

Oh My God 281

### **Chapter 281: Adjudicating Judge**

Lu Siya smiled coldly. "What? You don't believe me? The secret police are a violent organization that specializes in dealing with superhuman criminals. Of course there are amazing people among them. It's not strange for them to have such outstanding superhumans among them."

"No... Of course not." Meng Chao scratched his head and asked, "I just want to ask, where did you get that information from, Big Sis Ya?"

Lu Siya snorted coldly. "I naturally have secretive and reliable channels. Don't worry about it, you can be sure of the accuracy of the information."

"Can I?"

The two of them quickly walked out of the morgue. Meng Chao looked at the two guards; they were still chatting with each other and ignoring them. Meng Chao could not help but ask, "Did you buy that information with money as well?"

Lu Siya glared at him. "Can't I?"

"Of course you can," Meng Chao said. "Big Sis Ya, I don't mean anything by it. I know that you have a lot of money, but no matter how much money you have, you can't spend it randomly and buy information that appears to be true, but is actually false..."

Lu Siya ignored him and continued walking outside.

When she turned a corner, she stopped and cast him a puzzled glance. "What do you mean? Do you know that amazing person from the secret police?"

Meng Chao shook his head. "I can't say."

Lu Siya snorted coldly and continued walking forward.

When she had walked more than ten meters forward, she stopped again. "Wait. That means that you definitely know him. Is he a close acquaintance? A friend? Your senior brother?"

Meng Chao continued shaking his head. "I still can't say."

Lu Siya gritted her teeth and turned her head away. She continued walking forward with her head held high.

When she was almost at the end of the corridor, she stopped for the third time and looked Meng Chao up and down for a long time before she said hesitantly, "Wait just one more time. That outstanding and young harvester... is actually you, right?"

"I'm sorry, Big Sis Ya. I really can't say it." Meng Chao looked at her really sincerely.

Then, he saw Lu Siya's face and ears turning red bit by bit, all while she remained with a cold, expressionless face.

With the sunglasses that covered half of her face, she said nothing and turned around again to walk outside.

Once they left the building with the morgue, the sun welcomed them outside, and Lu Siya suddenly grabbed Meng Chao and dragged him under a shade.

Meng Chao was stunned. Then, he sensed a sharp pair of eyes about to pierce him.

He instinctively looked around and saw a man wearing a long trench coat at the entrance of the hospital. He had long sideburns and an imposing presence.

Aside from the rather sinister-looking hook nose destroying his righteous features, he actually looked very masculine and charming.

Even though they had avoided him in time, the hook nose man still noticed them.

He stared at them for a while, but did not go to them. Instead, with his hands in the pockets of the trench coat, he turned around and went into the morgue.

“Who is he? He looks rather familiar,” Meng Chao asked.

“Shen Yupeng,” Lu Siya said. “He’s Shen Yulong’s cousin. Remember Shen Yulong? He’s the leader of the Universe Corporation mine exploration team we ran into underground. As for Shen Yupeng, he’s ranked second among the third generation in the Shen family.

“He’s different from that bastard Shen Yulong. The family poured their resources on him, and he’s a true elite. He’s really difficult to deal with.

“He’s not working in Universe Corporation. Instead, he joined the adjudicator court and became a secret police officer. I heard that he’s also become an adjudicator.”

Meng Chao thought about it. “Secret police officers and adjudicators are different?”

“The secret police use their heads and are in charge of looking for clues. They have to unravel mysteries and figure out the truth so that they can locate the criminal. They might not have a lot of fighting power, but they have all sorts of strange supportive abilities,” Lu Siya explained. “Adjudicators are the same as heavy armed special police. They hunt violent superhuman criminals in complicated areas like downtowns with a lot of people. For that, they need a lot of fighting power.

“There are few superhumans who can take up the position of a secret police officer and an adjudicator at the same time. That’s why the adjudicators are divided into these two departments, but if someone possesses the ability to become a secret police officer and an adjudicator at the same time, then they’re really terrifying.

“In the field, there’s an unofficial title for these people—adjudicating judges. They’re people who practically have the imperial sword that gives them arbitrary powers. They can deliver judgment on any superhuman who violated the law at any moment they want and anywhere they desire!”

Meng Chao gasped in amazement.

“Shen Yupeng didn’t become an adjudicating judge with the Shen family’s background. He obtained it with his own power,” Lu Siya continued. “His most famous achievement is detaining a five-star Heaven Realm elite who experienced spirit energy deviation last year.

“At that time, rampaging spirit energy had invaded that Heaven Realm elite’s brain, and he went completely mad. He was hiding in a market’s underground storage room, which was located at the center of the city and had a large flow of people. The storage room also contains a lot of flammable and explosive objectives, which is against the law.

“And this Heaven Realm elite was famous for using his vitality magnetic field to stimulate the friction between molecules and increase the temperature of matter, which allowed him to create all sorts of combustions and explosions. While his mind was clear, he could even make a monster’s organs combust remotely, so it would burn to death.

“When his spirit energy deviated and he lost control, he set his wife and in-laws in flames, burning them to a crisp. You can say that he was forced into a corner and was desperate.

“Can you imagine just how dangerous it was? He was a pyromaniac who appeared in a storage room filled with flammable and explosive objects, and above him was a market. There were countless citizens shopping and eating there.”

Meng Chao was engrossed in the story. He could not help but hold his breath.

“Everyone was helpless. The firefighters were even brought in to extinguish a huge fire in the market. But Shen Yupeng went into the storage alone and managed to capture the crazed pyromaniac. He didn’t let him light up even a single newspaper on fire.”

Meng Chao could not help but ask, “The pyromaniac didn’t take action?”

“He did,” Lu Siya said. “The pyromaniac tried to light Shen Yupeng’s heart on fire, but Shen Yupeng forced that offensive magnetic field to his left pinky, and in the end, his left pinky was burnt to a crisp, but the other parts of his body remained unharmed.

“After the incident, Shen Yupeng admitted that he took the initiative to lure the pyromaniac into attacking his heart. It was only by doing so that he could ensure that the flammable and explosive objects around him remained in a stable condition, so the safety of the citizens on the surface would be assured.”

Meng Chao broke into cold sweat as he listened. He could not help but heave a long sigh of relief.

“Why... haven’t I heard it on the news?”

“You haven’t heard a lot of things. After all, superhuman criminals are too sensitive. The Survival Committee doesn’t want the normal citizens to think that they are living with human-shaped bombs that are about to explode at any moment. So, they usually do not reveal the details of such cases to the public. Even if it shows up in the news, it is only mentioned briefly,” Lu Siya said.

“In truth, the more superhumans train, the stronger spirit energy they contain. The organs in their bodies, including their minds, change, and it makes it easier for them to get lost, to change, and to become corrupted. There might be monsters in the wild, but there are also monsters in the depths of

the human heart. We have to fight against two types of monsters, and both types of fights are equally fierce and devastating. But the second fight is even more dangerous and tragic.

“But I digress. It looks like the secret police has sent Shen Yupeng to handle the case of the pets killing their masters in Blessed Paradise. This guy is very smart and capable. If we want to be ahead of him, we have to speed up. Let’s go!”

Lu Siya walked into the elevator heading to the underground parking lot.

“Where are we going next?”

“We’re eating.” Lu Siya sat down in her race car and snapped her fingers. She released a spirit energy electrical arc and activated the crystal engine.

While she was driving, she brought out a thick stack of files so that Meng Chao could read it.

Meng Chao took the files and read, and he found that the stack contained an investigative report which had been done regarding the case of the pets killing humans.

There were also high definition pictures of the crime scene, statements from witnesses, brief introductions to Spirit Creations Creatures and Heavenly Works Machines, the construction case for Subway No.20, which they were competing for, the background report on the third victim, who was an employee of Heavenly Works Machines, and other information.

Meng Chao gave it a brief glance and noticed that the case happened between ten and twelve at night two days ago. The three biochemical pets who got out of control lived with their owners in three different apartments in Blessed Paradise, and there was less than one hour between the time each of them lost control. Once they killed their owners and ate them, they rushed out of their houses, and the neighbors, who heard the noise and rushed over, worked together to kill them.

Based on the witness testimonies, there was nothing different between the three biochemical pets.

At that time, all of them had bloodshot eyes, foamed at their mouths, and twitched neurotically. These were typical symptoms of dogs infected by mutated rabies.

The background investigations of the first two victims were rather simple. He could not tell whether they had any relations with Spirit Creations Creatures or Heavenly Works Machines.

The third victim was from Heavenly Works Machines, and hence, his background check was performed in greater detail.

He was a machine master by the name of Jin Yongqiang. Twenty years ago, he graduated from the short machine associate degree course in the University of Technology.

At that time, Dragon City was prepared to enter the Great Construction Era. It was in dire need of talented people who could operate construction machines. Hence, it opened up a lot of training classes and crash course schools. The value of the certs was pretty high as well.

After graduation, Jin Yongqiang entered Heavenly Works Machines, and with his experience of working for years at the frontline and the resources provided by his company, he rose to the peak of Earth Realm and became a licensed machine master. It helped him become a middle-level manager in the company.

However, he did not have a firm foundation and was not very talented, so when he became middle-aged, his progress stopped. It had been a long time since he awakened any skills, and he was not a pillar of strength in his company. He was just a gear that could operate stably because he had been working hard for years.

His colleagues in the company and the neighbors in Blessed Paradise did not have a good impression of Jin Yongqiang.

It was mainly because he was addicted to gambling and lost a lot of money over the past two years. He had even pawned off his private apartment in Blessed Paradise.

His private life was also a mess. After his wife died in a monster invasion, he began flirting with women. Recently, he had cohabited with a woman who was younger than him by twenty years, and he spent a lot of money on her.

The investigation report also mentioned that Jin Yongqiang faced a lot of financial pressure.

But this did not seem to have a huge relation to how he was killed by his biochemical pet...

### **Chapter 282: Detailed Analysis Layer by Layer**

As Meng Chao was immersed in his thoughts, he suddenly thought of something. He grabbed the thick stack of files and said, "Big Sis Ya, didn't you say that you're not interested in the case? So how did you manage to get such detailed information?"

"I was not interested in it before. I only obtained this information in the morning," Lu Siya said casually.

Meng Chao thought about it and said with slight surprise, "In just a few hours, you managed to get so much information, inquire about yesterday's autopsy, and bribe two guards. You actually did so many things? You're really efficient. You must have used a lot of money, right? Why did you do that?"

"Because of your instincts."

"My instincts?"

"That's right. Your instincts have helped us while we were deep underground. You managed to find a path of survival that led to a Blue Origin Crystal cave after we hit what appeared to be a dead-end. It was a one in a billion chance. So, how could I not believe in your instincts?"

Lu Siya gave Meng Chao the ghost of a smile. "Or are you saying that you are working with more than just your instincts?"

Meng Chao shut his mouth and focused on reading through the cases.

After a moment, he looked up and noticed that Lu Siya had already driven the race car to the high-end apartment complex next to the culture and education area.

From a distance, he saw a few skyscrapers that stood out like sore thumbs. They formed Blessed Paradise.

“Right now, we don’t know who the real culprit is. Both Spirit Creations Creatures and Heavenly Works Machines are major businesses. We can’t go in there as we please to conduct an investigation. We are only able to start our investigation from the victims.”

Meng Chao flipped through the reports. “I feel like there’s something wrong with this Jin Yongqiang. If we could get more information about him, it’d be great. It says here that he has been cohabiting with a woman in her early twenties. If we can find her, we should be able to get more clues.

“But the safety measures in Blessed Paradise are really tight, and now that such a tragedy occurred, it’s impossible for them to be lax in their guard. There might be secret police keeping watch around the area. It’ll be difficult for us to sneak inside.

“And this female might not know what happened at that time. Even if she does, she might not be willing to tell us.

“After all, we’re not part of the secret police. She might also be shocked and currently in a very unstable state of mind. She might also have been interrogated dozens of times by the secret police and be averse to further questioning...”

Meng Chao was not a professional detective. There were a multitude of clues, but he did not know where to start with his investigation.

“Get out.” Lu Siya opened the car door. “We’re going to eat.”

They arrived at a restaurant with a lot of pavilions. It had a lot of twists and turns and a really quiet atmosphere.

Lu Siya had already reserved a place.

When they went to a rather hidden spot, they noticed a woman in black sitting there. She looked haggard.

Meng Chao was slightly stunned.

