seen kneeling on the ground, with stars circling around her head.

Dazzled!

Bai Yan furrowed his brow in concern at the fact that Nightsaber had fainted. It appeared highly likely that she had been struck on the head.

"Raven Reaper" returned to his original position and in his hand appeared a black umbrella pointed towards "Nightsaber".

This black umbrella is his weapon.

Due to the Blood of Darkness, the bloodline of "Nightsaber" is gradually recovering, but lacking resilience or similar abilities, she remains in a state of dizziness.

"A one-on-one confrontation was indeed unlikely to have any chance of success, as expected," Bai Yan sighed.

If it were not for the absolute strength of the Three Powers of the Demon Hunt Agency, this city would have long been divided and turned into a lawless and chaotic place by various heretical cults, "Pastor," and "Queen of the Scarlet Moon"!

"However..."

"She will undoubtedly surpass you in the future."

This girl could even become the sharpest blade of the Babel Tower!

He firmly believed in this.

After Bai Yan fell silent, ready to begin anew, "Raven Reaper" didn't strike.

But he spoke up.

"Clack clack clack clack..." The sound of the subtitles resounded once again.

"....."

Bai Yan hesitated for a moment when he saw the option to negotiate.

"So that's how it is. Surprisingly, I completely understand now."

After contemplating carefully, he made the right choice. Upon a moment's hesitation, "Raven Reaper" tossed a black book from his bosom.

The next moment, he transformed into a multitude of white crows, scattering away.

"Since he was able to talk his way out of trouble, there was no need to resort to force... Actually, there was still a way to deal with this guy, if I were to use all resources both on and off the field..."

Bai Yan was not bluffing, he still had several disposable tactical cards in his hand, coupled with the off-court support of himself and Alan, as well as "Psychic Dancer" and "Nightsaber" ... Then, relying on the cunning tactics of being prepared, even the mighty "Raven Reaper" could be dealt with in some way.

Of course, it would be good if this situation could solve the problem... but poor student Nightsaber is going to be beaten up.

Bai Yan will not easily intervene outside of the game, nor will he easily use tactical cards.

The former may trigger a chain reaction, while the disposable tactical card is precious and he doesn't want to use it unless absolutely necessary.

"Nightsaber" finally came to her senses and picked up the black book that was thrown at her by the other person.

Bai Yan glanced at its introduction and immediately understood.

Game hint, "Study room has been found, important item obtained, mission updated."

"New mission: Augustus Road, Escape from the Augustus family."

"New mission, farewell my father: Defeat Black Star Faction's senior disciple number one!"  
(Optional)

The truth was finally fully revealed.

## Chapter 75: Goodbye, My Father (2)

As expected, the so-called senior disciple number one of the Black Star Faction is Psychic Dancer's father.

Bai Yan fell into deep thought.

Even if the enemy were Psychic Dancer's father, he didn't hesitate to complete the task, but instead pondered on how to fulfill it.

Actually, the previous battles had already shown that Psychic Dancer's father had formidable strength. Bai Yan thought that it would be difficult for Nightsaber and Psychic Dancer to defeat him in one-on-one combat.

"Difficult "doesn't mean "impossible", as long as there is a possibility, one can definitely achieve it.

"The issue is that there is no chance for a one-on-one confrontation with him, given that the Augustus family wields an overwhelmingly strong force."

Bai Yan pondered for a considerable length of time, until a sudden spark of insight illuminated his mind and he conceived an apt solution.

"Well, give it a try."

"Anyway, even if I fail, I can always start over again."

---

Rainy night.

A sleepless night.

The wild wind tousled the golden locks, as Maryse stared into the stormy night, her emotions lingering in her eyes.

Farewell, my father.

Starting today, I will break away from the pain and joy that this family has given me all this time. All the memories that were given to me were not earned by my own hands, but rather depended on your mood.

Now, everything is different.

Even though I am not in control of myself at this very moment, I will still walk the path that I have decided for myself!

"Time has come for a genuine manifestation of prowess!"

Having said something incredibly shameful as usual, Maryse felt not even the slightest shame.

Her footsteps began to move.

She was wearing the Invisible Cloak of Hermes as she walked through the villa community in the pouring rain, surrounded by family protectors on patrol, but they all turned a blind eye to Maryse's presence.

Maryse walked steadfastly forward, with unwavering determination in her eyes, until she reached the villa that belonged to the head of the family.

The entire villa was ablaze with light, like a sacred cathedral radiating infinite brilliance on a dark and rainy night.

The girl in the darkness stared at it in a trance.

She could fully hear the sounds of joy and laughter, and could also imagine the smiles of the people inside the mansion, her own siblings...they were all there, her beloved family.

Gradually, in the picture in her mind, the most adorable little girl appeared.

A smile gradually spread across Maryse's face.

Miss, is there anything else you desire?

I want to have dinner with my family.

Finally, the fantasy was shattered.

Her smile gradually faded away, leaving only the rain in the darkness, as well as... pain and sorrow.

At that moment, Maryse suddenly realized that she had spoken out loud, her rosy lips completely out of her own control, speaking a passionate speech filled with emotion.

"My eighth birthday is an unforgettable memory for me. At that time, I was the center of attention in the city's high society, and everyone was celebrating for me, elevating me to the status of a shining star."

"For twenty years... I have forgotten more and more things, but I can always recall it in my dreams, and each time I wake up, tears fill my eyes in the corner."

"A fleeting moment of reminiscence."

"Today is actually my birthday, and I finally understand that the happiness I lost in the past can never be regained."

"I hope to celebrate with a big fire...and see the dance of flames."

"This will become my new, unforgettable memory."

Damn it! It exposed my age!

Maryse reluctantly closed her eyes, knowing that the Savior was manipulating her into saying them.

She felt an increasing resonance within her heart towards those words, as if they truly reflected her innermost thoughts that hadn't been given a chance to be expressed before.

Is it really so?

.....

Yes.

Actually, this is my deepest thought.

However, it was excavated by the Savior of the Babel Tower, presented before me, and became impossible to evade.

Maryse slowly opened her eyes.

I, longing for flames, to purify all that has passed, to attain true rebirth.

Oh, Savior!

Please respond to my appeals and desires.

She looked towards the guards standing in front of the villa, silently took steps forward while unleashing her own psychic power.

The guards standing in front of the villa were fully focused, with each individual displaying the utmost rigor.

Suddenly, the brightness in their eyes began to fade away one by one as they left their positions and walked towards other places to search for sources of fire and oil, until they reached deserted locations.



Then start arson.

At first, it was just a small flame, but it quickly grew larger and larger.

Maryse has already arrived at the entrance of the villa, turning to gaze upon the family from which she has always lived, her countenance exuding an unparalleled serenity.

Shortly thereafter.

The flames burned completely, persisting against the torrential downpour attempting to extinguish them!

Even if it cannot persist for a long time, it can still shine brightly for a moment!

It lit up the darkness.

She gazed silently at this scene, and the shackles that had long bound her soul were finally burned to ashes.