The woman in black stood up and asked hesitantly, “Are you the one from the morning?”

Lu Siya remained calm. “I am the one who gave you money in the morning and asked you to come out for lunch. You don’t need to know who I am. You just need to know that I will definitely keep my promise.”

As she spoke, she brought out a really thick envelope from her handbag. It was so thick that it was about five times as thick as the envelope she gave to the two guards. She placed it on the table and pushed it forward.

The woman in black helped herself to it. She opened the envelope, which revealed a thick stack of cash notes with the highest value printed on them. The woman counted them with her fingers, and delight showed up in her eyes. Then, she put on a sad look.

“My condolences, Ms. Zhou,” Lu Siya said faintly. “We’re deeply regretful about Mr. Jin’s death, but instead of moaning and groaning about it, it’s more important to figure out the truth. It would bring comfort to his spirit in heaven, don’t you think so?”

“You’re right.” The woman in black placed the thick envelope into her pocket. The money seemed to have given her the energy to walk forward on her own. She sat up straight and said, “What do you want to ask? Fire away.”

Meng Chao finally guessed her identity.

She was the female cohabitor of the third victim, Jin Yongqiang, the machine master.

Lu Siya was right. If she could solve problems with money, why would she need any mind attacks?

As long as the sum was large enough, the evil money was even more effective than a Deity Realm elite’s hypnosis!

Lu Siya motioned for Meng Chao to sit down. She then removed her sunglasses and earring to lower all the walls she had built for herself. With her talent of a Spirit Sensor, she read the woman’s muscle movements and listened to her heartbeat and breathing.

“We want to know whether Mr. Jin had any enemies while he was alive. Has he ever offended anyone?” Lu Siya asked.

The woman in black had clearly been asked this question multiple times over the past few days. She shook her head with a bitter smile and went straight to the point by saying, “Old Jin was a normal machine master, and he lived his days by earning his keep. He didn’t even have any shares in his company.

“Do you think that his creditors released a dog to bite him just because they were angry? That’s impossible. That dog was his. Besides, it’s not the first time his dog went out of control.”

“Wait. You said that the dog was his?”

Through great observation, Lu Siya caught something in the words the woman used. “Usually, when it comes to pets, people often say that the pet belongs to the family. You make it sound like you didn’t quite like that biochemical pet.”

“I never liked it.” The woman in black pursed her lips, and deep disgust rose to her face. “I’ve never liked dogs. When I was seven or eight years old, I was attacked by canine-type monsters. I still have a faint scar on my calf, so I’m traumatized. If I ever decided to keep a pet, it’d be a feline-type monster. But even if I chose a dog as a pet, I would never pick a large one like a Contest Tiger!

“We didn’t keep pets at first because Old Jin is allergic to both cats and dogs. Later though, it felt like something went wrong with his head. When he had a lot of debt and was at the end of his rope, barely able to keep himself fed, he suddenly insisted that he needed this dog. And as luck would have it, he got himself killed by that dog!”

Lu Siya and Meng Chao looked at each other.

They could see the spark that appeared briefly in each other’s eyes.

“Ms. Zhou, you mentioned that Mr. Jin was allergic to cats and dogs?” Meng Chao pursued the line of questioning.

“That’s right. When I just got to know him, I celebrated my birthday with him. I wanted to buy a small Exquisite Cat for myself, but Old Jin refused it. He told me that had attempted to reach Heaven Realm a few years ago and failed. He nearly went through spirit energy deviation because of it.

“Even though he was fine afterwards, his immunity system faced slight complications. He became allergic to the parasites that live in cats and dogs,” the woman in black said. “It was not some extreme allergy, though. It’s just that when he came into contact with cats or dogs, red, swollen spots would rise all over his body, and he would suffer from really bad itches.

“When he thought that I wouldn’t believe him, he went to touch the feline-type pet in our neighbor’s house. Just as he said, that night, red spots appeared on his arm and his back, and the itching was so bad that he couldn’t sleep the entire night.”

“Mr. Jin knew that he was allergic to cats and dogs, but he insisted on keeping a Contest Tiger as a pet? That’s a large canine-type biochemical pet, right?” Meng Chao said with a frown. “When did he begin taking care of this biochemical pet? After he started keeping it, didn’t he suffer from allergies?”

“How could he not have?” the woman in black asked. “He took care of it for around half a month. Ever since he brought the biochemical pet home, he couldn’t sleep at night and kept scratching his body while tossing and turning in bed. Even if he didn’t find it uncomfortable, I found it uncomfortable just watching him.”

“Then, did you try to persuade him against it? Did you ask him why he kept a canine-type pet even though he knew that he was allergic? Could it be that Mr. Jin was someone who really loved small animals?”

“I’ve been with him for more than a year, and I never knew him to be a loving person.” The woman in black scoffed. “He was either playing around with machine models or trying to figure out how the dice and chips in the casinos worked. He had never shown any interest in biochemical pets.

“I don’t know what got into his head half a month ago. I’ve asked him about it and even argued with him about it. I was even thinking about breaking up with him.

“Of course, it’s not entirely because of him keeping a pet that I wanted to break up with him. It’s mainly because I recently discovered that he has a huge debt and has even pawned off the house we’re currently living in. And he had the nerve to pretend to be some successful elite in the working force. He tricked me into giving up my youth for him.

“I’ve been stewing in my anger, and on the night he brought the biochemical pet back, I got into a real argument with him. He told me not to care about the dog and said that he was only going to keep it for a month, at most two months. It would all be over after he endured it.”

“What does that mean?” Lu Siya asked. “Could it be that someone asked him to keep that biochemical pet?”

“I don’t know. He didn’t have a lot of friends, and he didn’t seem like a person whom others would entrust their pets to,” the woman in black said. “I was really angry at that time, and I demanded to know why he didn’t tell me that he has such a large debt. I also asked him why he became so generous and



decided to keep a biochemical pet like other people. He couldn't say anything in his defense, but he insisted on not giving the dog away, so I couldn't do anything about it.

"Then, for the next half a month, our relationship was really cold. Sometimes, even when night came, I didn't go back to his place to sleep. But he didn't say anything about it. He just hugged that damn dog all the time while mingling around with the neighbors who also kept Contest Tigers in the area.

"They exchanged their experiences on how to rear these dogs and train them. They even took their dogs out on walks together.

"He often looked for guidelines on how to take care of pets online, and by the end practically turned into a pet expert.

"Unfortunately, he was just a half-baked professional. Who knows what he did to the biochemical pet? In any case, it went out of control and killed him. Thank goodness I didn't sleep at his place that day; otherwise, I might have ended up dead with him even though I'm still so young."

"Wait, Ms. Zhou, you mentioned that he often took his dog out on walks with his neighbors?" Meng Chao asked. "Does that mean that he also went out on walks with the other two victims and their two biochemical pets who also went out of control?"

"I think so. There are only about ten families who keep Contest Tigers as pets in Blessed Paradise. As long as they're free in the morning or at night, they often gather together to walk their dogs and exchange experiences. They have their own circle," the woman in black said.

"I'm terrified of large dogs, so every time I saw them, I would avoid them. I don't know what Old Jin said to the neighbors, but he was always laughing with them, and he seemed to have grown really close to them. Perhaps he was really unlucky at work and at the casino, so he wanted to change his environment and relax a little."

Lu Siya narrowed her eyes and said clearly, "Or it might be that Mr. Jin had to overcome his allergies to cats and dogs and overcome the itchy and swollen symptoms by personally keeping a biochemical pet before he could mingle around with his neighbors and fit into the circle of people who keep Contest Tigers as pets."

### **Chapter 283: Getting Closer to the Truth**

The woman in black was stunned for a moment.

"What did you say?" she asked tentatively.

"It's nothing. Please continue." Lu Siya extended a thin and long finger to tap on the table. She changed the direction of her questions and asked, "Has Mr. Jin said anything related to money recently? Such as the company competing for a major deal or something like that?"

"No." The woman in black shook her head. "Old Jin was old. He couldn't understand the newest spirit energy magnetic fields, and he often complained that the current runic symbols look like multiple earthworms squirming about. He couldn't understand them. He was marginalized by his company, and even if it managed to get a major deal, it would have nothing to do with him.

“But now that you said this, I remember something. He did mention something about money. One night, he came back drunk but really excited and happy. He wanted to have sex the moment he got into bed.

“I was angry at him for being a gambling addict, so I kicked him out of the bed. Then, we ended up arguing.

“After arguing for a long time, he grew angry because of his shame, and he told me that in a month or two, he would have cleared all his debts, and he would even get rich. He told me to not come and beg him to keep me around anymore when that happened.

“But once he said those words, he looked really regretful. No matter how much I pestered him later, he refused to say anything about how he’ll clear his debt.”

“Did he?” Lu Siya’s eyes lit up. “I remember that Mr. Jin had quite a large debt; otherwise, he wouldn’t have pawned off the house. What could he do in a month or two that would allow him to clear all his gambling debt and even earn some money? Could it be that he planned to hunt Hell Beasts?”

“Him? Forget it!” The woman in black scoffed. “He was just a support-class superhuman. When he was young, he didn’t train hard, and many of his spirit meridians were in a mess because of his cultivation. His bones were even damaged because of the tremors from the heavy construction machines. Once he grew old, he couldn’t fight anymore. How would he dare to go to the wild and hunt monsters?”

“Besides, the apartments in Blessed Paradise aren’t cheap. You cannot redeem them by just killing a monster or two.”

“Hmm...” Lu Siya appeared contemplative. She asked a few other inane questions before she finally said, “Ms. Zhou, aside from you said already, do you think that Mr. Jin has been acting strange recently?”

The woman in black thought about it seriously for a long time. She was just about to shake her head when Lu Siya brought out another thick envelope from her pocket. But she did not place it on the table. She just pushed it against her chest and watched her patiently.

The woman in black gulped. She thought about it for a moment before she said, “Recently, Old Jin has been acting strange in every way possible. Let’s just focus on how he acted half a month ago. There were a few times when he came back while stinking. It was not the smell of sweat that comes from working hard. It was a very pungent smell. I asked him what he did, but he said nothing about it and just went off to bathe. Does that count?”

“There are plenty of types of stench,” Lu Siya said. “There’s the stench of corpses, excrement, monsters, something burnt, and the stench of rotting trash. Think about it properly. Did Mr. Jin’s stench resemble any of the stenches I just mentioned?”

The woman in black thought about it and answered firmly, “It was the stench of garbage. I remember complaining at that time that he seemed to have come back after rolling around in the trash.”

Lu Siya nodded and asked, “Then, which happened first? Mr. Jin coming back with that strange smell of garbage or him buying a biochemical pet while ignoring the fact that he’s allergic?”

“The smell came first,” the woman in black said. “After two or three days, he brought that creature.”

Meng Chao asked a few questions as well.

The woman in black stared at the envelope Lu Siya pressed against her chest and answered.

However, she only knew a limited number of things and she had already mentioned everything that she knew. Soon, she started repeating her answers incoherently.

“Thank you, Ms. Zhou.” Lu Siya finally pushed the second envelope forward slowly. “After a person dies, they will not come back to life. You have to be strong.”

“Thank you, I will.”

The woman in black took the envelope happily and started counting the money in delight.

With the help of money, she quickly and bravely left the trauma of her gambler boyfriend dying behind.

“I know what I need to do.” Once she finished counting the thick stack of cash notes, she smiled obsequiously at Lu Siya and Meng Chao. “I won’t tell anyone all that I told you two just now.”

“Please don’t.” Lu Siya said. “First, if the other investigators want to know anything, you won’t be able to hide the truth from them. The more you try to hide, the more you will reveal the truth. It’ll be easier for them to find out the answer that way.

“Second, we’re all good citizens who obey the law. It’s impossible for us to ask you to hide the truth and put a stop to the progress of the case.

“Third, and listen carefully to this. If anyone comes to you to investigate the case, you should tell them the truth. But if you don’t tell them that we came to find you, ten days later, I will send you an envelope as thick as this one, understand?”

“Yes, got it!”

The woman in black thanked her profusely and stuffed the two envelopes into her pockets before she left like a thief.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya closed their eyes and thought about all they heard for five minutes.

Then, they opened their eyes at the same time and saw the sparks in each other’s eyes.

“Just now, when Ms. Zhou was answering the questions, her breathing, heartbeat, and the minor expressions were all very normal. I don’t think she was lying,” Lu Siya said. “Let’s say that all she said is the truth. What do you think? Why did the third victim buy a Contest Tiger half a month ago?”

“Didn’t you mention it just now?” Meng Chao had intense fire burning in his eyes. “It’s to blend into the circle of neighbors keeping Contest Tigers as pets.”

“Then, why did he want to blend into the circle of people who keep Contest Tigers as pets, and especially during the time when he has accumulated a huge debt and is in a terrible fix? Also, mentioned that he would only keep that biochemical pet for at most two months before he sent it away or sold it off. He also said that he would clear all his gambling debt and even earn a large sum of money in that timeframe. These two things seem to be connected together.”

"I think that our thoughts are pretty much the same," Meng Chao said. "If the third victim didn't exist and we just looked at the case based on the first two victims in the murder case by pets in Blessed Paradise, it would look as if someone maliciously injected rabies into the pets.

"They injected mutated rabies into the deepest part of the biochemical pets' ear canals. Even though they did it really elusively, which makes it difficult for normal harvesters and forensic scientists to discover it, such an action is actually very difficult.

"The virus was clearly not injected into the pets by their owners, and normal people usually have no chance of coming into contact with other people's pets. Even if their owners are not around, if they're too close, the pets would become wary, and it's impossible for them to be manipulated.

"I have to say this. The virus for mutated rabies does not have a long incubation period. It's only five days at most. During this period of time, I don't think any outsider could get close to two biochemical pets, stun or hypnotize them, and use a special tool to inject a virus into their ear canals. The only people who could do it are the security guards and the residents in Blessed Paradise.

"... No, not even your average security guard or resident would be able to do it. Only the people who are in the circle of Contest Tiger owners, who walk their dogs together, often gather in groups, and have become close to each other would have the chance to do this."

Lu Siya's eyes shone with admiration. "Are you hinting that the third victim is the one who injected the virus into the first two biochemical pets?"

"I don't know, but he does have a motive," Meng Chao said. "Spirit Creations Creatures and Heavenly Works Machines are fighting for the deal for Subway No.20. The company who gets the deal will decide the mode of construction of the newly developed areas in the northern frontlines in the future. They will get more deals and an astronomical profit.

"If it's revealed that the pets modified by Spirit Creation Creatures can go out of control and kill, such a terrifying and bloody case would definitely affect who would get the deal.

"Heavenly Works Machines is able to benefit from the case of pets losing control and killing people the most, so based on the principle of whoever benefits from this is the suspect, they have the strongest motive and are the main suspect!"

Lu Siya nodded slowly and said, "Let's say that your train of thought is correct. Why then did he do this in Blessed Paradise?"

"If he chose a downtown area, where there is a larger flow of people or a normal area with more citizens and a noisier atmosphere, it would have been easier to create a scandal. After all, if the mysterious person had not posted this online yesterday, this matter would have been suppressed."

Meng Chao's eyes shone with a light suggesting that he thought that Lu Siya understood him because great minds thought alike. "At the start, I couldn't understand it, but once I thought about it carefully, I realized that the suspect could only choose places like Blessed Paradise.

"Choosing a downtown area or normal areas like Blessed Heavenly Garden would make it easier to create major news, but the problem is, how is he supposed to act if that's the case?"

“Contest Tigers are large hounds with a certain degree of fighting strength. They have a lot of carnivorous monsters’ genes implanted in them, and they can even switch to fighting mode. So, the management for the buying and selling of these creatures is very strict. You need to register if you want to buy and keep these creatures as pets. If they die or are lost, you need to go and file a report at the related departments.

“In other words, the suspect can’t buy a Contest Tiger casually, inject it with mutated rabies, and throw it into a downtown area while waiting for it to go wild. If he did it, it would be the same as him surrendering to the police.

“Of course, he can’t wait for Contest Tigers to pass by with their owners in the downtown area and follow them to look for a chance to stab a long needle into the pets’ ears, either.

“In comparison, Blessed Heavenly Garden is a small and old area with a lot of residents. The families living there have stayed there for decades. They know each other’s backgrounds, and even if they have an emergency which makes them unable to walk their pet, they would not entrust them to a newbie who just joined the circle.

“But even if they did, there are neighbors all around the place, and when there are a lot of people in the area, there are a lot of eyes watching you, so it’ll be difficult to find a chance to take action.

“But Blessed Paradise is a new, high-end residential area. First of all, it has fewer residents, and the environment in the small residential area is good. There are all sorts of man-made bamboo forests, fake mountains, ponds, winding paths leading to secluded areas, pavilions, and other similar places.

“Second, most of the residents there have a certain status in society. The security measures are tight, so they trust each other a lot. They are not wary of each other.

“Let’s say that the third victim is the suspect who caused the first two cases to happen. He was a resident in Blessed Paradise, and he had bought his apartment long ago. On top of that, he is a middle-rank manager in Heavenly Works Machines and is an elite in society who has fame and prestige. Aside from a handful of neighbors, very few people in the other blocks would know that he has a large debt, so they would not be suspicious of him.

“He knows the terrain in the area as well, so he knows the blindspots of the CCTVs.

“So, as long as he can find an excuse and send the owners of the two biochemical pets away, he could inject the virus as he pleases.”

#### **Chapter 284: Trash Site 4**

“Makes sense.” Lu Siya flipped through the information she found in the morning. “Even though Jin Yongqiang wasn’t a core manager in Heavenly Works Machines, which means that it would have been impossible for him to get a lot of benefits from the deal related to Subway No. 20, he owed a lot of money to casinos, so if he didn’t think of something, he would soon be chased out of Blessed Paradise. At this critical moment, as long as someone was willing to give him money, he would be willing to do whatever he was asked.

“But I don’t understand it. Why did Jin Yongqiang end up as the third victim? Money nor loyalty to Heavenly Works Machines shouldn’t have been enough of a temptation for him to sacrifice himself, right?”

“That’s right. Based on what Ms. Zhou said just now, Jin Yongqiang clearly didn’t expect to sacrifice his life. Instead, he was planning to clear his debt after he succeeded in this and continue enjoying his life.”

Meng Chao sank into deep thought and connected all the clues together. He found it a little awkward. “Do you remember me telling you that the way the third biochemical pet attacked was slightly different compared to the first two biochemical pets? Even though they were all infected with mutated rabies, I feel like the biochemical pet who attacked Jin Yongqiang was calmer and more lethal.

“In other words, what we face might not be a single case, but two cases. The first two victims were indirectly killed by Jin Yongqiang, while Jin Yongqiang was killed by another mysterious person.”

“That’s right. The third biochemical pet didn’t have a needle-shaped hole in its ear canal. Jin Yongqiang shouldn’t have injected a virus into it,” Lu Siya said. “If Jin Yongqiang didn’t die, it wouldn’t have been so easy to relate this matter to Heavenly Works Machines as well.

“Let’s assume that someone in the higher management of Heavenly Works Machines is actually crazy enough to plan this entire matter to seize the deal and attack their competitors. But he’s worried that Jin Yongqiang, who injected the virus into the dogs, would spill the beans, so he killed him. Still, even if he wanted to kill Jin Yongqiang, he shouldn’t have chosen this moment.

“He could have waited until the deal was in his hands and our attention had moved away from this case. Then, he could use another method to make Jin Yongqiang die without a trace. He’s a person who has a gambling addiction and lives a debauched life. It wouldn’t be strange even if he died in an accident. So why and how did he kill him with his pet?

“The three murders by the pets happened practically at the same time. This doesn’t look like killing someone to silence them. This is practically drawing fire to themselves. The higher management in Heavenly Works machines wouldn’t be that stupid.”

“I agree with your thoughts.”

Meng Chao scratched his head and said in a troubled manner, “The problem is, Jin Yongqiang is already dead, and the dead tell no tales. We can’t go into Heavenly Works Machines to gather evidence either.

“All of this is just our guesses. We don’t have concrete evidence, and we don’t have a way to find the person who killed Jin Yongqiang.”

“The proof might not be in Heavenly Works Machines.”

Lu Siya looked at Meng Chao. “Just now, Ms. Zhou mentioned that for a few days half a month ago Jin Yongqiang smelled like trash when he came home. You were stunned for a moment when you heard that. Why?”

Meng Chao was taken aback for a moment. He thought about it for a while before he said, “I think I know where Jin Yongqiang went at that time.”

“Oh?” Lu Siya’s eyes lit up.

Meng Chao brought out his phone and opened his browser. He typed in a few keywords, and soon, he found an article.

Lu Siya took his phone and looked at the article. It talked about how Spirit Creations Creatures signed an agreement with the waste treatment center.

Tens of millions of Dragon Citizens lived in a city with limited space. They stay in skyscrapers and underground bunkers. The hornet-style buildings might have increased the livable space, so more people were able to live comfortably, but it also created a lot of trash from various industries and people's daily life.

Dealing with the trash was a major problem that affected everyone's survival.

First, if they did not deal with the piles of trash in time, there was a high possibility that all sorts of viruses and bacteria would spread, and the trash was also a hotbed for small monsters like rats, insects, snakes, and ants. If the humans were the slightest bit careless, these creatures could cause a plague.

Second, there were limited resources in Dragon City. Practically all trash had to be recycled and reused to help with the citizens' daily needs. It was impossible for them to use simple and crude methods like burying the trash or burning it.

Dragon City had a large synthetical waste treatment center set up in each of the four cardinal directions.

The amount of trash they took in and processed every day reached astronomical figures.

Based on the news, Trash Site 4, which was the waste treatment center in the south of Dragon City, signed a contract with Spirit Creations Creatures. They would use Giant Sandworms modified by Spirit Creations to handle the trash there. Every day, the worms would eat a large amount of trash that could not be recycled or degraded. Then, they would turn them into natural fertilizer, which had a lot of nutrients. The article spoke about how much capital they could save up, how much profit they could create from this, and other things.

"I heard that half a month ago, the Giant Sandworms Spirit Creations Creatures modified to specifically eat trash went out of control. They didn't hurt anyone, but they crawled underground and escaped. The time it happened matches when Jin Yongqiang came back with a smell so bad that his partner thought that he had rolled around in trash," Meng Chao explained.

"Let's go"—Lu Siya stood up and lowered her sunglasses—"to Trash Site 4."

South of Dragon City was Synthetical Trash Site 4.

It was located far away from the business and residential areas and surrounded by broken down factories, which had been destroyed by monsters. They were currently being repaired and renovated.

They moved through the cluster of factories and saw a "mountain range" that rose and fell. It also released all sorts of gases that had various colors.

The mountain range was made up of heaps of trash. The microorganisms of the Other World invaded them. Deep red, faint purple, and grayish-white smoke covered the sky and blocked the sun. Greasy and dirty water, which shone in the colors of a rotting rainbow, flowed past them. It was basically a

completely different world compared to the most brilliant part of Dragon City—the central commercial area.

Even if Meng Chao was used to the noise and dirtiness in Blessed Heavenly Garden and worked as a harvester who recovered resources, he was still unable to help but frown a little when he faced such a horrible environment.

Before he went to university, he seldom went to rural-urban fringes which were close to the fog.

Even though he knew that there were countless places in Dragon City where the living environment was a hundred times worse than in Blessed Heavenly Garden, he had never actually seen nor experienced how they were like.

The large trash site looked like a ghost town to him. It was only then that he gained a vague understanding about how a short half a century was not enough to separate their city from their mother planet. They still ached from the wound torn open by their transmigration to the Other World, and they still hurt from the time when all order had collapsed in Dragon City and they lived through the bloody and dark era.

It was time when the trash was sent into the waste treatment center.

Countless heavy crystal trucks carrying foul-smelling trash headed to the waste treatment center with roaring engines. They poured all the new carts of trash on the conveyor belt.

The sorting center at the end of it was the basin at the center of the mountains of trash.

The stench was its sign of recognition. Countless recyclers wearing goggles and simple filtration masks stood there. They wore cloaks and held steel drills and clamps in their hands while they rushed to the trash.

They staggered about and shoved at each other like hungry hyenas as they pounced at the rotting prey that appeared tasty to them. Soon, they arrived at their self-designated areas and started sorting out the trash without caring about the stench or the filth.

Even though Dragon City's automation was rising, there was still a lot of work that the industrial robots could not handle, even if they had runic symbols and superbrains.

Sorting out trash and recycling was one of such tasks.

Since Dragon Citizens lived frugal lives, before normal citizens treated something as trash, they would use it many times and recycle it on their own to squeeze out all of its value before they threw it into the trash.