## Chapter 76: The Unfathomable Savior!

Inside the banquet hall.

The head of the Augustus household, Maryse's father, Reno the Strategist, stood in a corner of the banquet conversing with his two old companions, Kesu and Bernard.

Kesu is a tall and thin man with black beard and black hair. He wears gold-rimmed glasses and looks like a scholar.

Bernard, on the other hand, had a round and plump figure. His face bore a harmless smile and his clothes shimmered with golden light, giving off an extravagant and luxurious aura. His ten fingers were adorned with precious jewels.

Kesu and Bernard are important figures in the two major families of Tatsumi City, just like the Augustus family. These two families also have great power and monopolize the foreign trade import and export industry and agricultural products industry of Tatsumi City, respectively.

Just like how the head of the Augustus family monopolized the medical pharmaceutical industry, the five major families of the Platinum Zone actually control the economic lifeline of this city. Not only do they monopolize at least one industry each, but they also attempt to embrace every aspect of industries including petroleum and chemical, military industry, communication, media, finance, banking, tobacco, and various other fields.

Although the five families were not the official rulers of Tatsumi City, they were indeed the real economic leaders. The nominal "King" of Tatsumi City was more concerned with the Air Alliance Conference and constantly remained in the "City of the Highest" to garner more support from proxy alliance leaders.

For many years, "the king" rarely returned to the city that belonged to him.

Among the five prominent families, the families represented by Bernard and Kesu have a good relationship with the Augustus family. The other two families, with whom relations are strained, didn't even send representatives to attend this banquet.

Reno remained silent for a moment, his gaze as deep and profound as ever.

He spoke up and said, "Regarding the matter of the 'Babel Tower', how do you all perceive it?"

Tall and thin Kesu shook his head and said, "They are just a bunch of clowns, not worth mentioning. It's too much for Demon Hunt Agency to even call in the Imperial Guards of the Eyes of the Empire. Heh, I think it's really excessive."

He pushed up his glasses and said with a smile, "However, I do hope that the Imperial Guards can lend us a hand and at least help us deal with the 'Pastor'."

The plump Bernard also laughed and said, "The person who came is the 'Emperor', and I heard that he has always had strong opinions against the aristocratic system. I don't understand why he would stay at Eyes of the Empire to serve the kings if he really has so many opinions."

"The Babel Tower is not some kind of clown."

Reno seemingly had no interest in discussing the "Emperor", as he solemnly redirected the conversation towards focusing more on the Babel Tower.

"They will eventually try to control every corner of this city, which is worth our vigilance."

The two aristocrats, Kesu and Burnard, both stood there in confusion.

Bernard's chubby face wrinkled slightly and he shook his head, "Well, you are overestimating them. As it seems now, these people are just opposing the cultists, it doesn't affect us at all."

Kesu nodded, wanting to speak, when suddenly a gentle voice interrupted him.

"Father, there is something I must tell you."

The eldest son of the Augustus family, the elegant Phoenix, walked over. He had a gentle smile that was completely different from his father's, and people would feel close to him just by looking at him.

"Sorry."

Reno nodded and walked aside with Phoenix alone.

"What's the matter?"

Phoenix hesitated for a moment and said in a low voice, "Father, recently I found some irregularities in the accounts... Is there any connection between White Night Pharmaceutical and you?"

"White Night Pharmaceutical?"

Reno furrowed his brow slightly and nodded, saying, "Indeed, this is a company I established a few years ago, dedicated to the research of drugs for neuro-related diseases. Abner has been responsible for managing it all along."

Abner is the uncle of Phoenix and Maryse, and also the younger brother of Reno.

He is a renowned pianist, but in the family, he has always been considered a peripheral figure in terms of power.

Phoenix's breathing was a bit heavy, and as he looked at the guests coming and going, he whispered:

"However, I've heard from the individuals at Demon Hunt Agency that following the recent riot at White Night Pharmaceutical by the mysterious group Babel Tower, a number of items related to the Black Star Faction were found within White Night Pharmaceutical."

"The connection between White Night Pharmaceutical and our family has attracted the attention of the Night Watchers."

"Black Star Faction.....Black Star Faction....."

Reno uttered the word in a hushed voice, as though he had never heard it before in his entire existence, murmuring to himself.

"You don't need to worry about this matter, Phoenix. You only need to know that... everything I have done, has been for the sake of our great family."

"Father, what does this mean?" Phoenix increasingly felt that something was wrong and felt very uneasy.

"However..."

Phoenix wanted to say something more, but soon saw a cold and merciless look, which made him stunned and feeling cowardly, so he dared not say anything more.

"I understand now, father."

He nodded and sighed to himself, then suddenly heard someone shouting loudly.

"It's on fire!"

"What's on fire outside? Oh my goodness!"

"Quickly look, everyone!"

Everyone's attention was drawn as people quickly looked out the window, only to discover with horror that a fierce blaze had erupted near the Augustus family's estate.

Surprisingly, it suddenly caught fire. Phoenix frowned and immediately said, "In such a heavy rain, it could still catch fire suddenly? It must be someone intentionally lighting it."

"Father, what should we do?"

The guests became somewhat flustered, but Kesu and Bernard smiled and looked towards Reno without any sign of anxiety.

Reno fell into deep thought, nodded and calmly said in a loud voice, "Please be quiet everyone, it's just a sudden fire, everything is still under our control, but today's banquet ends here. Please evacuate in an orderly manner!"

His voice was as loud as thunder, penetrating into everyone's ears, and the inexplicable calming effect made everyone quiet down.

In the corner, a man wearing a raven-colored bronze mask and a white suit looked over calmly.

Phoenix instinctively looked towards "Raven Reaper", feeling a malicious gaze upon himself. This "monster" from the Demon Hunt Agency saw everyone as prey.

He reluctantly nodded and smiled at "Raven Reaper", but the latter didn't respond.

"Raven Reaper" simply gazed at everyone present. No one could fathom what was going on inside the mind of the person behind the bronze mask, but everyone was too afraid to approach him.

The existence of this man itself symbolizes "fear"!

Phoenix suddenly thought of something and immediately left his father Reno's side, anxiously saying, "I must go check on Little Eva's condition."

Reno gave him a glance, but didn't try to stop him.

When Phoenix left the banquet hall, he failed to notice an ethereal girl following in his footsteps.

Soon, he arrived at his daughter's room, where two middle-aged maids were taking care of her, with anxiety on their faces.

"Young Master, you have finally arrived. There is a fire outside, and we don't know whether we should take the little miss with us to leave here."

His daughter Little Eva was lying in the baby carriage, sleeping soundly with an innocent expression on her face, clearly oblivious to everything around her.

Phoenix let out a sigh of relief as she sat beside the baby carriage. It was certain that their family clan had been attacked by enemies, caught in a sudden blaze. Fortunately, little Eva was unharmed.

The torrential rain had not ceased, yet the fire outside showed no signs of slowing down. Phoenix remained silent, seemingly contemplating a decision.