Hence, if the city wanted to squeeze out every last drop of value out of what was already trash in other people's eyes, they needed human eyes, because humans stood at the top of all living creatures. They also needed their fingers and their brains to sort out the trash.

When the recyclers carefully sorted out everything, the trash that had no recycle value would then go to the next area. It would be sent to the biochemical treatment factory and be eaten by Giant Sandworms.



Meng Chao was dumbfounded as he watched the magnificent sight of thousands of recyclers sorting out trash, and a complicated light shone in his eyes.

Lu Siya did not share his interest and strode straight to the depths of the waste treatment center.

She wore a silk dress and high heels, which did not fit into the horrible, smelly environment around her, but when she walked among the piles of trash with dirty water flowing down them, she still managed to make it seem as if she was walking on star avenue.

Since she stood out like a sore thumb, very soon, she attracted attention.

“What are you doing here?”

A burly man with his arm covered in tattoos came out from behind a pile of trash. He had a sharp steel drill in his hands and was looking at them with wariness.

Behind him were a few more burly men peeking at them.

Lu Siya examined them expressionlessly.

Perhaps it was because he could sense the dangerous presence of a Heaven Realm elite coming out of Lu Siya, but the tattooed man took half a step back and decided to be humble. “This is a dangerous working area, and normal people are not allowed to enter. Who are you looking for?”

“You.” Lu Siya brought out a huge stack of cash notes from her pocket and enveloped it with her spirit energy. She flicked it in his direction, and it floated and swayed in front of him, but did not fall on the ground.

The tattooed man’s eyes went wide. He hesitated for a moment before he took the money and put a smile on his ugly face. “Ma’am, what business do you have with us?”

“Have you seen this person before?”

Lu Siya brought out one of Jin Yongqiang’s photos from her folder and handed it to him. Then, she drew out a thick of cash, split it into two piles, and placed them on her palms. “Don’t be in such a hurry to answer me. If you haven’t seen him before, you can ask the recyclers working under you. I’ll give you half an hour.

“If you say that you haven’t seen him after half an hour, I will give you the money in my left hand.

“If you say that you have seen him and state the correct time, I’ll give you the money in both of my hands.

“But if you tell me that you’ve seen him before, yet can’t state the correct time or lie to trick me, then I’m sorry, but I will take back all the money, do you understand me?”

The tattooed man stared at the money in Lu Siya’s hands for a long time.

Then, he looked at her appearance and the way she carried herself, and he became certain that she would not lie just because of the money she brought out.

He gulped and folded Jin Yongqiang's picture carefully. Then, he found around ten teenagers who looked really thin to serve the two of them while he headed deep into the waste treatment center with his subordinates.

### **Chapter 285: Disaster of the Rat Horde**

Meng Chao and Lu Siya did not want to alert the managers of the waste treatment center, so they could only sit in a shack located among the piles of trash.

As Meng Chao watched the recyclers sweat while working in a horrid environment, he could not help but say, "I didn't expect that Dragon City would have such a place!"

"You think that their job is very hard, do you?" Lu Siya smirked coldly. "Honestly, they're already lucky. At the very least, they have a regular, lawful job. There are plenty of people who want to become recyclers, but can't do it!"

Meng Chao fell silent.

He knew that Lu Siya was telling the truth.

The unemployment rate in Dragon City was always high.

Even though the government gathered data and came up with a statistic telling them that their unemployment rate was ONLY at 10%, that figure was something they obtained after they also included the temporary mercenaries and work relief brought in to kill monsters when they invaded the city and repair the buildings which were destroyed during the fog.

This sort of temporary work that was nothing more than work relief only gave them enough money to buy synthetic luncheon meat, which had basic nutrients, and shelter that would only somewhat guarantee that they would not be exposed to nature. The lives of people who live like that were absolutely horrible.

If they only considered those with full-time lawful jobs, then the true unemployment rate among youngsters from the ages of twenty to thirty would actually be over 50%, and that was an incredibly terrifying number.

It was no wonder then why even a job like a recycler was something countless people dreamed of having.

The trash sight allowed Meng Chao to better understand why Lin Chuan said the Ultimate Style could not save Dragon City.

He could also understand why the future Dragon City had walked to its own destruction.

Then, he thought of Lu Siya's luxurious car and the high-end, elegant restaurant located near Blessed Paradise. He remembered the price of eating one meal there, and a well of emotions surged up in his heart.

Lu Siya had a keen sense for emotions, and she snorted lightly. "I know what you're thinking. You and I both hope that we can change what is before us, but if we use Lin Chuan's method, we won't be able to solve any problems."

Meng Chao frowned. "Why? The expansion and upgrading of Blessed Happiness Street Elementary School is almost complete."

"So what? It's just one school. We solved the symptoms of the problem, but not the root of it," Lu Siya said. "The source of all the problems in Dragon City is the lack of resources, space, and market. The current Dragon City relies on mining and hunting monsters to obtain resources. You can say that we're a high-tech fishing civilization.

"And fishing civilizations are bound to be unable to take care of tens of millions of people within such a narrow space.

"Only industrial civilizations can let tens of millions of people live comfortable and dignified lives.

"But if we want to have an industrial civilization with tens of millions of people, not only do we need raw materials, we also need a market. We need a large consumer with hundreds of millions or even billions of people.

"Dragon City is a foreign force. There's no way we can find a consumer market that is ten times larger than our size. So then, how can we ensure that we can provide enough jobs for everyone to live comfortable lives?

"This is the core problem. As for whether the superhumans who are born in powerful families only care about enjoying their lives, driving race cars, staying in mansions, and whether they're willing to contribute to society? That's secondary.

"After all, more than 95% of people in Dragon City are normal citizens, and only less than 1% of children are born in powerful families. Even if all of us were enlightened and donated all of our money, how many schools could we build, and how many lifelong problems of normal people could we solve?

"So, I'll just repeat myself. Instead of acting like Lin Chuan and donating all of your money to create elementary schools, it would be better to use that money to cultivate and increase your fighting power to expand our territory and conquer all of the Other World.

"It's only by conquering the Other World can we open up a consumer market that is ten times or one hundred times larger than Dragon City. We can dump all of the industrial products made by Dragon City outward, and then, Dragon City will be able to create a lot more factories, which will allow us to provide a ton more job positions. Most of the normal people will then be able to earn money and live dignified lives instead of squirming around like litterbugs.

"How can we conquer the Other World? Of course, it's by relying on superhumans, which is us. But superhumans aren't stupid either. The Other World is huge, mysterious, and dangerous. All that talk about using the steel army to sweep through the enemy forces is just words to placate the people. There is no superhuman with a clear mind who would think that the road to conquering the Other World will be smooth and will happen naturally.

"There are risks in conquering the Other World, and it's a fact that people will die. The superhumans can live comfortable lives in Dragon City and enjoy dignified and grand lives. Why should they run into the fog and fight to their deaths with the creatures of the Other World? Saying that they're doing it for Earth is too vague of a reason. Offering them race cars and mansions is more practical.

“So, to help the pitiful normal people in front of you and to save our hometown, us superhumans should earn money and enjoy our lives to the fullest so that human kind’s endless desires will turn into endless motivation. We will then train hard to expand Dragon City’s territory.

“This will create a large market for normal people and a lot of high-earning job positions. Then, by taxing these people, we can create more advanced schools. This is the way to put things right once and for all. It’s a much more logical plan than Lin Chuan’s naive one, don’t you think so?”

Meng Chao was silent for a long time before he said, “Let’s change the topic. Big Sis Ya, your earrings look really good.”

While they spoke, the tattooed, burly man came back.

Behind him was a dirty girl.

She had a filtration mask and was hidden by a cloak. Her arms were wrapped in thick sleeves to prevent cuts and corrosion. She hid behind the tattooed man and looked at them timidly.

“She saw the person in the picture around half a month ago, but she can’t remember the exact date.” The tattooed man went straight to the point.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other. They could see the delight in each other’s eyes.

“Little girl, don’t be scared. We’re just going to ask a few simple questions.”

Lu Siya put the two stacks of cash together and handed it to the tattooed man. She smiled and said, “Tell me, where did the person in the picture you saw go half a month ago, and what did he do?”

“He... He just walked around the piles of trash,” the little girl said timidly. “Once, he missed a step and fell off a pile of trash. He cut his hand because of it. I saw it, so I went to bandage his hand. Then, Uncle Li came over, and he ran off even though I was only halfway through dressing up his wound.”

The tattooed man frowned and asked gravely, “Why don’t I know about this?”

It seemed like he was Uncle Li.

“Forget it. The waste treatment center isn’t a strategic military area. Don’t make things hard for the girl.” Lu Siya cast a cold glance at the tattooed man before she looked at the girl and asked kindly, “Little girl, do you remember what that person in the picture did at that time?”

“I don’t know.” The little girl bit her lip while hesitating. “He ran in the direction of the biochemical treatment factory, and it looked like he was searching for something.”

The biochemical treatment factory was the place where the Giant Sandworms provided by Spirit Creations Creatures ate trash.

Lu Siya remained silent for a while before a thought struck her. She touched the girl’s head, and her voice became even gentler. “Little girl, I’ve finished asking all my questions. The information you gave me is very important to me. Thank you.”

The little girl sighed in relief and was just about to leave when Lu Siya suddenly seemed to have remembered something and asked casually, "By the way, did you meet the person in the picture before or after the Giant Sandworms went out of control?"

The little girl did not even think. She blurted out, "Before."

Uncle Li coughed loudly. He could do nothing about Lu Siya, but he could glare viciously at the little girl, so he did.

The little girl realized that she had let her tongue slip, and her face turned pale.

Lu Siya smiled faintly and brought out another stack of notes from her pocket. She slapped it against Uncle Li's chest and drew closer to say softly, "If I learn that you did anything to the girl, I will skin you alive."

Uncle Li's ugly face trembled, and he nearly screamed in fear.

"So, the Giant Sandworms here did go out of control half a month ago..." Lu Siya removed her sunglasses and stared at Uncle Li with cold eyes. "What exactly happened at that time?"

"I-it's nothing." Uncle Li stuttered, but he told the truth. "There are usually more than one hundred Giant Sandworms working here at the same time. When they face spirit energy magnetic field interference, a few of them occasionally go out of control, but that's normal. In any case, this so-called loss of control just means that they refuse to eat or wriggle around. After the monster controllers call for them, they soon return to normal."

"Are they monster controllers from Spirit Creations Creatures?" Lu Siya asked.

"Yeah." Uncle Li nodded. "Spirit Creations Creatures have sent a few technicians to be stationed here for long periods of time. They're all elites at modifying and controlling Giant Sandworms. For some reason, that day, a few of the Giant Sandworms crawled underground, and no matter what, no one could find them."

"How many?"

Uncle Li thought about it. "I think it was five. Yes, it was five."

"What happened after? How did you deal with the situation?" Lu Siya asked.

"We didn't take any special measures. In any case, Giant Sandworms are gentle creatures and they seldom attack humans. Spirit Creations searched for them for a few days, but couldn't find them, so they gave up. They compensated us for the missing Giant Sandworms, and that was that," Uncle Li answered honestly.

At that moment, noise suddenly came from outside the shack.

A few of the recyclers ran inside. They shouted, "Big Brother Li, it's bad! The rat horde came over to cause trouble again!"

"What?" Uncle Li slammed his fist against his palm. "Damn it, it's those accursed rats again!"

"What's going on? Rats?" Lu Siya narrowed her eyes.

“Yeah, rats.”

Uncle Li then told Meng Chao and Lu Siya that there were pests living in the depths of the waste treatment center all year long, and it was very normal.

Usually, they only snuck out at night. They seldom ran out before the recyclers’ steel drills and clamps in broad daylight since it was asking for death.

But lately, the rat hoard in the waste treatment center had become incredibly active. Even if it was daytime, it would still swagger out and run around the area. The rats also became much more aggressive. They scratched and bit the recyclers.

“How long has this ‘lately’ been goin on?” Lu Siya asked.

“Just recently. Around ten days, I think,” Uncle Li answered.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya looked at each other.

“Come on. Let’s go and take a look,” both of them said together.

### **Chapter 286: Giant Sandworms**

When they followed Uncle Li and reached the site of the attack, they saw a mass of fierce rats that was so big that it looked like a black tidal wave. They crawled out of the gaps between the trash and bared their teeth at the humans.

The recyclers swung their steel shovels like baseball bats and sent the fierce rats who had jumped high into the air flying.