At that moment, the actions of the two maids became somewhat suspicious.

They actually stiffly stood up and left the room silently without saying a word.

"Umm?"

Phoenix was taken aback for a moment, and he suddenly looked up.

Suddenly... a beautiful girl's figure gradually emerged near the wall.

So familiar, but somewhat unfamiliar...

"It is you, Maryse!"

Phoenix recognized his sister, and suddenly his expression changed as if he had instantly realized many things.

[So it was you who did it...]

He immediately spoke, "I am aware of father's recent decision regarding you, and I am also quite helpless in the matter. However, there is no one in the clan who can challenge the head of the family's decision. Nevertheless, I empathize fully with your resistance."

"However, regardless of the situation, should we not refrain from retaliating against innocent individuals? Your niece is absolutely blameless."

Maryse gazed silently at her older brother, without uttering a single word.

The sound of wind and rain entered into her ears, and Phoenix's throat moved as he fully understood his younger sister's frightening nature.

[Such a terrifying talent, akin to a grotesque monster.]

[I am not an opponent]

[In that case, I can only temporarily comply with her.]

Phoenix slowly raised both hands and calmly promised, "I can be controlled by you, but you must also promise not to retaliate against my daughter. You can make me do anything... Maryse, can you hear the voice of my heart, and know that I am not deceiving you."

[You know what I think, and I can guess your purpose.]

[I won't cast the alarm spell. How about it?]

Maryse remained expressionless and didn't utter a single word.

This kind of father-daughter relationship touched her deeply...and made her feel a bit envious.

Phoenix tensed up, even thinking that negotiations had collapsed, but at that moment his gaze gradually became vacant.

There is a chance to use the alarm spell in these few seconds.

However, Phoenix gave up and allowed his younger sister to take control of his mind.

Maryse piloted Phoenix out of the room, leaving the little baby still asleep on the bed, blissfully unaware and serene.

Mu Ling awaited Maryse's appearance from the nearby shadow.

However, at this moment, Mu Ling was also unable to act autonomously, silently watching as "Psychic Dancer" approached with an unfamiliar elf.

Mu Ling thought to herself, "I see, is this task being completed by me and her together?"

Although it was a private transaction, the Savior still rendered his "verdict", as expected, the Augustus family has some issues.

Subsequently, the three of them proceeded to the study together.

On the road, Maryse's heart could not calm down for a long time.

Initially, she was worried about how to solve the problem of the alarm spell, and even feared that the "Savior" would directly manipulate her and "Nightsaber" to kill relentlessly.

Despite hating her family, Maryse still didn't want to personally slaughter her siblings.

However, it now appears that the situation is going smoothly, as Phoenix surrenders of his own accord.

Perhaps the Savior has already known everything, and it seems that he can really glimpse fate and grasp the future!

It's really unfathomable!

## Chapter 77: Raven Reaper

The family's internal guards stationed at the study's entrance were redeployed. Maryse breathed a sigh of relief as she took control of "Phoenix" and monitored the area outside.

Mu Ling, who was under manipulation, calmly pushed open the door to the study and took a step inside.

However, as soon as she took a step forward, she immediately felt immense pressure!

What is going on?

Why is it that as soon as she entered, it felt as though she had already stepped into the underworld? The immense pressure blended the sweat and raindrops on Mu Ling's body, causing them to continuously drip down!

"The exceptionally lively Babel Tower's hunting dog, the lone survivor of the Mu family...I finally see you."

The bronze crow mask and the delicately crafted light-colored suit, together with the figure that resembled a hunter among grim reapers, had already been waiting in the study for its prey.

Is it really him? How could he be here!

Even if I join forces with Psychic Dancer, it is uncertain that we will win. Has the Savior foreseen this?

.

Upon seeing the other party, Mu Ling was briefly thrown into a state of panic, as the disparity in their abilities was insurmountable.

Raven Reaper!

Once teamed up with the ace Night Watcher Lin Bian, this man brought the "Pastor" to the brink of defeat!

She knew this man who had fought alongside her father before, hunting the Peaceful Songstress' Spawns together, and her always-silent father had held him in very high regard afterward.

"Mu Ling, as long as you can reach the strength of that man in the future, our family will regain its glory because of you."

I am actually facing this man now!

Mu Ling's mind was a little chaotic, but she still managed to calm down.

As long as there exists the Savior, no matter the nature of the adversary, it is not insurmountable.

Moreover, the current me is also different from the past me.

Raven Reaper calmly produced a black umbrella and gently laid it on the nearby table, seemingly disinclined to employ it.

Mu Ling was aware that the inconspicuous black umbrella was, in fact, an artificially crafted Relic. Rumor has it that its prototype was, in reality, the remains of a Civilization-level Relic.

Raven Reaper said indifferently, "I met you when you were very young. You were already undergoing the rigorous training of a hunter at that time, without a normal childhood. I suppose the pressure on you must have been immense over these years."

Mu Ling remained silent, for in truth, even if she had wished to speak, words eluded her.

At least, for the time being.

The tone of Raven Reaper was calm and indifferent, as if he were a person disinterested in all things.

"Come, let me 'taste' your strength. I can do it without using a weapon."

Then, he raised his hands and said, "Of course, it's best not to let your guard down just because I don't use any weapons."

"Speaking only of fighting skill..."

"In this city, there is no one who can overcome me."

Mu Ling was somewhat conflicted, unsure of how the "Savior" would choose - whether to opt for confrontation or negotiation.

And then, she immediately had the answer!

Deep Blue World!

In the world of extraordinary individuals, holding back is actually a very difficult thing to do.

Because no one knows if the other is a friend or an enemy, and if the other is an enemy, there may be some terrible trump cards.

Once you become careless, even the strong may fall.

Therefore, it's best to go all out right from the start!

Mu Ling had already sprinted to Raven Reaper in an instant, wielding her black cross sword and slashing at his legs!

Is it chopping the leg? Don't want to be fatal?

Mu Ling understood the intention of the 'Savior' in an instant, but was stunned the next moment.

Water.

No, it wasn't real water... but those legs seemed like liquid, easily dispersed by her own great sword, yet they had no blood, flesh, or bones whatsoever.

The sword cannot cut water.

Is this sorcery or ritual? Could it be the legendary Flow of the Heart?

Mu Ling's body automatically launched several consecutive attacks, but none of them produced favorable results.

Raven Reaper has transformed into a dismal white liquid, akin to a stroke of graffiti in an oil painting of the real world.

Time resumed its normal course.

"Are you choosing to hold back by attacking my legs? Be careful, because next, it will be my turn."

That miserably white liquid wriggled incessantly, rapidly reforming into human shape, while Raven Reaper had already raised both fists.

He swung one leg behind and stepped one leg forward, completely changing his posture, with the sound of whistling wind blowing around him!

"Flow of the Heart: Gale"

High speed.

Indeed, it is the Flow of the Heart! Mu Ling has heard of this reformed school of ceremony, but has never truly witnessed it.