The rats did not care and continued jumping around.

Some people were scratched and bitten, and bloody wounds appeared on their bodies.

Fortunately, the rats were rather small, and by the looks of it, they were just normal rats. They could not compare to the Rapid Biting Rats Meng Chao had encountered during the practical test of his national college examination. They could not deal much damage to humans, who were like giants to them, either.

‘Strange. Normal rats are cowardly. Why would they dare to attack humans in broad daylight?’

Meng Chao’s eyes flashed. His Bloody Flame shot out when he yanked the chains about. With great accuracy, the saber wrapped itself around a rat’s neck and dragged it over.

He brought out harvesting tools from his waist bag, put on gloves and a mask, and started harvesting.

To his current self, dissecting a normal rat was even simpler than disassembling a child’s toy.

With just a few movements, the creature’s abdominal cavity was cut open, and its organs, tendons, spine, and brain were spread out.

Meng Chao could see obvious tears on the rat’s tendons. It was an injury from when someone used too much force to achieve their goal.

There were also various degrees of edema in multiple parts of the rat's brain.

Faint spots spread out on its spine, and they either reacted rather sluggishly or really excitedly when Meng Chao delivered spirit energy ripples at different frequencies into them.

"This rat's nervous system has been damaged by a virus." Meng Chao thought about it. "Based on the results of the dissection, it looks like it has the symptoms of mutated rabies. I have to bring it back to conduct a pathology test. Wait. Did the recyclers show any symptoms of sickness after they were bitten?"

Most of the mutated rabies could infect humans. The incubation period was short, and there was practically no cure for it. The fatality rate of the virus once it activated was also very high.

Uncle Li shook his head. "No. These things are just annoying. Once we treat our wounds, we're fine. Oh, there were two recyclers who got a fever, but after a day, they were okay."

"They were?" Meng Chao frowned a little. "Have you been injected with vaccines?"

"We were. After all, this concerns our lives," Uncle Li said. "But anyway, we're supposed to take injections after we're bitten by rats or mad dogs. This is general knowledge."

Lu Siya knew what Meng Chao was thinking about, and she said faintly, "It's useless even if you're injected with a vaccine."

"The mutated rabies vaccine we have in Dragon City targets the ten most commonly seen subtypes. But based on the information we have, the three biochemical pets in Blessed Paradise who were infected had contracted a brand new subtype."

"If you think that the rats and the biochemical pets were infected with the same type of virus, it doesn't make any sense. There are plenty of recyclers here who have been bitten, and the incubation period would never go past one week. If you were right, someone would have shown symptoms of rabies by now," Uncle Li said.

"Perhaps the virus is growing weaker? The virus' invasion of the rat's organs and brains isn't as strong as in the three biochemical pets. Maybe it's getting weaker while mutating, and it lost its ability to infect humans."

"Compared to that, I'm more interested in how these rats were infected by the virus. Did Jin Yongqiang run here half a month ago, catch a few normal rats, and inject the virus into them?" Lu Siya mumbled and looked at Meng Chao.

Both of them spoke at the same time. "It's the Giant Sandworms!"

Then, Lu Siya frowned and shook her head. "Could Giant Sandworms have been infected by mutated rabies as well?"

"We've never discovered any cases of Giant Sandworms being infected by rabies before. But this is the Other World, so we can't say that it's impossible," Meng Chao said. "There were four main subtypes of rabies on Earth, and they only spread among cats, dogs, wolves, badgers, and bats. We've never discovered cases of rabies being transferred to humans after being bitten by glires-type animals."

“But after we transmigrated to the Other World, the virus mutated, and even rats can spread rabies now.

“Giant Sandworms are invertebrates living on land. They are oligochaetes, a sub-branch under annelids. It’s impossible for them to be infected by rabies and spread it.

“But the Giant Sandworms here are products modified by Spirit Creations Creatures. To ensure that they can eat more types of trash and digest a lot of non-degradable materials, to make them smarter and more obedient to human commands, the experts at Spirit Creations Creatures implanted a lot of other monsters’ genetic sequences into their genetic chains.

“You can say that these Giant Sandworms are... the amalgamations of super earthworms and mammals, so they’re hundreds of times larger, have strengthened skeletons, muscles, and organs.

“It’s hard to tell whether these messed up creatures can be infected by the brand new mutated rabies, which has gone through all kinds of mutations, or not.”

Lu Siya thought about it for a moment before she asked Uncle Li, “Do you know where the Giant Sandworms ran off to after you lost control of them half a month ago?”

Uncle Li was stunned for a moment, then shook his head. “I don’t know.”

Lu Siya smiled. “Looks like I was too generous just now. I gave you the impression that I’m stupid and have a lot of money. Do you think that I’m easily fooled?”

Uncle Li took half a step back and ended up stepping on a rat, which had run over madly.

He cursed under his breath, brought his leg up, and kicked the rat more than ten meters away. Then, he looked up and said sincerely, “I really don’t know. I’m only in charge of the harvesters here. Those Giant Sandworms are related to Spirit Creations Creatures. They have nothing to do with me.”

“Listen.” Lu Siya was unmoved and continued. “You should have heard the news. The biochemical pets modified by Spirit Creations Creatures have gone out of control. Very soon, investigators will come here and search through the entire waste treatment center. All secrets will no longer be secrets, and even if you hide it, it’s useless.

“I’m going to ask you one last time. Do you know or do you not know about where they went?”

Lu Siya’s gaze was like an icy knife that shot through the sunglasses and touched Uncle Li’s tattoos.

Uncle Li shuddered and stammered, “I-I really didn’t see them. No one saw where the Giant Sandworms who lost control crawled off. But they should have fled down the drainage pipes.”

“Where are the drainage pipes?” Lu Siya remained calm.

“In the northwest corner of the biochemical treatment factory. It was originally an industrial waste treatment center, so there are a lot of complicated drainage pipes there. Later, the area was invaded by monsters, and the entire treatment center was destroyed. Many of the drainage pipes collapsed or were blocked. The capital required to repair those pipes is very high, so it was better to just build a new treatment center, which left that one completely abandoned.



“Later, the waste treatment center grew larger, and when we went through the second phase of expansion, we built a biochemical treatment factory over there.

“After the Giant Sandworms fled, the technicians from Spirit Creations Creatures suspected that they fled down the cracks of the damaged drainage pipes and crawled deep underground.

“Those drainage pipes were used for industrial waste, so there might be poison or really corrosive residual fluid in them, so the people from Spirit Creations Creatures did not dare go deep into the pipes to investigate, and they didn’t want outside professionals to cause a ruckus. Anyway, Giant Sandworms are gentle, so this matter was left unsettled.”

“Alright.” Lu Siya nodded. “Bring us to the northwest corner of the biochemical treatment factory. Then, we’ll have no other business with you.”

If they ignored the stench that came wafting into their noses and the shocking bodies of the Giant Sandworms, the biochemical treatment factory was actually a really fertile land for crops.

More than one hundred Giant Sandworms crawled about in the endless trash site and ate the residue of human civilization. They excreted a shocking amount of nutritional substances, which were sent to fertilizer factories. They added all sorts of micronutrients to them and turned them into new feed or fertilizer.

Because of it, Dragon City was able to satisfy the needs of tens of millions of people in such a small space.

Through Spirit Creations Creatures’ hard work, this generation of Giant Sandworms no longer required monster controllers to control their brainwaves.

Instead, with the help of the Internet, they could be controlled remotely by giving commands to the chips implanted to every bundle of nerves in their bodies.

The control center of the Giant Sandworms was located at the northeast corner of the biochemical treatment factory.

There were no workers there, only three entrances to the abandoned drainage pipes. Each one of them was more than two meters wide. They stood above the sea of trash with their black mouths wide open.

With Lu Siya’s approval, Uncle Li ran off like the wind.

Lu Siya knelt down on one knee and examined the marks at the entrance of the drainage pipes with a focused look on her face.

“Big Sis Ya, you researched Giant Sandworms before?” Meng Chao asked curiously.

“Of course,” Lu Siya said faintly. “While I was in university, I majored in crystal mine exploration and mining. While exploring underground, we often bring specially modified Giant Sandworms to eat rocks and dig tunnels.

“Also, the smell and shape of the excrements left by wild Giant Sandworms are slightly different after they eat different crystals. By analyzing them, we can learn the composition and purity of the crystal mines nearby. This is a basic skill of mine explorers.

“Right, there are indeed marks of Giant Sandworms crawling through here before. I can also smell the scent of Giant Sandworm excrements coming from the underground.”

Lu Siya sucked in a deep breath and stood up, but she swayed a little and nearly fell on the ground.

Meng Chao quickly went to support her.

She seemed to have no strength in her limbs. Her face was pale, and her lips trembled a little. She looked so nauseous that she was about to puke, but she could not vomit.

“Big Sis Ya, what’s wrong?”

“It’s nothing. It just stinks too much.”

It was only at that moment that Meng Chao remembered that Lu Siya was a Spirit Sensor.

Her strength had increased because of the spirit energy from the Red Radiance Jades and Blue Origin Crystals. Her senses were much sharper compared to those of normal superhumans, and it was to the point that she needed to use various instruments to block off those senses. If she did not, her thoughts would be affected.

One of her heightened senses was her sense of smell.

Even Meng Chao was unable to stand the stench of the trash site, so he did not know how Lu Siya had managed to last until then.

She had pretended to be cold and aloof in front of Uncle Li, but once he left, she completely broke down.

### **Chapter 287: Underground Beast**

“Why go through all that suffering?”

As Meng Chao watched Lu Siya dry heaving with her back bent but not managing to vomit anything and tears trailing down her face, he could not help but say, “I’m a student from Monster University. This case will affect all the people working in the monster production line. It’s also connected to my university. I have an unshirkable duty to find the truth.

“You could have stayed in your mansion in comfort and enjoyed the profits of the first mining rights to the Red Radiance Jade mine. Why did you run to this place and go against your constitution of a Spirit Sensor?”

“I... Urk...”

Lu Siya felt a little frustrated that Meng Chao saw how pathetic she looked, but she could only take the anti-bacterial wet wipe he handed to her and wipe the corners of her eyes and lips.

She gritted her teeth and said, “If I want to find the culprit who caused Lin Chuan’s death and find the mastermind who modified the White Spirit, I must climb up the ranks of the abnormal beast research department. And if I want to climb up, I must do things personally.

“If I hand over the clues to someone else while I wait at the rear, I will definitely be able to stay in comfort and be safe, but someone else will gain the achievements, be promoted, obtain the trust of the powerful people, and gain the right to get in touch with more of the core secrets.

“Besides, I told you before that I want to fulfill Lin Chuan’s dying wish as well as change Dragon City’s current state, but I’ll do it in my own way. I won’t... urk... be stopped by this bit of trouble!”

Meng Chao’s expression changed a little.

Regardless of whether Lu Siya was just an ambitious woman who wanted to climb up the ranks of both Sky Pillar Corporation or the abnormal beast research department or whether she really wanted to take revenge for Lin Chuan and create Dragon City’s future, at the very least, she had managed to take the lead and do her own work when it came to the mine exploration last time and the investigation this time.

“The truth is right before our eyes.” Lu Siya pressed down on her chest. After she calmed down a little, she sucked in a deep breath in refusal to admit defeat. The stench made her face turn pale, but she endured the feeling of her stomach and chest churning while she spoke with great difficulty.

“As long as we find one of the Giant Sandworms who lost control and find the mutated rabies virus in their bodies, we will be able to prove our previous assumption that Jin Yongqiang spread the virus in Trash Site 4 and Blessed Paradise in order to cause the pets to lose control and defame Spirit Creations Creatures. This was an order he received to help Heavenly Works Machines get an incredibly profitable deal.

“With this, we will have solved most of the case.

“I must go down. You stay here and act as my sentry as well as coordinate with me.”

Meng Chao hesitated for a moment.

The dark entrance of the drainage pipe made him remember the strange nightmare he had last night.

He remembered seeing a huge Giant Sandworm who looked like a demon opening its mouth. It looked like it could swallow everything underground, and it had even invaded the foundation of a skyscraper, which led to countless buildings collapsing. Before the citizens could react to it, many of them had already died under the debris.

Meng Chao’s eyes stung.

[Increased progress for the Mystery of the Supernatural Entities by 2%. Current progress: 4%. Increased contribution points by 1,000.]

Meng Chao’s heartbeat quickened.