Raven Reaper seemed to transform into a gust of wind, and instantaneously rushed towards Mu Ling at a speed so swift that it left only faint traces of his presence, rather than being a mere adjective.

"Bang!"

Mu Ling was momentarily taken aback, and immediately felt a sharp pain in her temple, causing her to instinctively shut her eyes in agony.

"Bang!"

The next blow struck the back of Mu Ling's head. Her body was knocked forwards and she took several steps with her eyes closed.

His strength is inferior to mine, but it far exceeds that of ordinary humans, and his speed is truly too fast!

"Bang! Bang! Bang"

Mu Ling was struck three more times, each blow landing on her chin, temple, and the back of her head. The intense pain and dizziness caused her to momentarily lose consciousness.

Where am I?

What am I really doing now? My sight is so blurry...

What am I doing here?

Mu Ling was enveloped in a trance.

Her body continued to swing weapons at an extremely fast pace, unaffected by her own dizziness, but the black greatsword failed to hit anything that could be struck!

The fierce wind danced upon the sword as if it were a partner.

Dodging the sword, Raven Reaper calmly stepped back a few meters and stood back in his original position.

Mu Ling gradually emerged from her stupor, finding herself on one knee, and began to pant for breath.

Just now, that man was not only fast but...



It is pre-reading.

The experts in close combat, as per the legend, gain the ability known as "pre-reading," "insight," or "foresight" through their extensive experience in countless battles. In short, they all refer to the same concept.

In the realm of martial arts such as karate and kendo, this ability of anticipatory reading is referred to as "Sen no Sen".

Mu Ling was aware that her bodily attempts to attack had already been detected by Raven Reaper, who had discerned the trajectory of her martial movements.

Raven Reaper's tone was flat and indifferent.

"3.5 seconds of pause and seven seconds of cooldown time... Just like the information exposed in the video, why do you insist on playing those videos, Babel Tower?"

The temple twice, the occiput twice, the chin once; these five strikes, lethal for an ordinary person, left Mu Ling, this powerful "humanoid monster", dizzy and disoriented.

Raven Reaper calmly picked up the black umbrella, resembling a cold-blooded hunter, and gradually strode forward.

He aimed the black umbrella at the girl kneeling on one knee on the ground.

"What is your goal?"

"It's the Black Star Faction," Mu Ling's mouth moved on its own as she said, "Reno is number one among the senior believers."

There was a moment of silence.

Suddenly, Raven Reaper took out a black book from his bosom and flung it in front of Mu Ling.

"A couple of days ago, I received an anonymous report about Reno and chose to attend the banquet... But if it weren't for you setting the fire outside, I wouldn't have been able to enter here so easily."

"I have long been aware of the nature of the Demon Hunt Agency. It is not a department that can act without limitation, lacking judicial authority... Even if I have significant evidence, I fear that it would be exceedingly difficult to completely bring down that man."

"Those disgusting executives knew about White Night Pharmaceutical, but they chose to turn a blind eye."

The gaze of Raven Reaper remained indifferent, and although the tone was calm, Mu Ling could not sense any intention to harm herself.

"Perhaps there are more possibilities for you, but this time, I choose to believe in you."

"Show it to me. You seem to possess unparalleled intelligence, able to uncover evil and corruption bit by bit. So, go and completely destroy the Black Star Faction."

"And this is the justice that I can achieve."

After finishing speaking, Raven Reaper's body dissipated and transformed into a multitude of white crows which flew out of the window.

Mu Ling, who had fully recovered, reached out to retrieve the black book. However, upon just glancing at it, she immediately felt an inexplicable sense of detachment.

"The Chaos Book"

"What is this?" she immediately felt a wave of fear and her body instinctively looked away.

Leave the study.

Mu Ling discovered that "Psychic Dancer" and the male elf under her control had disappeared, and the guards had not returned.

"Where did that girl go?" Mu Ling wondered.

Her body moved on its own, leaving the study and hurrying towards the next battleground.

—

Reno stood calmly in the almost deserted banquet hall, accompanied by two silent black-clad guards.

The two of them have always been by the side of the master of the house and are also extraordinary beings of the awakening level. They have once undertaken the task of killing Maryse in case she ever posed a threat to the family.

Suddenly, the lights in the banquet hall went out.

Only darkness remained around.

"What's going on?"

"Protect the master well and don't let your guard down."

Reno raised his head slightly, looked around, but didn't see anyone's shadow.

At that very moment, he sensed the danger looming!

"Boom!"

A bullet was fired from a distance, and in an instant, it flew towards the front of Reno's abdomen!

The next moment, however, it was completely repelled by some invisible force and hung in midair, shaking wildly!

The bullet was unable to penetrate the defense until the very end, and it fell down...

However, this was only a feint!

Suddenly, the loyal bodyguard standing to the right of Reno had a vacant look in his eyes and swung his arm, which transformed into a sharp blade that viciously attacked his own master in front of him.

However, the gaze of the guard soon became clear, and the attacks of his arm also slowed down quickly.

What am I doing?

"Master, be careful!"

The guard on the left saw this scene and shouted loudly. He didn't relax his vigilance and immediately released a violent lightning bolt, without hesitation, towards his own companion!

Reno noticed something wasn't right and immediately shouted in a calm and steady voice, "Wait a moment!"

Electric light has arrived and suddenly illuminated the originally dark banquet hall!

The traitorous internal guard forces collapsed, convulsing violently as he received a fierce electric shock. From his mouth came the words, "It wasn't me...it was a voice...a girl's voice...she was commanding me."

Reno's pupils contracted slightly as he murmured to himself.

"It's her, she's here."

## Chapter 78: "Father's Kindness, Daughter's Filial Piety" (1)

In the past, I have so longed for it!

At this moment, I feel so hatred!

.

While wearing the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, Maryse is unable to use her psychic powers, forcing her to hide in the shadows before unleashing them to avoid being detected.

And after using her mental powers, Maryse will immediately don the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, rendering herself in a state of "nullification".

Under the control of Bai Yan, she first obtained the previously acquired prop, the Enchanted Pistol, and fired a bullet.

But this is a feint!

The next step, Maryse promptly took control of an internal guard to launch an attack against her father!

However, the power gap between both sides was significant, coupled with the great "distance" which greatly weakened the power of the soul, resulting in her mental control being able to maintain only brief moments.

However, this moment was already enough!

Both Bai Yan and Maryse had already anticipated that the target was in an extremely tense state after the dual hints of the conflagration and the extinguishing of the lights.

They would take action against their suddenly hostile companions!

As expected, the guard who could release thunder could not withstand his impulse. His attack erupted in an instant, causing his companion who can transform his body into various weapons to fall down.

Now, it was two against one.

Maryse longed to beam with a radiant smile.

No, it's not two against one, it's a two-on-two game! And the winners will definitely be us!

Maryse firmly believed that the Savior was supporting her from the depths of her soul!

The Savior, that enigmatic being of unknown origin, is an immensely powerful and deeply rooted great entity.

He gave me an immensely powerful strength!