His quest progress had only been at 2%, but now, it jumped up by 2%. Could it be that he would be able to find the key to the quest in the drainage pipe?

What sort of connection did the out-of-control Giant Sandworms have with the terrifying Supernatural Entities? Could it be that after they were injected with the mutated rabies, one of them turned into a

Supernatural Entity? But that was way too simple and crude of a method for someone to turn into a Supernatural Entity!

After thinking about it, Meng Chao blurted out, "I'm going with you."

Lu Siya looked at him deeply before she nodded. She bent her back and entered the drainage pipe.

Normal people would definitely need to wear a full-set of protective gear and even have oxygen tanks on their backs if they wanted to enter the same drainage pipe. It had not been maintained for years and multiple parts of it had collapsed.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya, however, had both awakened to supernatural abilities. Their nasal mucosa, alveoli, and blood cells had been strengthened and upgraded after being nourished by spirit energy.

Even if the pipes were filled with fatal methane, they would just feel a little dizzy.

They went down along the drainage pipe that had a downward slope with their backs bent. They walked for three minutes before they passed by a turn and saw a place where the pipe had collapsed.

The damaged part was connected to a long, thin, and twisted crack. It was black, and the end of the crack could not be seen. They shouted inside, and based on the echoes, they believed that the space inside was huge.

Uncle Li had told them that a long time ago, the place was attacked by underground monsters.

Later, it was invaded and further damaged by creatures like Giant Sandworms. It was now practically a 3D maze.

Fortunately, once they entered deep underground, the stench of trash from the surface grew weaker, and Lu Siya could activate her dual ability. She was both a mine explorer and Spirit Sensor and could identify the scents of the excrements from the Giant Sandworms deep in the crack.

She placed her palm gently on the crack while mumbled under her breath. Spirit tattoos showed up on her arm and danced in a bewitching fashion, as if they possessed a life of their own. But they also looked like ripples from a stream that slowly flowed deep into the crack.

Something amazing happened the next moment.

The stones by the walls of the crack turned into gravel. It fell down with rustling sounds, and the crack expanded nonstop. The sharp corners smoothed out, and the wall became as smooth as a mirror. It was wide enough for two adults to move through it.

They left the drainage pipe and crawled deep underground.

There were no crystal mines here, which meant that there was no faint light. Wherever they looked, it was just darkness. They could not even see their own toes. The only thing they could do was close their eyes and focus. It was only by doing this that they could sense spirit energy ripples forming a complicated and mysterious world around them.

Lu Siya discovered more tracks of Giant Sandworms crawling around the area. There were also a few cracks against which the Giant Sandworms had rubbed fiercely.

“These Giant Sandworms are really huge. Their diameter should be close to three meters.” She gasped in amazement. “Are the Giant Sandworms modified by Spirit Creations Creations really that insane?”

“I don’t think so.” Meng Chao dug through his memories. “Normal Giant Sandworms have a diameter of around 1.5m to 2m. Their length is controlled and limited to 20m. Even if they are genetically modified creations, the difference in size shouldn’t be too great. It should be impossible for a super Giant Sandworm with a diameter of 3m to exist.

“Thank goodness Giant Sandworms are rather docile creatures by nature.”

Lu Siya paused for a moment before she suddenly said, “What’s that?”

Dozens of savage, red sparks suddenly shone in the darkness.

It was a rat horde.

Dozens of rats widened their red eyes and stared at them.

Lu Siya scoffed coldly and released a powerful killing intent.

The rampaging spirit energy magnetic field from a Heaven Realm elite was not something normal rats could resist. They screeched and fled.

Meng Chao acted quickly. His chain sabers flew, and he captured two rats.

One of them was dissected on the spot. Just as he expected, its organs had mutated by varying degrees. It was the symptom of it being infected by mutated rabies.

The other one he placed in a mithril-based stabilizing fluid to bring it back for further examination.

“There’s something ahead,” Meng Chao said. “The rat I just dissected has meat in its esophagus and stomach, which means it was eating moments ago. But the meat has signs of decay. They should have been eating over there. We have to be careful of our footsteps.”

“I smell it,” Lu Siya said softly. “This should be the stench of a rotting Giant Sandworm.”

They found the carcass of a Giant Sandworm not far away.

More accurately speaking, it was a skeleton.

Based on the degree of decay, the Giant Sandworm had died at least a week ago. It had almost been completely eaten by pests, and only a few parts of its skeletal frame were left. This was not something that an annelid should have, but this particular Giant Sandworm had grown it after being genetically modified. There were also control chips embedded in its nerve bundles.

Meng Chao used a clamp to carefully pick the chips.

He used his phone to shine a light on them and saw the words [Spirit Creation Creatures] carved into the chips.

This proved that it was one of the missing Giant Sandworms.

Of course, it had been eaten to the point that only bits of flesh was left, so they could not tell whether it had been infected by mutated rabies.

Besides, Meng Chao did not know what sort of symptoms would appear in annelids after they were infected by mutated rabies.

He could only do his best to gather up the rotten flesh and seal it up so that he could bring it back for examination.

At that moment, a slight tremor came from deep underground.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya became alert.

“An earthquake?”

Both of them looked at each other in puzzlement.

“I think this should do it.” Meng Chao shook the ziplock bag in his hands. “We’ve found the carcass of a Giant Sandworm. We’ve also found rats who look like they were infected by mutated rabies after eating its carcass. Next, if we find a virus in the carcass, we’ll find concrete proof.

“We don’t have to look for the other Giant Sandworms. These creatures are born tunneling experts. With just us and no professional team or equipment, even if we look for them until tomorrow, we might not be able to find them.”

Lu Siya hesitated for a moment.

“Don’t forget that the last time you decided to act wilfully, two mine exploration teams were nearly entirely wiped out,” Meng Chao reminded her.

Lu Siya’s face turned red, and she gritted her teeth. “I wasn’t acting wilfully! It was Lin Chuan and the White Spirit!”

“Lin Chuan and the White Spirit made use of your willfulness,” Meng Chao said. “I think you should have learned your lesson and believe in my instincts. Didn’t you just say that you do?”

Lu Siya thought about it for a moment, then nodded and said, “Alright, I’ll listen to you. We’ll go back.”

They changed direction and started going back.

After taking only a few steps forward, they froze at the same time.

“Your instincts are very accurate,” Lu Siya said airily. “... Way too accurate.”

At some point in time, their exit had been blocked by an incredibly large Giant Sandworm.

This monster had a diameter of at least three meters, and due to it expanding at an unusual scale within a short time, its body was covered in ring-shaped spots. Bumpy tumors grew between the spots, though they were quite flat and looked incredibly sturdy. There were signs of the formation of a corneous substance.

Its teeth that it used to crush trash and rocks were also sharper and denser than of normal Giant Sandworms. Even if they were in the dark underground, its teeth shone with a bone-chilling light.

When the ten rings of teeth spun and trembled at the same time, no one would doubt that it could crush the sturdiest rock or the skull of a powerful fighter, then eat it.

Meng Chao saw a series of broken up numbers at the front and side of the super Giant Sandworm. Those numbers had sunken into its skin due to coloring.

They were part of the numbering system used on biochemical beasts by Spirit Creation Creatures to manage their creations.

It also meant that this creature was one of the Giant Sandworms who went missing.

In just half a month, it had grown to a terrifying extent!

Chapter 288: Dig a Small Trap

“Quick,” Lu Siya said. “Use your instincts to make a guess. Is the super Giant Sandworm in front of us as docile and harmless as the other Giant Sandworms?”

“Um, my instincts tell me...”

Before he could finish, the super Giant Sandworm spun its teeth and pounced on them.

If they had been in a rather large and wide space, no matter how big the sandworm was, they would still be a ball of squirming flesh.

But there wasn't much space underground. The tunnel was practically the size of the super Giant Sandworm, and the two of the humans could only face its big mouth. They had nowhere to hide.

Lu Siya's heightened smell brought her trouble. The stench caused her to be unable to focus and create a spirit energy magnetic field. The speed of her Spike Art was slower by a few beats compared to usual as well.

Meng Chao was the first to face the attack, so he could only fire his two chain sabers and buy time for Lu Siya.

The chain sabers sank into the super Giant Sandworm's wide-opened mouth and buried deep into the layers of teeth.

The super Giant Sandworm did not have a lot of pain sensory nerves. It was also modified by Spirit Creations Creatures to the point that it had thick skin. The two chain sabers went into its mouth like stones sinking into an ocean. They did not receive any reaction.

The Giant Sandworm seemed to even think that food had entered its mouth. The teeth in its mouth spun even faster, and the two chains became intertwined. They began dragging Meng Chao into the mouth.

When he smelled the stench from the super Giant Sandworm's mouth, he found that the methane there was at least ten times stronger than in the area around him. Meng Chao felt dizzy and nauseous.

He could not drag his chain sabers back, but there was no place that could provide a hiding spot for him in the area, either. Under the imposing might of the super Giant Sandworm, he could only retreat nonstop.

Soon, cold sweat covered his back, and he found himself stuck to a cold wall.

When Lu Siya saw that the super Giant Sandworm was about to eat Meng Chao, she was finally able to summon her first spike.

It was as thick as a stalagmite and as sharp as a longspear. It stabbed into the super Giant Sandworm from under it and pierced its abdominal cavity before it came out of its back.

It was like a thin and long nail had pinned the large earthworm firmly to the ground.

Meng Chao sighed in relief only to realize that the super Giant Sandworm was still squirming around. It seemed to have descended into an even greater frenzy.

It had incredibly great elasticity. Even if half of its body was pinned to the ground by a spike, it continued charging at its target.

Meng Chao cursed.

The nervous system of annelids like sandworms was incredibly primitive. But after they were genetically modified, they possessed incredibly powerful muscles. Even if a certain part of their body was damaged, they could still maintain a certain degree of mobility.

In most extreme situations, even if they cut an annelid in half, the two parts would be able to live on their own.

The damage from the spike was less significant than they expected.

Whoosh!

Meng Chao flicked his chain sabers, and an electrical arc and a trail of fire ran down the chains to enter the super Giant Sandworm's gaping mouth.

The super Giant Sandworm's mouth started burning. Quite a number of teeth layers were electrocuted so badly that they started producing smoke. Even the brain located at the fourth segment of its body was damaged. Despite that, the Giant Sandworm showed no signs of stopping.

'I almost forgot. The brains of sandworms don't control their motor and reaction nerves. They only control their adaptability to the surroundings, along with the synchronization of their bodies. Even if you remove their brain, sandworm-type monsters will still be able to eat and move around. Its real fighting control center should be the nerve bundle under its throat. It's the part that connects the glossopharyngeal neuralgia and ventral nerve cords!

'I have to destroy the nerve bundle under its throat to stop its rampage.

'But this super Giant Sandworm has mutated into a mess. How am I supposed to know where the nerve bundle under its throat is located?!

Meng Chao groaned in his heart.

But while these thoughts seemed to have taken their time to appear in his head, they actually popped up in a flash, and during that time, Lu Siya summoned more than ten spikes to stab the super Giant Sandworm full of holes from multiple angles.



Even so, that did not stop the front of its body from squirming toward Meng Chao.

Besides, based on the increasingly thick stench, Meng Chao had a feeling that it was building up a major move.

“No!”

When the super Giant Sandworm’s head swelled up, Meng Chao reacted instinctively. He fell to the ground and covered his head as if he wanted to look for a crack and crawl inside.

Thud!

The super Giant Sandworm used the super high pressure in its abdominal cavity to fire countless rock fragments it had eaten. They came out like bullets.

The wall behind Meng Chao let out crackling sounds like those of explosives. Hundreds of shattered rocks struck it, and smoke even curled out from them because of the high speed friction.

If Meng Chao had not dodged in time, his body would have been covered in bloody holes, since he was just a two-star superhuman.

Lu Siya quickly formed seals with her hands while she mumbled. She used her brainwaves, soundwaves, and vitality magnetic field to increase the formation and release her offensive spirit energy magnetic fields.

More spikes shot into the super Giant Sandworm’s body. They even fused together, and finally, she was able to restrain the super Giant Sandworm’s movements.

Meng Chao seized the chance to use his chain sabers. His fingers turned into two balls of gray fog that knocked different rhythms on the taut chains so that he could command his Lightning Saber and Bloody Flame, which were buried in the super Giant Sandworm’s body, to move around like two agile vipers.

In the end, a subtle feedback told him that he found the nerve bundle under the throat!