Maryse feels confident and assured merely at the thought of everything within the Babel Tower and the countless processes and missions she has undergone.

Babel Tower and the Augustus family are simply not on the same level!

In the midst of darkness, Reno fell into a long silence, and suddenly spoke in a voice full of magnetism, "You have taken this step, abusing your power and hurting the family that raised you."

[No, this family has abandoned me... I've known it for a long time.]

Maryse suddenly realized that she was using her psychic power... to "speak" to her father.

These "words" were exactly what she wanted to say.

Could it be that the Savior has completely grasped my innermost thoughts? Just the mere idea of it sent Maryse into a panic, feeling a sense of dread without knowing how to avoid it.

At that moment, she was stunned, realizing how her fear of having her innermost thoughts read by the Savior had made her want to hide her true feelings... wasn't she just like those who were afraid of her?

Ah, I am actually just an ordinary person.

Who would wish for their true feelings to be constantly exposed in front of others?

Maryse fell into contemplation.

"Indeed, you have awakened the power of Psychic Domination."

Reno looked at the remaining guards expressionlessly and calmly said, "Take him out...having more people doesn't necessarily mean having an advantage. Guard the entrance."

"Understood."

The guards fully obeyed the lord's command without hesitation, bowed down and held their electrocuted companion closely, and cautiously stepped backward out of the room.

Reno remained calm and had already activated the spell used for issuing an alert. In a matter of minutes, a large number of guards will arrive, leaving no possibility for the girl to escape from here.

"All that I have done, has been for the Augustus family, but alas, you cannot comprehend the concept of familial interest."

"Well, after all, you still have more than ten years before you reach adulthood, and your mental maturity is not yet fully developed."

Reno shook his head and said, "I can understand you."

"However, can't forgive."

[I knew you would think like this. In your eyes, I am just a sacrificial pawn, completely insignificant to the entire family.]

[If sacrificing all the children is necessary for the prosperity of the family, would you do the same?]

Although Maryse could not control herself, these words expressed what she was thinking in her heart!

Is everything for the sake of the family?

Does the individual have no meaning?

Is it up to you to judge all of this?

What she aimed to shatter was this terrifying arrogance!

Foolish.

"Invisible voice, formless sound, unavoidable, and hopeless."

Reno didn't answer, but instead suddenly raised both hands upwards, palms facing upwards.

He opened his mouth.

The intangible sound waves shook everything around them, causing everything in the banquet hall to lift up and shatter!

This is magic, it's the power of sound! Namely, vibration!

The force of this impact was maintained within the banquet hall, which was the reason for Reno's solitary confinement. His power was difficult to control, and could easily harm his own people.

Maryse had donned once again the Invisible Cloak of Hermes and was steadily striding towards Reno.

In this state, she was unable to influence anything in the material world, yet remained unaffected by any phenomena of the tangible reality.

Even the power of an earthquake trembleth so.

In the battle prowess of super beings, is strength the most important factor?

No, intelligence is the most crucial thing among extraordinary individuals.

With the blessing of the Civilization-level Relic, Maryse effortlessly approached her father, who was oblivious to the imminent danger.

## Chapter 78: "Father's Kindness, Daughter's Filial Piety" (2)

Reno merely thought that Maryse could become invisible, and if he had known about the "Invisible Cloak of Hermes" beforehand, he would not have found himself in such a perilous situation.

Maryse was already standing by Reno's side, with only a two-meter distance between them!

Now there is one more problem, if she wants to launch an attack, she must lift the effect of the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, but the sonic wave at that moment will cause the girl to suffer severe injuries.

So she waited, under the control of the Savior, for the moment when this continuous force would dissipate.

The constant pressure of the force oppressed the entire banquet hall without any blind spots. Reno knew that even if he went invisible, there was no escaping from it.

But why was she so still, without any resistance?

Finally, the power of the spell came to a halt.

All that was inside the banquet hall was crushed to dust, and there was not a single intact item to be found.

Now is the time!

Maryse's heart was filled with joyous anticipation as she eagerly sought to shed the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, unleashing her power to claim the fruits of victory.

However, her body didn't move at all.

Savior, what are you doing? Hurry up and make me move! Time is of the essence!

However, the next moment Reno suddenly pulled out an object and Maryse was stunned.

That was a pale yellow scroll, a Civilization-level Relic known as the "Script of Pseudo," possessing a formidable power to alter one's common perception!

She broke out in a cold sweat of fear, fortunately, she didn't impulsively attack earlier or else she would have been done for.

The Savior even foresaw this step!

Is he an all-knowing and all-powerful being? Capable of fully grasping both my innermost feelings and the future?

Too bad!

Could it be that when I secretly scolded him before, he also heard it? No, no!

As soon as this idea emerged, Maryse was frightened to the point that her body became somewhat weak.

Dad! Dad! My Savior! From now on, you are my real dad, a kind master. Please don't get angry! Just let me go like a fart!

Maryse was extremely afraid and had no idea how the Savior could "control the future". In fact, Bai Yan had fought the BOSS more than once and was well aware of all of Reno's tricks.

Reno remained composed, holding the "Script of Pseudo" in his right hand, while his left hand's fingers had unknowingly been broken and he was ready at any moment to trace letters on it using his own blood.

As long as you write down "script" targeting a certain goal, you can substitute any conventional knowledge of that goal.

Reno has made a decision to completely obliterate Maryse's free will.

He wanted Maryse to understand "compliance" as a common concept on the same level as "eating".

The raging inferno was finally completely extinguished.

Reno began to sneer in a deep voice, saying, "Cowardice, as always, cowardice. Are you still unwilling to show yourself? I understand, it is because of the inherent defect in your character."

"Continuing to procrastinate is also my victory, because soon there will be more guards and security rushing over, and you won't have any chance."

"Speaking of which, when we were just fighting, I broke through a certain 'mental filter', and now you must be a member of that Babel Tower, right?"

"Is it not true that you despicably pinned the blame for the 'Black Star Faction' incident on the Augustus family?"

"I really didn't expect that you would commit such an unsightly act of betrayal."

Huh?

Maryse was taken aback, completely unaware of what was going on.

Wait a moment, isn't that man a member of the Black Star Faction? What's going on here? Could it be that I have misunderstood something?

She was dazed, but quickly snapped out of it.

However, even so, since he wants to control me, there is nothing left to discuss.

I must shatter this man's arrogance.

Although Maryse had many thoughts inside, her body didn't stop, and she approached Reno more and more.

Maryse lifted her head to look at her father's face and suddenly realized that over the years, he had also become old.

This is the first time in so many years that I have been so close to you...

The father and daughter were very close, only inches apart, but due to the obstruction of the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, they could not touch each other at all.

Suddenly, a black figure flew in from outside the door!

It seems to be aimed directly at Reno with murderous intent!

Reno acted without any panic, confidently utilizing the "Script of Pseudo", his finger tracing the crimson stains emblazoning the sacred text.

"Compliance is equivalent to eating."

In an instant, Reno seemed to have aged a bit.

On the yellowed old scroll, a sudden purple lightning bolt erupted, striking the black figure with an undeniable force.

However, the black figure that flew in quickly fell to the ground and remained motionless.

Reno was taken aback as he peered into the darkness and realized that the shadow before him was none other than the guard who had been standing outside the door just moments before.

The next moment, he caught sight of the crimson eyes at the doorway, belonging to a tall, black-sword-wielding maiden.

So it turns out that his daughter's assistant arrived first...

[I command you...]

Maryse has already removed the Invisible Cloak of Hermes, and suddenly appeared before her father with a determined look in her eyes!

After twenty years had passed, she reached out and once again grasped onto her father's arm.

Reno tried to break free hastily, but it was already too late.

[Constrain yourself.]

In very close proximity, the utilization of mental strength becomes easier.

Reno could only speak with a dazed expression in his eyes, using a spell to transform into a metal chain to bind his own body and block his own mouth. The chain produced a strong vibration that made him unconscious.

## Chapter 79: Reno's End

The blazing and fervent inferno has finally been quenched.

Maryse took a deep breath as she gazed upon her bound father, her countenance fraught with complexity.

The steel chain appears to be an ordinary one, but it holds the power of magic and represents the concept of "binding." It is impossible to break free from it in a short time from the inside.

Just like her past self was once restricted, now, this man is also restricted by himself.

No one can bind another's heart...except for oneself.

She suddenly felt a bit frightened.

Would the Savior of Babel Tower let her kill this man in person?

If she could really do this... Maryse extended her hand tremblingly, and the tips of her fair fingers touched her father's forehead, as a plethora of familiar yet unfamiliar memories flooded in.

Her power has evolved.

Although Maryse had hardly deliberately practiced the ability of "mind-reading", over the past twenty years, she had grown in the continuous process of automatic energy release, and bloomed in battle.

Perhaps the new power may not be strong enough in battle, but it certainly possesses immense utility!

Memory retrieval.

Although Maryse is currently unable to accurately retrieve all memories and can only randomly access some of them, with time and skill, this ability will become stronger and stronger.



Her eyes were filled with continuously flickering slides, scenes upon scenes emerging from her mind.

Those are memories of the past, memories that are hard to forget, memories from before the age of eight...

Maryse saw herself before the age of eight, surrounded by people, feeling such bliss, while her father truly and wholeheartedly doted on her at the time.

Well, the most important reason is that she is the most beautiful girl in the Augustus family; even the kings who reign over the Air Alliance covet her, and she has tremendous strategic value.

But it was also because she is his daughter.

Later, Maryse saw more and more fragmented memories, incomplete but truly allowing her to understand the man's experiences of over a hundred years.

Previously, he had delved into darkness far beyond what she had imagined. The Augustus family, one of the five major families in Tatsumi City, was never a clean presence.

However, collaborating with a cult is a great taboo.

Since reading "The Chaos Book" in the study, Reno has become increasingly abnormal, with his cognition being altered. The book is believed to be a "malevolent" creation of a member of the Black Star Faction.

"So that's how it was."

Tears flowed uncontrollably down her face as Maryse's emotions became incredibly intricate.

Long-term exposure to "The Chaos Book" is the reason why you unconsciously act for the Black Star Faction... unaware of your own behavior in this regard.

However, however... Why are you genuine in this aspect towards me?

Can't all the cruelty be influenced and manipulated by others?

The girl's only hope was shattered.

Reno gradually opened his eyes, his expression solemn.

"You came to know... the secrets of those families."

Maryse couldn't help but open her mouth and calmly spoke, "The family's secrets, the darkness, the things that cannot be spoken to outsiders, are now all under the control of Babel Tower. Please tell Phoenix about this."

Why must I tell Phoenix?

Reno furrowed his brows slightly, unable to comprehend.

For some reason, Maryse breathed a sigh of relief at this moment, knowing that she wouldn't be forced to kill this man herself.

Even though she has prepared herself mentally for the most extreme circumstances, for the sake of the "happiness" experienced before the age of eight, she should not act in such a manner.

The reason why Reno must die is singular - he must pay the price for working for the Black Star Faction.

However, his situation was very unique. Maryse didn't know how the Savior would handle this man, and could only pray not to see his final moment.

"The task is complete," Maryse said.

She had regained movement and her body was once again free, no longer turning her head to look at her father.

Reno managed to "whitewash" the situation with the Black Star Faction, but Maryse's heart was still filled with sadness because she knew that her father's decision to abandon her was not influenced by anyone or anything, but rather came from within his own heart.

"So, farewell."

The black mist gradually enveloped her and Mu Ling beside her. They quickly left the area before the Augustus family guards could surround them.

Maryse knew in her heart that the family would not harm their maid, Irena, because she always had the opportunity to reveal Augustus's many hidden secrets to the public.

That man was a wise person, who would choose to fear the existence of the Babel Tower.

"Goodbye forever," she said at last.

The two girls disappeared into the black mist, and Reno fell into a long silence.

Suddenly, Phoenix was joined by the guards, and even Raven Reaper, with his bronze mask, as they walked in from outside.

"How did you guys get so slow to this extent?"

Reno's tone was unpleasant, he felt that they had come too late.

Phoenix advanced with his hands behind his back. At this moment, his demeanor was completely different from the past, as if he had become a different person.

Increased confidence.

He smiled and said, "Father, Mr. Raven Reaper has already investigated... about your collaboration with the Black Star Faction."

Raven Reaper stood by, and the progress of the situation was much smoother than he anticipated. With the aid of Phoenix, he effortlessly obtained further evidence.

Sufficient to make the current head of the Augustus family suffer an ignominious demise.

As an exchange, he will have Demon Hunt Agency make a determination, proving that these affairs are entirely the crazy individual actions of Reno, completely unrelated to other members of the Augustus family.

He never imagined it, the informant turned out to be Reno's eldest son, whom he had always valued the most.

"Perhaps, this is what nobility is all about."

Raven Reaper muttered to himself in a cold and indifferent tone.

Reno's eyes slightly narrowed as he gazed at his weak and submissive eldest son, suddenly comprehending many things.

No wonder Raven Reaper, the solitary Night Watcher, would take the initiative to attend the party. It turns out that the traitor to this family is not just that girl.

"Why do you have to do this?" Reno asked in a low voice.

"Hmm? Because it's all for the sake of the family."

Phoenix's expression was filled with great astonishment, as if his father had uttered something of immense significance.

"Have you forgotten all the guidance you've given me all these years? You are now under the control of the Black Star Faction, even though you are unaware of it. It's time for you to step down from your position as head of the family."

.

The smile on Phoenix's face remained unchanged, as he recalled his inner thoughts prior to being controlled by Maryse.

[You also know what I am thinking, and I can also guess your intentions.]

[Do you want to take revenge against that man? And I want to become the new head of the family. Let's work together.]

[In the study, hidden away was the man's secret. Under my report, Raven Reaper from the Demon Hunt Agency has begun his investigation.]