Before the super Giant Sandworm could swell its head a second time, Meng Chao gritted his teeth and charged spirit energy through all 1,024 of his branch meridians like a flood. The spirit energy in his body then surged like a raging monster through the chains into the super Giant Sandworm.

As the runic symbols on the chains shone one after another, fire and electricity intersected with each other, creating dazzling sparks.

The super Giant Sandworm trembled fiercely. A lot of the gas condensed in its body due to high pressure escaped, and it sounded like it was wailing while it struggled against death.

In the end, after a pungent, burnt stench that stung Meng Chao’s eyes flowed out of the super Giant Sandworm, it stopped. It still twitched faintly, but that was just the reaction from its nerves.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya panted heavily.

Then, both of them started vomiting at the same time.

“Not my fault.” While Lu Siya dry heaved, she said, “I listened to you and decided to go back.”

"I know." Meng Chao blamed himself. He was a little too rash.

Since he knew that there was a high possibility that the missing sandworms from Spirit Creations Creatures were connected to the legendary Supernatural Entities, he should not have gone underground without any preparation.

But was this crazy and mutated super Giant Sandworm one of the Supernatural Entities from his previous life that plagued his dreams?

Meng Chao could not be certain.

First of all, Kindling did not tell him that he had killed the second Supernatural Entity, and the contribution points he was given were just the average points he would get after killing a Nightmarish Beast.

Second, the strength of the Nine Great Supernatural Entities should not be that much different between them. If the Giant Sandworm had been a Supernatural Entity and had at least 80% of the White Spirit's fighting strength, Lu Siya and he would have died.

Third, Meng Chao still found it hard to believe that such a primitive annelid would be able to evolve to the point that it would gain intelligence that could rival a human's.

The good news was that the progress for the Mystery of Supernatural Entities had increased by another 1%. This meant that the super Giant Sandworm was definitely connected to the Supernatural Entities.

Besides, with so much evidence, the truth would come to the surface very soon.

"We should send this super Giant Sandworm to a lab and see whether it is infected. But by its behavior, it's not just a carrier. It should be a super infected creature."

Lu Siya frowned and said, "But how should we bring it out?"

That was a major problem.

Giant Sandworms were creatures who quickly rotted and decayed after they died.

Besides, it did not have an endoskeleton that went through its entire body. Even though it had been genetically modified and a few bone lamellae were inserted in it, it would not be able to handle being dragged or pulled.

It was similar to a train head attached to a few coaches. They would not be able to bring it out quietly.

"We'll have to ask for help from Spirit Creation Creatures. This is their beast, anyway."

Meng Chao went forward and poked the still trembling super Giant Sandworm. "This is a huge monster carcass. Even if we had a way to bring it to the surface, we would definitely be discovered by the managers of Trash Site 4 and the monster controllers from Spirit Creation Creatures. Besides, they've planted control chips into the biochemical beasts. The only reason they didn't discover this super Giant Sandworm is because it fled underground, and the signals were blocked.

"Once this thing approaches the surface, they will be able to locate us. It has a number on its body as well, so it's not some wild creature. No matter how you look at it, it can't be considered as our game.

“Besides, Spirit Creation Creatures are experts at researching Giant Sandworms. They are the authority when it comes to the problem of whether Giant Sandworms might possibly be infected with mutated rabies... especially when it comes to such a drastic mutation. If we hand the super Giant Sandworm to them, we’ll obtain the most accurate answer and the most detailed information.”

Lu Siya hesitated for a moment. “But Spirit Creations Creatures is one of the parties whose interests are affected by the case. Even though needle-shaped holes have been discovered in the ear canals of two of the biochemical pets, we still can’t prove that the pets modified by Spirit Creation Creatures do not pose a threat.

“If we hand this super Giant Sandworm to Spirit Creations Creatures for an examination, will we...”

“Do you suspect that Spirit Creations Creatures will tamper with the examination results? As of current, they’re the victims.”

“When it comes to astronomical profit, all victims can turn into aggressors,” Lu Siya said. “I don’t believe in anyone right now, especially the boss of Spirit Creations Creatures, Xie Xiaolei. That person is very skilled when it comes to business. And he’s especially skilled in using promotions and publicity stunts. He has also used a lot of tricks to attack opponents by overt and covert means. He’s not someone we can trust 100%.”

“It’s simple then,” Meng Chao said with a smile. “Later, I’ll harvest the super Giant Sandworm’s vital organs, such as its brain, nerve bundles, intestines, and some of its muscles, and I’ll split them into three.

“Then, you’ll bring one of them and the rat’s carcass to the monster research center’s lab for examination.

“Meanwhile, I’ll hide the origins of my portion and send it for an examination to the Agricultural University’s lab.

“The last portion will be given to Spirit Creation Creatures’ Xie Xiao Lei along with this rotten flesh.

“Don’t worry, I’ll make sure that I’ll mess up the wounds from Spike Art and all the traces I leave due to harvesting. The super Giant Sandworm will rot away very quickly. No one will be able to discover any clues within a short period of time.

“If the final report from the three sides show the same conclusion, then everything is fine.

“But if the final report from Spirit Creation Creatures will have a different conclusion compared to the other two reports, then things will become interesting.”

Lu Siya stared at Meng Chao for a long time.

Suddenly, she started chuckling.

She mumbled, “I just knew that I found the right partner. So, you don’t believe in Spirit Creation Creatures as well. You’re digging a trap for them and will wait for them to walk into it!”

**Chapter 289: The Giant Sandworm’s Wisdom**

It was not that Meng Chao did not believe in Spirit Creation Creatures.

After all, he could not figure out any reason for Spirit Creation Creatures to inject a virus into the biochemical pets they modified, then let the pets become violent and turn into monsters.

However, the Supernatural Entity he remembered from his previous life looked like a Giant Sandworm, and it still bothered him.

It was not possible for wild sandworms to evolve to the point where they gained intelligence that could rival a human's.

The White Spirit had signs of being modified by humans as well.

Could it be that the Giant Sandworm, who was at the level of a Supernatural Entity, was actually a creation from some human biochemical lab?

Spirit Creation Creatures had the best Giant Sandworm modification technology in Dragon City.

One of the company's creators was Gao Ye, who was the technical director. He was also an expert when it came to the research of Giant Sandworms.

Otherwise, they would not have the right to handle the trash in one of the four waste treatment centers in Dragon City or be able to join the construction bidding for Subway No.20.

Meng Chao wished that he could get some clues from Gao Ye, the technical director of Spirit Creation Creatures.

At the very least, he would like to ask him whether it was possible for Giant Sandworms to gain intelligence.

So, using this super Giant Sandworm's carcass as a stepping stone was his best chance.

Lu Siya thought about it for a while before she agreed to it. "Alright. I'll bring some of the materials back for an examination, and I'll also check Jin Yongqiang's tracks over the past half a month, along with his cash flow. Mutated rabies is a very dangerous object. It's impossible for Jin Yongqiang to have created it in his own apartment. He must have obtained the virus and the special needle from someone.

"You can bring the remaining materials for an examination to Agricultural University and Spirit Creation Creatures. We'll meet up later."

They quietly left Trash Site 4 without anyone noticing them.

Meng Chao and Lu Siya parted ways, and he returned to Agricultural University. It was only then that he called Ning Shewo.

It was noisy in the harvester's surroundings. Meng Chao could also hear some slogans. Ning Shewo seemed to be participating in some kind of major gathering.

"Elder Ning, I found one of the Giant Sandworms that went missing from Spirit Creation Creatures." Meng Chao went straight to the point once the call went through.

“What?” Ning Shewo was clearly stunned for a moment. He quickly went to a slightly quieter place. “Meng Chao, what are you saying? What happened?!”

“The case of the pets murdering their owners at Blessed Paradise is causing a ruckus online, right? Many of the students feel indignant, and they ran off to debate and spar against the students from the University of Technology,” Meng Chao said. “I thought that debating and sparring won’t solve the problem. It’s only by discovering the truth that we’ll be able to protect the people in the monster industry and the interests of Agricultural University.

“Coincidentally, we heard from President Xie yesterday that half a month ago, a few Giant Sandworms went out of control at Trash Site 4, and they fled without a trace, right? Since I was free, I went over to take a look.

“Lo and behold, I found traces of Giant Sandworms crawling into a drainage pipe at the entrance of one of the drainage pipes. I crawled down the drainage pipe for some time, and I saw a crack—”

“Did you go inside? That’s very dangerous!” Ning Shewo said nervously.

“Well... when I was at the northern offense, I stayed for a few days underground as well, you know? From then on, when I see pipes and cracks, I can’t control the urge to just crawl inside and explore the place,” Meng Chao said. “But that’s not the point. I was attacked by a Giant Sandworm underground. That thing seemed to have been infected by some kind of virus, and it was much more aggressive than normal Giant Sandworms. Of course, in the end, I killed it.

“By the way, there are a lot of normal rats in Trash Site 4 who seem to have been infected by mutated rabies after eating a Giant Sandworm’s carcass. I brought quite a few materials back, so we should be able to learn quite a few things.”

“You... You’re too reckless!” Ning Shewo did not know what to say. He took a moment to calm himself and said, “Where are you now? Trash Site 4?”

“I’m back at Nine Sands University City. The Giant Sandworm’s carcass is still in the drainage pipe under the biochemical treatment factory at the waste treatment center. But I’ve harvested the organs that will rot away easily and brought them back as quickly as I could. These things will give us more information the sooner we examine them,” Meng Chao said.

“Elder Ning, I want to send some of the materials I brought back to the related labs in Agricultural University for an examination and the rest of it to Spirit Creation Creatures for them to conduct an examination on it as well. Do you think this is okay?”

“Of course. I’ll help you contact the resource course’s lab now,” Ning Shewo said. “Coincidentally, Xie Xiaolei is with me now. The news that appeared yesterday put Spirit Creation Creatures in a very passive position. Xie Xiaolei organized a pretty large scale press conference today to share the truth. He stated that he’s using all his resources to find the person pulling the strings and criticized online violence and dishonest reports.

“Soon after that was a large gathering of all the people working in the monster industry. Many of the harvesters, etherealized plants bonatists, modifiers, and monster controllers gathered together to show the citizens that biochemical modification technology will decide Dragon City’s future.

“Xie Xiaolei is currently speaking on the podium, so he won’t be free for the time being. But Gao Ye is still in Spirit Creation Creatures. He’s the technical director, so you can go to him straightaway.”

“Alright,” Meng Chao said readily. Then, a thought popped up, and he said, “But Director Gao seems to be quite eccentric...”

“Don’t worry. You’re helping Spirit Creation Creatures a lot by locating a missing Giant Sandworm. Gao Ye is just a little eccentric. He’s not someone who does not know what is good for him. I’ll give him a call and ask him to make preparations.

“As for Xie Xiaolei, I’ll have him go back the moment the gathering is over,” Ning Shewo said. “Besides, Gao Ye has a pretty good impression of you. He’s also the one who asked you to come and observe the autopsy of the three biochemical pets.”

Meng Chao was slightly stunned. “He was?”

“Two days ago, Xie Xiaolei and I had a video meeting at night. Gao Ye was there as well. When they asked me to go and observe the autopsy of the biochemical pets, I didn’t actually think of bringing you along,” Ning Shewo said. “Then, while we were chatting with each other, Gao Ye asked me whether I had a disciple by the name of Meng Chao. He said that he watched a few of your harvesting videos, and he found your methods interesting.

“When he gave me this reminder, I started wondering whether I should bring you along to broaden your horizons and expand your connections. It’d be good for your future development.

“I didn’t expect that this casual act of bringing you along would lead to you guessing that there is something wrong in the ear canal of two of the biochemical pets. Yesterday night, Sun Yufeng actually kept on trying to get more information about you from me.”

Ning Shewo was very happy for this young friend of his.

Meng Chao trusted Ning Shewo as well. After all, he was a pseudo heroic citizen.

Spirit Creation Creatures were close to Agricultural University. They were both in Nine Sands University City.

With Meng Chao’s speed of a two-star superhuman, he reached the Giant Sandworms’ hatching pond ten minutes later.

Perhaps it was because Xie Xiaolei had brought a lot of the company’s workers to the press conference, but Spirit Creation Creatures was incredibly quiet.

Even so, Gao Ye was already waiting at the entrance of the company in his wheelchair.

“Meng Chao, thank you. You’ve helped Spirit Creation Creatures— No, you are a great help to the entire monster industry production line and the biochemical modification technology.”