[I won't activate the alarm spell. How about it?]

Deal reached.

Although Maryse didn't kill her father, Raven Reaper's investigation was very successful. By combining it with what she already knew, the position of the head of the family would at least be replaced by someone else.

This is all for the sake of the family.

"Maryse warns you to be wary of the existence of Babel Tower, as she has become privy to many hidden secrets.... So it seems, even Babel Tower knows of your betrayal towards me...."

Phoenix was slightly stunned, Maryse is a member of Babel Tower?

The chains on Reno's body melted away like the wind. He stood up and was about to say something, his expression full of anger.

"Phoenix, don't be presumptuous, I have never colluded with the Black Star Faction!"

The frightening atmosphere startled Phoenix, who furrowed his brow and took a step back. Was this man going to fight to the death?

Reno stepped forward gradually, the accumulated dignity made the traitors fearful one after another, and even the guards nervously stepped back.

"I am still the... what?"

Suddenly, a thick black mist rose up from all around, accompanied by an incomprehensible sense of heaviness, as if countless whispers of sadness and pain were murmuring in low voices.

Reno flailed his arm, wanting to resist angrily, but his body was gradually disappearing.

"What is this thing! Is it the Babel Tower?"

He was extremely shocked and unwilling to leave just like that.

"All of my actions are for the sake of the family. This family cannot exist without me. Honor, survival, reciprocity... How could you possibly understand what a family truly means?"

The physique of Raven Reaper was akin to a scarlet flowing flame, swiftly leaping into the air and plummeting down like a shooting star!

He fell from the sky and detonated the entire banquet hall!

"Boom!"

The enormous shockwave instantly expanded with an unstoppable force! All the people present were shaken and sent flying!

Raven Reaper was attempting to dispel the influence of the dark mist!

But he couldn't do anything and could only watch as Reno disappeared before his eyes.

"Once again, it was Babel Tower..." The eyes behind the mask were full of vigilance and doubt.

—

A few hundred meters away from the Augustus family, there is an ecological botanical garden that was previously not open to outsiders. Inside, there is a landmark building called the "Glass Trestle".

On the Glass Trestle, Bai Yan, dressed in autumn attire, silently set down his prepared binoculars.

"The raging fire has been extinguished."

He had already known the final outcome a few hours ago, yet he still came here quietly to observe the affairs within the family, utilizing Power Possession to replicate Mysterious Magic's formidable senses and coupled it with a telescope to spy on its progress.

"Unfortunately, I still couldn't see it clearly. If I got any closer, I might have been discovered."

Bai Yan calmly took out his cell phone, and the screen was still frozen on the latest task settlement page.

"The new level has been completed, and the Babel Tower Legendary Point is increased by 150."

"Achievement unlocked: Tactical Card - A Moment of Strong Luck Like a Deity!"

"Level up reward received: 100 Source Energy Points."

"One 'noble' person has been successfully captured."

The second to last level proved to be quite challenging, but Bai Yan managed to complete it and claim two rewards in one breath.

He constantly thought about "A Moment of Strong Luck Like a Deity" and it manifested in this way!

Strong Luck Like a Deity!

Bai Yan's heart was surging, he knew very well how powerful this thing was, but unfortunately, it was a disposable item and could not be used without limitation.

"Very good, very good. This way, we have an additional guarantee for getting through the 'First Doomsday Crisis'."

Moreover, the Source Energy Points have once again surpassed five hundred!

"It is time for the summons again."

Bai Yan soliloquized with complex emotions.

## Chapter 80: Awakening Soul! New Skin! (1)

After Bai Yan tapped the screen, a new settlement unexpectedly appeared.

Ah, I was deceived by a false alarm, there is actually another page.

"Level reward has been obtained: Awakening Soul x 3!"

"This thing has finally arrived," thought Bai Yan, feeling a wave of emotion in his heart.

All other things are mere "additives", but Awakening Soul is the fundamental element that empowers Core Operators.

Simply put, it is the necessary thing for leveling up, like "experience points"!

This item is very difficult to obtain, it can only be acquired through late-stage activities, the main Doomsday Crisis questline, and pivotal decision-making quests. Among these, obtaining it is guaranteed after completing the main Doomsday Crisis questline.

Bai Yan first highlighted the Core Operator list, then clicked on "Awakening Soul," and immediately three Core Operators appeared with their "experience bars."

"Nightsaber": Awakening level · Intermediate (awakened 45%).

"Psychic Dancer": Awakening level - Lower Rank (Awakened 20%).

"Mysterious Magic": Awakening Level - Low Rank (Awakened 25%)

The classification in "Babel Tower" is as follows: Below 30% awakening level, it is classified as lower level; 30% to 60% is classified as middle level; 61% to 90% is classified as upper level; and awakening levels above 90% are referred to as "Potential Crown".

Of course, Bai Yan was well aware that there was no such thing as "awakening level" in the actual real world; this concept was purely a term used within the game "Babel Tower."

Currently, "Nightsaber" is at the intermediate level of awakening, while "Psychic Dancer" and "Mysterious Magic" are both at a lower level.

Normally, for extraordinary individuals to elevate to a slightly higher level, it often requires years of training and enlightenment.

However, in "Babel Tower," things are not so simple as there are various mechanisms for hastening maturity.

Every "Awakening Soul" can increase the level of awakening of a super being by ten percent!

"Umm..."

"Three Awakening Souls have to be distributed to three Core Operators. It seems easy, but actually, dividing them equally may not be the best option. Perhaps, I should first evaluate the strength of each individual before distributing them."

Bai Yan fell into contemplation, pondering for a good while without determining which Core Operator to reinforce first.

If the average is divided into three Awakening Souls, "Psychic Dancer" and "Mysterious Magic" both will level up by one.

However, merely improving the personal strength of "Nightsaber" is also a decent option.

If she could reach the status of "Potential Crown" earlier, she might be even able to defeat opponents such as Raven Reaper and Lin Bian at that time.

"....."

Shall we consider setting this matter aside for now and take the time to ponder the benefits and drawbacks of upgrading each Core Operator upon returning? It may yield better results.

"Anyway, let's summon first!" he muttered to himself.

Summon! Summon!

Bai Yan didn't stay in the ecological garden, but instead went straight home where he planned to summon in a familiar place.

On their way back, Bai Yan suddenly remembered something.

"It's a bit regrettable that the Relic of Reno was not also received inside the Babel Tower. Actually, I value the Relic more than Reno himself."

Bai Yan has no intention of telling "Psychic Dancer" about Reno's ultimate fate, at least not for now, even though she no longer recognizes him as her father, it would still be awkward in the end.

Returning to the building, Bai Yan hummed a cheerful tune as he ascended the stairs and arrived at his doorstep, unlocking the door with his key.

His new home was almost finished with the renovation.

The space of more than 100 square meters has not been fully utilized, but there is already a light-colored solid wood dining table with four matching chairs in the restaurant.

There is even a 90-inch large television in the living room, as well as professional speakers that are powerful enough to shake the upstairs and downstairs.

Bai Yan has equipped the kitchen with a high-end, 635L, large-capacity smart refrigerator, which not only has a spacious interior, but also features computer-controlled temperature, first-class energy efficiency, and a built-in ice maker. He has filled it with various foods, beverages, and junk food.

Having become a super being, there's no need to worry about getting fat!

Since he seeks excitement, he decided to follow it to the end. Bai Yan has never believed that indulging in pleasures is a bad thing.

People only dislike the various costs and consequences that come after "pleasure", how could they possibly dislike "pleasure" itself?

By the way, Bai Yan's first month's salary at the Demon Hunt Agency hasn't been paid yet, so he doesn't have much savings at the moment. Therefore, the money he used to buy these things is actually borrowed from Alan.

We'll settle the score later!

Bai Yan sat down on the soft bed with excitement and took out his mobile phone. He opened "Babel Tower" and decided to still draw five times from each of the two pools.

"Hoo!"

Bai Yan had intended to worship or make an offering, but a sudden whim caused him to shake his head ever so slightly.

"Hmm, if I have bad luck, nothing can make me luckier...this time I won't beg for anything, whether I succeed or fail, I'll accept my fate."

Although he had an impulse to use the tactical card "A Moment of Strong Luck Like a Deity", Bai Yan's reason told him that it would be useless.

It's like when he was playing the game, he couldn't use "Power Possession".

Cheating is not allowed in the game called "Babel Tower".

He also knew that it was best not to waste excellent tactical cards and to save some for the Doomsday Crisis... that way, fewer Core Operators would die when the time came.

As for solving Doomsday Crisis without anyone dying? Bai Yan, who has played Babel Tower many times, is well aware that this is impossible.

Don't think that "Babel Tower" is some easy, breezy "game".

First, there was the old pool called "Destiny".

Bai Yan took a deep breath and his fingers hesitantly pressed down, desperately hoping for Queen of the Scarlet Moon to be the one that is chosen.

The first draw!

The black mist in "Destiny" trembled again, and the familiar pattern began to flicker.

Chapter 80: Awakening Soul! New Skin! (2)

"Operator Fragment - Fusion Slime × 1"

Second draw!

"Operator Fragment: The Final Gun ×1."

The third draw!

"Operator Fragment: Queen of the Scarlet Moon x1"

Hmm, I got it, but I didn't really get it...

The fourth draw!

"Operator Fragment: Girl Psychic Elene ×1"

Fifth draw!

"Operator Fragment - Dead Insane Warrior Red Moon ×1"

After drawing five shots, Bai Yan felt a moment of trance.

All of them are fragments of operators. My goodness, this bad luck is simply unparalleled, even if I were to draw a tactical card, that would be fine!

However, there is actually some good news - at least he is getting closer and closer to completing the collection of Queen of the Scarlet Moon.

Bai Yan consoled himself that there were only four fragments left anyway and he still had seventy days before the "First Doomsday Crisis" would occur. How could he possibly fail to draw the lot?

At this moment, his heart was filled with confidence!

Then, it was the new pond "Different Dimensions".

First draw!

"Probability! Afternoon Lady - Nightsaber!"

"Not a skin of only seven days?" Bai Yan was slightly stunned and couldn't believe it.

Second draw!

"Probability! Water World - Psychic Dancer (Seven Days)."

The third draw!

"Probability! Water World - Queen of the Scarlet Moon!"

Bai Yan remained stunned for a long, long time, until he finally regained his composure after a brief moment of confirmation.

"I don't have this Operator, can we change to a Psychic Dancer's skin? The 'Water World' skin from the same series would be fine."

Fourth draw!

"World Line Change Fragment · Sky Garden ×1"

The fifth draw!



"World Line Change Fragment · World Tree x1"

"Surprisingly, I got two skins at the same time. Furthermore, Queen of the Scarlet Moon hadn't arrived yet, but her skin had already arrived. Unfortunately, it cannot be used temporarily..."

Bai Yan suddenly fell into contemplation, speaking of it, it was that water world series that left a deep impression on him.

He remembers that all the "Water World" series are swimsuits, and because they are pixelated, he didn't pay attention to it at first. If they appeared in the real world...

It will definitely be very interesting, right?

"I remember Nightsaber and Psychic Dancer also had the Water World series."

Bai Yan's finger slid and opened the description of the two newly acquired skins.

Firstly, there is the "Afternoon Lady: Nightsaber".

"Afternoon Lady: The apricot white dress with a lady-like texture, the waist cutting design makes it look slim and fit, the overall flow is smooth and natural, and it is just right to expose Nightsaber's fair arms and legs, showing a completely different youthful charm from her previous cold and cool style. This 'Nightsaber' in the world is neither a hunter nor a fallen angel, nor a knight... She is just a young girl who likes to enjoy a kind of foods, but also the happiest."

"Special Effect: After loading this possibility, the Core Operator will gain a restful BUFF called 'A Moment of Tranquility', during which the Core Operator will not trigger any events or encounter any enemies."

And then it was 'Water World · Queen of the Scarlet Moon'.

"Water World: Wearing a crimson bikini, a semi-transparent skirt-style hemline, and a blood-red cool cloak, Queen of the Scarlet Moon can adjust the size of specific parts of the outfit according to her three body shapes. In this world, 'Queen of the Scarlet Moon' rules over the remaining vampires and stands at the forefront of resisting the invasion of the sea people."

"Special Effect: After loading this probability, the Core Operator will gain the ability to swim freely in the ocean and control the currents without fearing the sun exposure. However, the night-time bonus of the Trait 'Dark King' will disappear."

Bai Yan fell silent, with too many places to comment on.

The skin of this Water World looks good, but what's the use of having it if you didn't draw an operator...

"Then, this is the new skin."

The possibility of Afternoon Lady, Bai Yan think he also obtained it during his first playthrough before, but since the effect was too rubbish, he simply threw it into the warehouse and ignored it.

What is this effect?! Isn't it just allowing the operator to rest?

How can this be? I used to complain that the current operators are not efficient enough, but if they rest all day and all night, how can we prevent the Doomsday Crisis from happening?

Bai Yan shook his head in frustration, then grabbed a bottle of cold Coca-Cola from the refrigerator and began drinking it.

"Well, it turns out that I used to think I liked drinking plain boiled water, but that was just a false impression. Actually, I really like drinking cola. Or rather, I'm someone who easily gets bored and prefers novelty; I am not consistent in my preferences."

Apart from the bitter coffee, probably all the other drinks he wants to taste... It's ridiculous to think about it. The coffee shop can actually survive. That kind of things don't feel good to drink no matter how you think about it.

After Bai Yan's self-reflection, he has no intention of changing his tendency to be fickle.

He suddenly remembered that Mu Ling in the log was training and fighting all the time.

Day after day, without any pause.

"Or, how about trying the skin?"

Bai Yan's finger tapped a few times, selecting "Nightsaber" from the operator list, and loading "Afternoon Lady · Nightsaber".