After he obtained the materials Meng Chao had placed in the ziplock bag, Gao Ye put on a smile on his twisted, ugly face.

They quickly went to the lab.

On a huge screen, they saw the situation at Trash Site 4.

The employees were digging at the earth near the drainage pipe to widen the crack. They wanted to use a soft cloth made with high-molecular material to wrap up the super Giant Sandworm's carcass and bring it out bit by bit.

The researchers in the lab carefully took the materials Meng Chao had harvested to conduct a pathology test.

Gao Ye asked Meng Chao how he discovered the super Giant Sandworm and how their fight had proceeded.

Meng Chao removed Lu Siya from his narrative, but told him every other detail.

"You think that someone injected a virus into the Giant Sandworms from our company, which is why they went out of control?" Gao Ye's expression was stern.

"In any case, after normal rats ate the carcass of another Giant Sandworm, they showed the symptoms similar to those of mutated rabies," Meng Chao said. "But I have to ask you whether it's possible for Giant Sandworms to be infected by mutated rabies."

"Theoretically speaking, it's impossible for wild Giant Sandworms to be infected by mutated rabies." Gao Ye shook his head slowly. "The most prominent pathological change for rabies is acute disseminated encephalomyelitis. The hippocampus in the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, and pons change, and it affects the central nervous system, which is why it looks like the creature has gone mad. But the brains of wild Giant Sandworms and the brains of mammals are different. The transmission of their neural information is completely different, so it's impossible for them to be infected by mutated rabies.

"But if the virus did not go through a natural mutation and someone actually came up with it to intentionally target the creations of my company, it's hard to tell.

"After all, to increase the intellect and improve the digestive system and motor ability of Giant Sandworms, we implanted quite a lot of other monsters' genetic sequences into their genetic chains. They aren't pure annelids. Their central nervous systems have an essential difference from other wild sandworms and worm-type monsters."

"Increase... the intelligence of Giant Sandworms?" A thought appeared in Meng Chao's head.

"It's a must with what we do," Gao Ye explained. "Annelids are rather primitive creatures. They don't even feel pain. They only react to certain stimuli around them. You can't use normal methods to intimidate or domesticate them.

"If we didn't come up with a way to increase their intelligence, it'd be impossible for us to make them obey our orders and eat the trash in certain areas or dig out straight tunnels instead of creating severe damage to the earth and rock stratum."

"Makes sense." Meng Chao nodded. He put on a curious expression. "Director Gao, this is just a random question, but if it doesn't concern any commercial secret, could you tell me how you increase the Giant Sandworms' intelligence?"

Gao Ye thought about it for a while.

He was clearly not a patient person, but Meng Chao had just discovered a missing Giant Sandworm, and he was an alumni of Agricultural University. He had a close connection with Ning Shewo as well, so it would not be convenient for Gao Ye to push him away.

“There are naturally all sorts of definitions for intelligence,” Gao Ye said. “But no matter what definition you use, the foundation for intelligence is the speed at which neural information is transmitted. The faster neural information is transferred, the more intelligent a creature is, and it’s also more likely that they will gain intelligence.”

### **Chapter 290: Mystery of the Nerves**

Meng Chao nodded. “I know that insects and annelids have the most primitive nervous systems. Their transfer of neural information is incredibly slow. It might only travel a meter per second, while the neural information transfer in humans can reach one hundred meters per second. It’s one hundred times that of lower life-forms. It’s no wonder then why we can give birth to the sparks of intelligence while our neural information clashes against each other.”

“That’s right. The reason why higher life-forms like humans can transmit neural information so quickly is because our axons have a layer called myelin sheath. The myelin sheath acts as an insulator and prevents nervous impulses from moving from one axon to another. Aside from this, it also uses the principles of saltatory conduction to increase the speed at which action potential is transferred.”

Gao Ye thought about it and gave an example. “Let’s say that the nerves of lower life-forms are bumpy village roads. If you’re careless, your car will end up outside the road. But the nerves of humans and other higher vertebrates have myelin sheaths around them. It’s as if you lifted the road from the surface and sealed it, turning it into an information highway. The speed at which information is transmitted will naturally increase by a hundred times.

“As for superhumans, through absorbing spirit energy and using spirit gas to continuously refine their nervous system, their bodies gradually activate their spirit meridians, and they even gain crystal meridians. It’s the same as upgrading the highways to high speed metal roads. The transmission speed of neural information in high-grade superhumans reaches even a terrifying 1,000m per second. Regardless if it’s their logical deduction skills, calculation abilities, or comprehension, they’re all ten times better than those of a normal person.

“But having a myelin sheath isn’t the only way to get intelligence.

“Many animals choose another path of evolution, and that is to continuously increase the diameter of their nerve fibers.

“Science has proven that the diameter of nerve fibers has a direct correlation to neural information transmission speed.

“The best examples for this are octopi and cuttlefish.

“The diameter of the thickest axon in humans is less than 20 microns. 50 of them are required to form a bundle before they can reach 1mm and be seen with the naked eye.



“And some of the huge axons in squids have a diameter of 1mm, which means that they’re fifty times the size of a human axon.

“They don’t have a myelin sheath, but this thick axon gives squids and octopi high intelligence.

“They are the most cunning creatures in the sea. They even know how to use all sorts of tools. While on Earth, the marine biologists discovered through their research that some octopi will use their soft tentacles to pick up stones by the shore when they hunt their favorite food—oysters. When the oysters open their mouths, they will toss the stones inside and jam the shells. Then, they will eat the oysters’ soft bodies in a relaxed manner.

“This is intelligence that many vertebrates do not possess.

“It’s no wonder then why so many people say that octopi are like aliens on Earth. Without the interference from humans, they might actually evolve to the point that they possess intelligence equivalent to humans.

“When we transmigrated to the Other World, we saw pests with bodies longer than one meter. We were puzzled when we saw large insects, arthropods, and molluscs.

“Because based on research from Earth, the organs and body structure of insects can’t possibly allow them to grow larger than 1m. Even if they are not squashed by their own weight, their fatal weakness of their neural information transmission speed would make their reaction speed incredibly slow.

“But once we captured and dissected some of the insect-type monsters, we noticed that their nerve fibers are the same as those of the octopi and cuttlefish on Earth. The diameter of their nerves had swelled up a hundred times, and that’s why they can move with such agility even though they have huge bodies.”

Meng Chao nodded with a contemplative expression. “So, when you modified Giant Sandworms, you implanted the genetic segments of octopi and cuttlefish into them, so their nerve fibers swelled up to their maximum possible extent, which in turn increased their intelligence?”

“Yes. The Giant Sandworms modified by Spirit Creation Creatures have nerve fibers with diameters that are more than 3mm. It’s enough for them to understand all sorts of complex commands.”

Gao Ye paused for a moment before he said, “If we add myelin sheaths outside the Giant Sandworms’ fibers, their intelligence will increase further, and they will even gain the intelligence of cats and dogs.”

Meng Chao sucked in a deep breath. “What?!”

“There are only two ways of increasing intelligence. You either increase the diameter of the nerve fibers, like octopi had done, or get myelin sheaths around the nerve fibers, like vertebrates do. If you combine both ways by wrapping a myelin sheath around an incredibly thick nerve fiber, the neural information transmission speed will reach terrifying levels. Aren’t you curious as to how terrifying it could be?”

Meng Chao gulped. “Is your company conducting this sort of research?”

“No.” Gao Ye looked regretful. “I do want to modify and create a Giant Sandworm with super-high intelligence, but Xie Xiaolei did not think that it was necessary, because there would be no buyers in the commercial market.

“At the end of the day, he’s a businessman. Whenever he does something, he thinks in terms of profit, so I can only respect his wishes.”

“I think... it’s better if you don’t conduct this sort of research. Otherwise, if you end up creating a Giant Sandworm that is even more intelligent than humans, it’ll be really dangerous.”

“I don’t know what is more dangerous, an intelligent monster or a monster who has no intelligence at all and is only driven by murderous intent,” Gao Ye said. “Have you seen an insect horde before? It’s a wave of snakes, insects, rats, and ants. They form an aggressive black tidal wave and charge continuously at human defenses. No matter how many of their kind are torn to shreds, burnt to a crisp, or electrocuted to the point that sparks fly out of their bodies, the ones at the back will continue charging forward.

“In the end, thousands of vermin will be burnt to ashes, but humans will also be terribly injured. This is what you call both sides losing .

“Why is that so?

“Because an insect horde doesn’t possess intelligence. Insect-type monsters are just machines of flesh and bones, and each of them has a command. They don’t have consciousness, intelligence, or the concept of life and death. When bullets rip through their bodies, they do not feel fear.

“I think that this is the most terrifying thing of all.

“If we can give lower lifeforms some intelligence, we might be able to end the Monster War in another fashion. We don’t have to give them a lot of intelligence, but just make them understand the value of life, the terror of human weapons, and the simple principle that becoming the servants of humans is better than becoming the enemies of humans.”

Meng Chao was not too sure about that.

With just tens of millions of people, even if they could conquer the monsters, they were destined to not be able to occupy the entire planet, because it had a lot of spirit energy, and everyone’s evolution speed was incredibly fast.

This was general knowledge.

When they faced the question of how they should conquer and rule over the Other World, people from different occupations, different factions of power, and those with different interests would give different answers.

In Agricultural University, aka Monster University, the argument that giving monsters a certain degree of intelligence and turning beasts and monsters into spirit beasts and pets so that they could become the vanguards of their kings was very popular. They would become the fighters in Earth’s army, humanity’s servants, tools, companions, and comrades, and like that, the humans would eventually conquer the Other World.

If Meng Chao was in Gao Ye’s shoes, he would probably think like that too.

However, when he remembered the damage caused by the Nine Great Supernatural Entities in his previous life, he felt a little uneasy.

"I still can't imagine just what sort of impact it would have on our civilization if monsters who are more intelligent than humans appeared," Meng Chao mumbled.

"Meng Chao, you're thinking too far ahead," Gao Ye said. "Neural information transmission speed is just the foundation for the birth of intelligence. It doesn't mean that when you provide myelin sheaths for sufficiently thick nerve fibers, you will instantly give intelligence to a creature.

"The brain structure of Giant Sandworms is very primitive. It's completely different from that of humans' incredibly advanced brain. Even if their neural transmission speed starts moving at a high pace in a complicated and large neural network, without a real brain analyzing and organizing everything, that information will still not produce real intelligence.

"Even if we gave Giant Sandworms larger brains through genetic modification, it'd just be hardware.

"If we look purely at the hardware, the brain size, number of neurons, and brain circuits in prehistoric humans during the stone age billions of years ago was about the same as those of a modern person.

"But the humans during the stone age definitely did not possess the intelligence of modern humans, because intelligence isn't formed by the clash of nerve impulses. It's an accumulation of knowledge through billions of years and the summation of all sorts of complicated societal relationships.

"If you throw a normal and healthy modern human infant into the wild and he doesn't die but lives to eighteen years old, it'll be impossible for him to have intelligence.

"If you place a strong prehistoric man from the stone age into the current Dragon City, he will not pose any threat.

"So, if you think that when Giant Sandworms possess sufficiently advanced nerves and brains, they will instantly gain intelligence that is so great that they will be able to understand human civilization as well as possess desires and ambitions like humans, that is just alarmist thinking.

"At the end of the day, intelligence is not a necessity when it comes to survival. If Giant Sandworms can live comfortably by eating trash and rocks, there will be no need for them to gain intelligence. They'll have no interest in it, and they'll never gain it."

Meng Chao thought about Gao Ye's words seriously.

He had to admit that the Giant Sandworm expert's words made sense.

Then, just what was the Giant Sandworm that evolved into a Supernatural Entity in his previous life?

While he was thinking about it, two researchers wearing negative pressure protective clothing walked out of the lab and handed them the test results.

Gao Ye looked at them, and his expression turned dark. He cursed under his breath.

"What is it?" Meng Chao quickly asked.

"I knew it. Someone injected a virus into the Giant Sandworms!"

Meng Chao thought about it. "Are you sure it was done by humans and they didn't get infected by some virus around them?"

“That’s hardly possible. There are around a dozen natural subtypes of mutated rabies, and they can all be transmitted between humans and other creatures, but the new mutated rabies subtype discovered in the Giant Sandworms cannot be transferred to the human body. It’s not something produced by natural mutation. It’s something created in a human lab.”